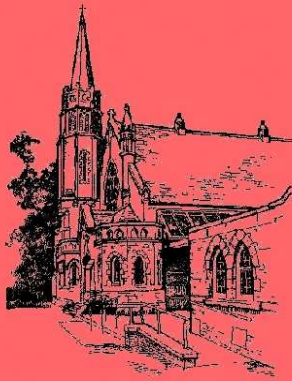


**Fulwood Methodist Church
Crossroads Centre**



CHRISTMAS 2018

Twinned with the Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche,
Recklinghausen, Germany



THE FULWOOD METHODIST

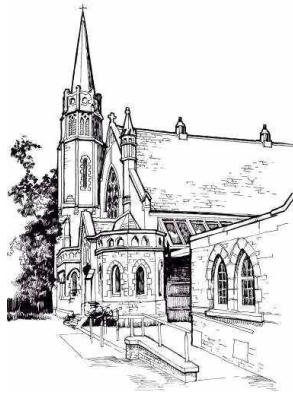
FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

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 pm. EVENING WORSHIP. With every 2nd Sunday of the month from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm - **SPACE** - Multiplex Worship and Discipleship for all, at various circuit churches. (*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

It never ceases to surprise me how quickly the publication of one issue of the magazine leads on to preparation of the next. It's also a sobering thought that I have now occupied the Editor's chair for a full 20 years.....and the next step, of course, is to float the idea that my replacement needs to be girding up their loins!!!

I'll say no more about that at the present time but it's a straw in the wind and I hope that people will take note.

The **copy date** for our **Easter 2019 issue** will be **Sunday, 17th March, 2019**. Any material in advance of that date would, of course, be most welcome. Please do remember that articles may be subject to editing!

Roy Smith

* * * * *

FULWOOD STEWARDS

CHURCH

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John Butterworth, Jacqueline Clarke, Sue Hogarth,
Graham Johnson, Pam Johnson, Melba Southwood

Pastoral Secretary:

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* * * * *

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

This magazine is also available in large print version and on the internet at ***www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk*** and click the Magazine cover graphic or the **Online Magazine** tab on the 2nd page.

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 Revd Jane Wild

Dear Friends

I have just made a visit to Iceland. The shop, not the country! There, I had a conversation with a member of staff wearing a T-shirt that said their advert had been banned.

Iceland and Greenpeace teamed up for this year's advert, declaring that palm oil demand threatens the habitat of orang-utans. This is touching on the supermarket's decision to no longer sell products with the controversial fruit by-product in hopes of reducing the demand.

The logo for Greenpeace UK, featuring the word "GREENPEACE" in a bold, green, sans-serif font, with "UK" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font to its right.

However, the advert has been barred from countrywide television broadcast due to its potentially politicised message. Clearcast, the body which approves or rejects adverts for broadcast on television and video on demand, said the advert doesn't comply with rules due to Greenpeace's involvement.

We live in a pluralistic society where we are given lots of options about how to use our time and resources, what to believe, who to follow and how to live. We are offered options on so many things that choice has become an everyday part of life; we expect it and even demand it. There are some times when society draws the line and says that something is not right and there are good reasons why political bodies should not be involved in advertising for supermarkets.

On the other hand during Advent, we sing about Truth coming down at Christmas. Yet in his time Jesus was reacted against. Those in authority questioned and condemned the truth that brought about the nature of God and how we should live.

Who would have imagined that a transcendent creator of the universe would have personally visited our planet even in splendour and majesty? The Gospels go far beyond this, they reveal God in the weakness, vulnerability and ignorance of a child. A child who would grow up in circumstances which are far from glamorous and would be rejected by his own people. A man who, when faced with persecution and suffering, would stand true to the gift of divine forgiveness and eternal life and offer it to humanity.

These truths have, and do, challenge our world today. If we were to make an advert for Christmas, would it be banned? Maybe some of the words of the New Testament could be our slogans.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35

“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven.” Luke 6:37.

“Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.”
1 Peter 3:11

In a way, I hope any such attempt would be banned, but only for the reason that this would be some indication that the message of Advent and Christmas was being taken seriously.

I wish you and your loved ones all the grace and truth of God this Christmas and peace in the next year.

Jane

FAMILY NEWS

Baptisms

2nd September Sebastian Micheal Eric Lawton
 9th September Libby Louise Mileey
 30th September Miles Preston Cushing
 7th October Eryn Anabella Mc Clelland
 4th November Sidney Arthur Clayton Martin



Funerals

22nd November Shirley Stock
 26th November Bob Clarkson
 27th November Harold Ellison



THEATRE VISITS

THE PRODUCERS

The Royal Exchange Manchester
 Thursday 17th January 2019

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE

Bolton Octagon
 Saturday 26th January 2019 at 2.00pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET

Blackpool Grand Theatre - Royal Shakespeare Company
 Saturday 2 March (matinee)

ST. JOHN PASSION (J. S. Bach)

St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster
 Saturday 16 March

THE VERDICT

Oldham Coliseum
 Wednesday 13 March.



For further information, please contact Sharon Beck at Fulwood Methodist Church
 Tel No: 01772 718741 Mobile 07592 167700
 email - theatrevisits@fulwoodmethodist.org.uk

THE L'ARCHE COMMUNITY and 'Soupercraft'

As many will be aware, a number of friends from the L'Arche Community regularly attend worship on Sunday mornings and are often seen at 'Welcome Wednesdays'. We have been touched by the love and the welcome that has been shown to us and our accompanying assistants, as we grow into the Church family in Fulwood. Would you like to know our story?

L'Arche Communities – our story

L'Arche was founded by Jean Vanier in 1964. The son of a former Governor General of Canada, Vanier served during World War II with the Royal Navy and then with the Royal Canadian Navy. In 1950, he left the navy to study philosophy and theology, and began to teach. In 1964, Jean became aware of the plight of thousands of people with learning disabilities who were institutionalised in France. In that same year he took the radical step of inviting two men, Raphael Simi and Philippe Seux, to leave the institution where they lived and share their lives with him. Together they began L'Arche in a small house in Trosly-Breuil, France, 60 miles NE of Paris.



Jean Vanier

In 1968 the first L'Arche community in Canada opened, and in 1974 the first in Britain. Gradually, more communities were founded around the world by people inspired by Jean's work. Jean remained the leader of the Trosly-Breuil Community until 1981 and he lives there to this day. He has been, and remains, an inspiring teacher. His life is testament to a radically different way of living and being in the world.

Jean's awards include the French Legion of Honour, Companion of the Order of Canada, the Rabbi Gunther Plaut Humanitarian Award 2001, the International Paul VI Award, and the Templeton Prize. He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Jean Vanier, and those who came to share his vision, learnt two important truths in the early years, which remain at the heart of L'Arche today. People with learning disabilities have a great deal to contribute to society and, by living in intentional community with people with and without learning disabilities - living with diversity and difference - we open ourselves up to be challenged and to grow.

We believe that people with learning disabilities have much to teach us and contribute to the world. Over the last fifty years, we have learnt the best way to enable this is by creating Communities with a culture of shared lives between people with and without learning disabilities, from which we can work together to build a more human society. In L'Arche we celebrate people with learning disabilities and build circles of support around them. We go beyond basic needs to attend to people's emotional and spiritual lives. It is this focus - on building relationships and a sense of belonging, on supporting each member of the Community with and without learning disabilities to reflect on what they have learnt and to share that reflection - that makes us special.

L'Arche in Preston

A Community has existed in Preston for over 20 years. We have a large house in Moor Park Avenue where 5 people with learning disabilities live alongside a group of assistants, sharing their lives together. More recently we have opened our second house next to English Martyrs Church in Garstang Road, with 4 flats giving accommodation for seven people with learning disabilities and 4 live-in assistants. Our Community also includes live-out assistants and is enriched by a number of volunteers who support us in so many different ways.



‘Soupercraft’ – an invitation

A group from L'Arche, along with some others, now meet regularly on Thursday mornings in the Oak Hall to participate in craft activities, finishing with a soup and bread lunch at about 12noon – ‘Soupercraft’. This lunch is open to anybody, and we would love people from our Church fellowship to join us. Just come along about 12 o'clock on any Thursday.

Another invitation

Could you contribute to our Community as a volunteer? As a friend who might take one of our members out shopping one Saturday, or simply visit for a cup of tea? Help at our Soupercraft sessions? Supervise work on our allotment? Do some odd jobs around our houses? Help to fundraise for us? Serve on our local Committee to support and advise our Community Leader?



Are you wondering what to do between full-time education and the big wide world? Many young people have come to us as a live-in assistant during a gap year and had their lives transformed.

Talk to me if you would like to find out more about us and what you could do. Thank you.

Stephen Grice

Committee Chair, L'Arche Preston Community

01995 602622

and

Ems, Jenny, Chris, Tim, Ellie, John, Ben, Ana, Callum, Christopher, James and Chrissie

NEW MINISTER FOR RECKLINGHAUSEN METHODIST CHURCH

Who is the new Minister and what is she planning?

[Regine Stoltze was born in 1957. She's a mother of two grown-up children and married to Siegfried Stoltze, whose post is in the district of Leer in East Friesland.]

“For the past nine years I have worked mostly in an old people’s home in Mulheim. There I led the social care team. The work gave me a great deal of pleasure, above all because I could contribute many of my hobbies and passions. I enjoy doing crafts and decorating. Through this work I have learnt a lot about the demands and the illnesses of old age. Alongside this I led the work in the ‘Cellar Church’, which is a project run by the Methodist Church in Duisburg. Here I had more pastoral responsibilities.”



So what is she planning?

“In the immediate future I intend to be in Recklinghausen every Sunday until Christmas and to preach. That will help us to get to know each other better and more quickly.

Together we will need to figure out what will happen after Christmas, as it will depend on what other additional employment opportunity I find.

For a start I want to get to know the existing groups and circles and to make a contribution with my own gifts and abilities. This includes not just my creativity, but my own view of church and community.

In the past years I have not done any classic parish work. In this way I have acquired a different view of community and church, which I hope to retain to some degree. I also look at what we do and say as a church community through the eyes of people for whom church is an alien place.”

I ask myself – who benefits from what we do?

“Of course, it’s also good to do things which benefit those in the church community who do them directly, but we also have a common mission that goes beyond that.

I am already very excited to experience this mission with you in concrete form and perhaps to discover new projects and ways of working together. For example I find it very exciting what I have heard about the collaboration with the town of Recklinghausen.

I have already explored the church buildings and grounds a little, and I love what I have seen there. I have never served in such a lovely worship space and the kitchen and the garden have already told me their stories.

I, for my part, am looking forward to meeting you and I am sure – if we allow it - God has something wonderful planned for us.

As my appointment in Recklinghausen will only be part-time, I am still looking for a second post, wherever that might be. If you can pray for me. I shall be grateful for any support during my search.



See you soon!
Regina Stoltze

Our thanks to Jacqueline Clarke for the loan of the Recklinghausen church magazine and to Anne Garsed for the translation.

FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
Raise free funds for us
every time you shop
online this Christmas

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fulwood-methodist-church/

Shop with **over 3,400** online stores including:

3GENERATE

CHILDREN & YOUTH ASSEMBLY
2018

On the weekend of 23rd - 25th November, 24 young people and 10 leaders from the circuit attended the 3Generate weekend at Pontins, Southport. 10 of those young people were from Fulwood, aged between 8-17 years.

This year's theme was 'Courageous'. Our young people took part in various workshops throughout, these included late night storytelling, Solutions Not Sides, which looked at the Israeli Palestinian conflict, others looked at knife crime and looked at Methodism and how it all began. Please feel free to ask the youngsters what they did. Other highlights included Emily going on stage with the band 'Urban Praise Project' and 'flossing'! We also had the chance to meet up with Jane and Nicky Gleeson who were helping with the event.

At the end of the weekend I asked the youngsters to write down their favourite things or memories of the weekend and this is what they said – eating, silent disco, Urban Praise Project band, story time with Bob, Darren's dance moves, especially the 'flossing', the music and warm rooms!

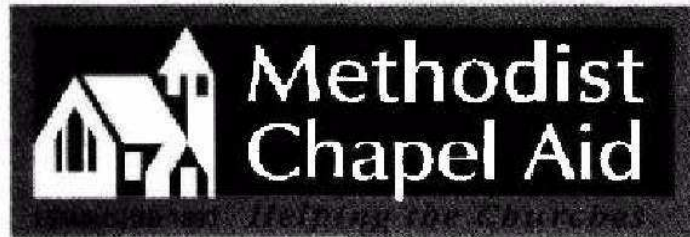
One person who has taken the theme to heart is Verity, who had decided to go for one of the roles of Methodist Conference Rep, in which she was successful in getting the role. This means she will speak on behalf of children and young people as they report to the annual conference, particularly about 3Generate. Well done Verity.

There was so much going on during the weekend, so please feel free to come and ask us about it!

Darren



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THREE WAYS TO PRAY AND READ THE BIBLE IN ADVENT

Follow the links and sign up
 ADVENT PRAYER www.stewardship.org.uk
www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/adventchallenge

This advent, we invite you to join in creating a global advent calendar through considering a set of advent words offered by the Society of St. John the Evangelist, an anglican / episcopal order of monks.

- It seems very fitting and timely this advent to intentionally join our prayers with others from around the world.

Respond to the word for the day by taking a photo, writing a prayer/poem, or drawing a picture. You may post the photo to social media or email it to. This can be done by individuals, families, children and adults.

- Look at www.adventword.org and www.adventword.org/how-it-works/
- Use Facebook - www.facebook.com/adventwordorg/ or Twitter - twitter.com/adventword

#AdventWord 2018

2 Dec #Journey	14 Dec #Prune
3 Dec #Watch	15 Dec #Prepare
4 Dec #Focus	16 Dec #Rejoice
5 Dec #Night	17 Dec #Sing
6 Dec #Light	18 Dec #Ancestor
7 Dec #Sprout	19 Dec #Wash
8 Dec #Alert	20 Dec #Ablaze
9 Dec #Wild	21 Dec #Sign
10 Dec #Cry	22 Dec #Expect
11 Dec #Grow	23 Dec #Persist
12 Dec #Rough	24 Dec #Peace
13 Dec #Smooth	25 Dec #Celebrate

www.AdventWord.org   

ADVENT ANGELS

As some of you will be aware the knitting group have been making Angels.



The idea is that these are distributed around the area for people to pick up and take home or tied to bus stops, railings etc. They will have a message on from each of our Sunday services in Advent and contact details. Please get involved by taking them out on a Sunday and sharing the message of Good News this Advent and Christmas with our community.

There will be opportunity to suggest pictures, words or ideas to go on our display for each Sunday in Advent to be included in the service. Look out for details in the notices.

The messages will reflect what we are thinking and praying about in Advent.

I am so busy at this present time I cannot do with less than four hours each day in the presence of God.

Martin Luther

It costs to follow Jesus Christ, but it costs more not to.

Anon

THE NEW YEAR

The start of a new year is an ideal time to reflect on the past, take an account of your Christian walk, and consider the direction God may want to lead you in the coming days. Set aside some time to pause and evaluate your spiritual condition as you seek God's presence with this prayerful collection of poems for Christians.

A NEW YEAR'S POEM FOR CHRISTIANS

Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider committing to a biblical solution
Your promises are easily broken
Empty words, though earnestly spoken
But God's Word transforms the soul
By His Holy Spirit making you whole
As you spend time alone with Him
He will change you from within

Mary Fairchild

JUST ONE REQUEST

Dear Master for this coming year
Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing -
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou leadest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.



I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be -
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

Unknown Author

HIS UNFAILING PRESENCE

Another year I enter
Its history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble
To tread its paths alone!
But I have heard a whisper,
I know I shall be blest;
“My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest.”

What will the New Year bring me?
I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture,
Or loneliness and woe?
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper;
I surely shall be blest;
“My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest.”

Unknown Author

ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.



Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)

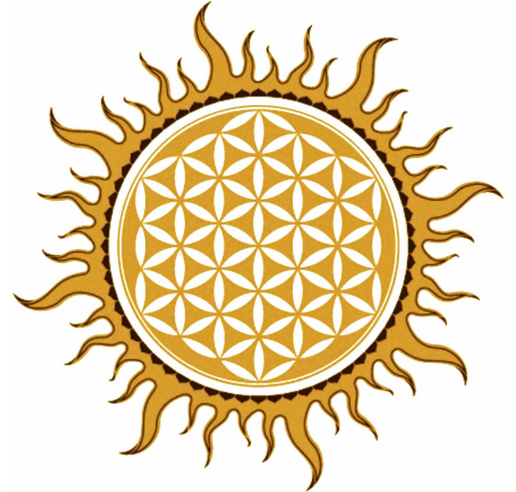
BETHLEHEM TOWN

There burns a star o'er Bethlehem town --
See, O my eyes!
And gloriously it beameth down
Upon a virgin mother meek
And Him whom solemn Magi seek.
Burn on, O star! and be the light
To guide us all to Him this night!

The angels walk in Bethlehem town -
Hush, O my heart!
The angels come and bring a crown
To Him, our Saviour and our King;
And sweetly all this night they sing.
Sing on in rapturous angel throng
That we may learn that heavenly song!

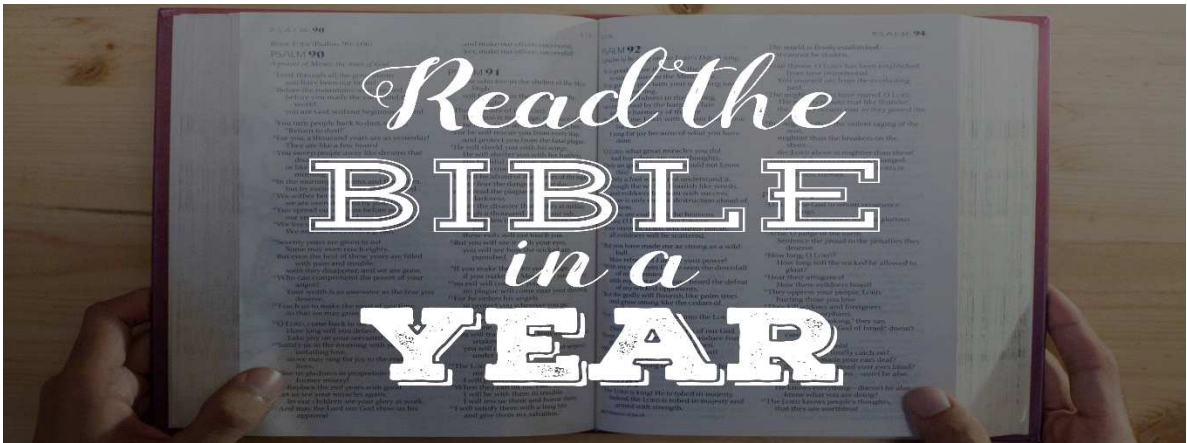
Near Bethlehem town there blooms a tree --
O heart, beat low!
And it shall stand on Calvary!
But from the shade thereof we turn
Unto the star that still shall burn
When Christ is dead and risen again
To mind us that he died for men.

There is a cry in Bethlehem town --
Hark, O my soul!
'T is of the Babe that wears the crown.
It telleth us that man is free --
That He redeemeth all and me!
The night is sped -- behold the morn!
Sing, O my soul; the Christ is born!



Eugene Field

“Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas.”
Peg Bracken ?



Starting on 1st January 2019 – I am looking at reading the bible in a year! And would like to invite you to join me in this venture. We will read the same passages each day and the idea would be to meet up probably every two months for breakfast on a Sunday morning to talk through our thoughts on what we've read. If interested, then please see me.

Darren

COMMUNITY CHOIR

We have just passed our 3rd anniversary and our repertoire and range of songs has continued to expand. Sadly the same cannot be said for our numbers, which are usually between 12 and 15. That being said, we are a friendly and very welcoming group with several non church members and open to any ability of voice to join us any Wednesday at 7.00pm.

Although we are not involved with any of the Church activities for Christmas we are singing at Sherwood Residential Home on 19th December (the evening after the Church are there with carols) and invite anyone to join us.

Dave Topping

Invitation to the TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

On Friday 4th January 11.00am-1.00pm

We will be holding

a Teddy Bears Picnic for the families of the church and groups who use the building.

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

BEG - STICK - SHARE

At one service this year Rev Jane asked for 6 volunteers to play a game called Beg, Stick or Share. She explained that we would each receive a sealed envelope which contained money totalling £300. (Monopoly £10 notes were used!!) The amounts were £120; £70; £50; £30; £30; or nothing. All the envelopes were identical so we didn't know how much each person had. We could look inside our own envelope but not tell how much we had received.



We had to decide whether to stick with what we had, to beg or ask for more or to share what we had with each other. We had a minute to role play this game and do what we each personally decided.

One person decided to stick; two people decided to share; one decided to ask for more for various wants and needs they had; one decided to do a bit of asking, but more gently and I had no choice really but to beg as my envelope was the empty one. I wasn't allowed to say I had nothing, so at first I didn't say anything, just looked bewildered by the noisy requests for money to buy new cars etc. It was very difficult to ask for money when others were more vociferous. I felt very small and ignored. I was surprised, but pleased when I was given £10 by one of the sharers without me actually asking them. However I didn't know what to do then. I still felt a bit intimidated in this situation so instead of keeping the money I gave it to the person who had actually decided to stick, but I'd no idea if they'd had a lot or a little to start with. They took my offering eventually, but very reluctantly.



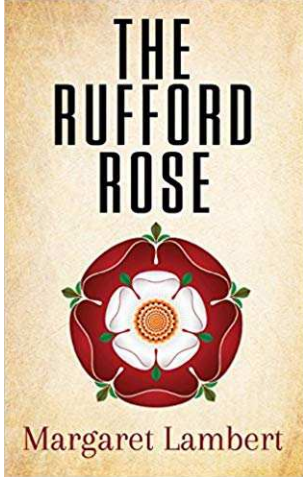
I can't remember the actual amounts everyone started or ended up with, except I started with nothing and ended up with nothing. The person who decided to stick had actually started with £120 and ended up with £130 so I think they had the most both at the start and the end. I think the ones who shared had the £30 each at the start, but I'm not sure what they ended up with.

If we had shared the money equally we would each have had £50, which would have been enough for our needs, but we might have had to curtail our wants a little.

It made me think about the beggars on the streets of our city. If I could feel intimidated in that role play how must they feel every hour of every day? If we have enough to live on should we want more? Couldn't we be satisfied with what we've got and make the most of it? Is it those who shout loudest get the most? I may choose to alter the way I treat beggars in future. When I give anything, it's usually food or a hot drink if it's practical for me to do so, but I do occasionally give money too. I think it would be good to stop and speak and at least acknowledge they are there. I could make a bigger contribution to Methodist Action as homelessness and the need to beg can happen to anyone very quickly when the dominoes start to tumble.

Veronica Frost

A FARRAGO

- Thursday, 20th December at 7.00pm is Radio Lancashire's annual 'Lancashire Sings Christmas' this year.
 - The name Margaret Lambert (nee Smith) will be familiar to some; these days she spends some of her time as a volunteer guide at the National Trust's Rufford Old Hall and the environment has clearly inspired her to write an historical novel entitled 'The Rufford Rose' (Clink Street Publishing). It features the building of the great hall, the people concerned and the effects upon the locality – all set against a sixteenth century background. There are plenty of facts in there, as well as fiction, and Margaret has obviously done a great deal of research to bring it all to fruition. The book comes in paperback form and there's a Kindle edition too. Sadly, by the time you read this, you will have missed the opportunity to visit the hall, with a view to buying a copy of 'The Rufford Rose' and to have it signed by Margaret (on Thursday, 29th November).
- 
- The President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference are scheduled to visit the Lancashire District in mid- February.
 - The Rev. Dr. Barbara Glasson & Professor Clive Marsh are the next President-elect and Vice President-elect of the Methodist Conference for 2019 – 2020.
 - The Rev. Phil Maudsley, Curate of neighbouring Christ Church, will soon be moving to Moston, north Manchester, and we wish him well in his new posting.
 - Mention of the Lancashire Post serves as a reminder that it continues to regularly publish short stories provided by one of our church members, Barry Crossley.
 - Our mention of the purple poppies in memory of all the animals (and birds) killed in the First World War brought an enquiry from someone wanting to know where to obtain such. Veronica thinks the knitters might hold it in mind for next year.
 - Another WWI fact: 1,400 church bell ringers lost their live in the conflict. Their names are inscribed on a roll of honour held by the Central Council of Bell Ringers and displayed in St Paul's Cathedral.
 - Lancashire Post, Saturday, 20th October, 2018 – Your Memories, October 1980 – included a photo of the FMC Cubs' swimming team, winners of the Laura Berry Memorial Trophy. Member included Glynn Budden, Douglas Johnson, Stephen & Paul Bartlett, Matthew Bell, Alex Greenwood & Roger Whittall.



- Even more information concerning ‘The Pied Pipers’, FMC’s highly successful football team of the early 1950s: Beryl Duckworth (née Fletcher) recognised almost all of the names we listed. Also, among Basil’s memorabilia, she has discovered a miniature cup – in almost mint condition – but for a slightly later date: champions in the 1953 - 54 season. Believe it or not there is also one of the actual jerseys (red and green halves) and some socks (two pairs). These you really must see!! (Larger and in colour on the web)



- Other folks’ church magazines, newsletters and weekly information

sheets have arrived from the following places: Ashton Methodist Church; Bath Abbey; Bolton – The Triangle Community Methodist Church; Bolton-le-Sands – Holy Trinity; Bournemouth area – Highcliffe Methodist Church; Brindle – St James’; Fulwood – Christ Church; Fulwood URC; Goosnargh – St Francis (Hill Chapel); Isles of Scilly Methodist Circuit; Longridge – Knowle Green Congregational Church; Oakworth Methodist Church; Peak District – Buxton with Burbage & King Sterndale; Penhill Benefice, N. Yorkshire, which covers 7 churches; Penwortham – St Leonard’s; Preston – Central Methodist Church; Salisbury area – St Mary’s, Redlynch & St Birinus, Morgans Vale; Samlesbury – St Leonard the Less; the United Church in Walpole, Massachusetts, USA; Warton – St Paul’s; Wells Cathedral; ‘The Grapevine’ which covers the doings of the Methodist churches of the South Lakes area and the In Focus community magazine which covers the West Fylde area.

We thank all who’ve taken the trouble to bring these in and particularly Mr & Mrs Hackett, who deliver them to me by the bagful!

We also regularly receive a copy of the magazine from our twinned Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany.

* * * * *

A BIG THANK YOU

.....to my friends at Fulwood Methodist Church for cards, prayers, thoughts and lovely flowers sent to me recently. It is wonderful to be supported in this way. Please continue to hold me in your prayers.

Angela Crook

Apologies - This should have been in the Harvest edition, but was inadvertently omitted. Sorry.

PRESTON'S OWN HOMELESSNESS CHARITY METHODIST ACTION NORTH WEST

Most people who read this magazine will know about **Fox Street**; many of you will have given generously of your time and money to support the work there. The present facility in the basement of Central Methodist Church in Lune Street houses 20 men who otherwise would be without safe and secure housing. Some have been rough sleepers. That work was started by members of Central Methodist Church around 50 years ago and has developed into the present provision which is a vital part of Preston's Housing Pathway. **Fox Street** is now the responsibility of **Methodist Action North West (MANW)**.



Over the last ten years **MANW** has been seeking to expand its work in response to two pressing needs arising from **Fox Street** itself.

First, where do the men go to live in safe and secure housing once their time at **Fox Street** is over. Our aim has been to stabilise the lives of the men concerned and to help them to overcome the many problems they face...but then what?

Second, how might it be possible to make it less likely that men (and women and families) will become homeless in the first place? In other words, to prevent men needing access to **Fox Street** to begin with.



To address these issues, several years ago **MANW** created a second arm of operation called **A Place to Live**. Inevitably when people speak of **MANW** they think of **Fox Street**. However, the time has come when **A Place to Live** needs to be known in the same way. So what is **A Place to Live**, what does it do, where does it do it, and how might you help?

Fox Street and **A Place to Live** are the two vehicles by which **MANW** seeks to offer local rough-sleepers and other vulnerable people the help they need to put their lives in order. It is tough (and expensive) work but our aim is to provide safe and secure places where people can **Live, Stay and Grow**.

Live - actually means providing places where people can be helped to avoid the early death which faces some homeless people.

Stay - actually means helping people to stabilise their lives so that they can sustain themselves in the same accommodation for longer periods of time.

Grow - actually means helping people back into employment, into education and training and giving them the skills and techniques to build relationships and overcome personal problems.

The Bible teaches us that it is God's will that all people should live in pleasant places. It teaches us that whenever we assist someone to overcome a difficulty we are helping Jesus Himself. And in the Christmas narratives we read about the homelessness and refugee status which Jesus and His family faced in His infancy. However, when we help local people (and those afar from Preston) we are helping Christ Himself.

In a future article I will describe some of the work we have done and are planning to do in more strategic terms. For the moment, let me tell you about some people (names have been changed) we have helped:

NINA'S STORY

Four years ago, Nina was homeless and sofa-surfing whilst struggling with alcohol addiction. She was subsequently admitted into a rehabilitation centre followed by a further 18 months in recovery homes, after which she was referred to 'A Place to Live' to be housed. During this time Nina's children lived with their grandma. The stability of her new home enabled Nina to continue her recovery, overcoming many obstacles.



Today we are delighted to report that one of Nina's children now lives with her, whilst the second remains with grandma who also has a property managed by 'A Place to Live' in the same location, meaning the family unit is complete again. Nina has now been sober for 4 years and has started part-time employment, where she has recently been promoted to Team Leader.

CAROLINE'S STORY

When Caroline moved into her 'A Place to Live' property she was undergoing treatment for depression and a personality disorder. As a result of this her children had been removed from her care.



Her new home gave Caroline the fresh start that she needed. Despite continuing to suffer with mental health issues, she began to get her life back on track. She volunteered to work on a local helpline supporting others in need, something she found very rewarding.

Soon she was granted monthly visits with one of her sons which helped to improve her mental health. She now sees him more frequently and hopes to regain full custody in the future.

Caroline is very happy at the moment and now attends college. Eventually she would like to go on to study at university.

Could you help MANW (Fox Street and A Place to Live) grow and thrive?

Here are some things you could do:

- Please pray for the people we serve & the services we provide. Pray that Methodist Action may have the courage and wisdom to find a way forward so that even more may be housed.
- Attend one of our fund-raising events or organise a fund-raising event for us. We can arrange speakers to tell you more about our work if required.
- Follow us on social media and share our posts with your friends to raise awareness and funds.
- If you own a property you would like to let out to others, please talk to us about how you may be able to use this to help a vulnerable person.
- Make a financial donation (gift aid it if you can). Cheques should be made payable to Methodist Action NW Ltd. Alternatively you can make a one-off or regular donations via bank transfer quoting ref. APTL.

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Account Number: 94064151

Bank Name: HSBC

Branch: Fishergate, Preston

Address: 49A Fishergate, Preston PR1 8BH

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Ken Wales

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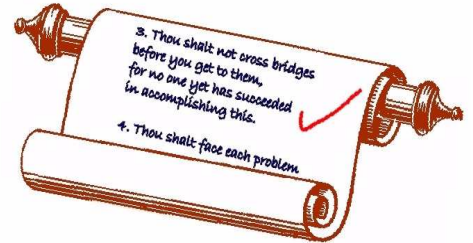
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THE (second) TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Thou shalt not worry,
for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
- Thou shalt not be fearful,
for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
- Thou shalt not cross bridges before you come to them,
for no one has yet succeeded in accomplishing this.
- Thou shalt face each problem as it comes,
for you can only handle them one at a time anyway.
- Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you,
for they make poor bedfellows.
- Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems.
- Thou shalt not try to relive yesterday for good or ill; it is gone for ever.
Give the past to God and concentrate on the present.
- Thou shalt be a good listener,
for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own.
- Thou shalt not be bogged down by frustration,
for 90% is rooted in self-pity and will interfere with positive action.
- Thou shalt count thy blessings, never overlooking smaller ones,
as many small blessings make a big blessing.



supplied by Margaret Holmes

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ARE YOU TOO OLD TO WITNESS GREENBELT AT 70?

Janet and I have never been festival-goers. Whilst others have gone off to Glastonbury or even to Glyndebourne, only recently have we become a little more adventurous. Sure, we have been to the Edinburgh Festival and to various Book or Literature events in the open-air. But, a distinctly Christian festival has never attracted us. Perhaps we adhere to the wrong kind of theology for that.



But Greenbelt has long been a draw. But for years it was one we could resist because of other commitments - too near the start of term when we were working, co-coinciding most years with sporting events which we (or I) preferred or even the need to get the garden (and our finances) in order.

However, in 2018, Greenbelt eventually won out. Now we are both in that decade of our lives where we need to make the most of things we decided to give it a go. Of course, we chickened out of all that sleeping-in-a-tent or caravan nonsense. Off-site, in a Premier Inn, was the nearest we got to slumming it. But it was good, it was great fun and, guess what, we have already booked for next year.

A word of explanation for those who have never heard of Greenbelt. It is an annual Festival which has been organised for many years by Christians of many denominations acting independently from, but often supported by, their Churches. Its aim is to bring as many people together as possible into one place to hear modern (and older) Christian music, to listen to a wide and fascinating range of speakers from many backgrounds and all of wide renown, to play, to perform, to worship, to relax, to eat and drink and, hopefully, to meet up coincidentally with old friends. This year we met up with the Sheasby family who sent their love to Fulwood folk.

The site is a huge country park which provides space to do many things either quietly or noisily. Several huge marquees are used as venues and usually there are four or more events going on, morning, afternoon and night. The more adventurous pitch their tents (some pretty grand ones) or their caravans and motor homes on the adjacent fields, whilst we faced a not too demanding walk from a packed car park. At any one time there are several thousand people in attendance.

So what did we do? Well we ate and drank well - the many food outlets are of a very high standard. We carried our picnic chairs from venue to venue and then joined large numbers in one of the tents to listen, to agree or disagree, to sing and reflect, Some outstanding speakers that we heard, and we missed many more, included the country's leading lay theologian (some of whose books we have read in the Church book club), a radically-thinking economist who taught us brilliantly about doughnut economics (look it up!), a poet who leads the Corrymeela community and the co-leader of The Green Party (a terrific public speaker). Sadly, we missed listening to Carol Ann Duffy, the Poet Laureate. We toured many

exhibition stands, picked up much interesting information and literature, had some great conversations and, inevitably for me, spent too much at the book shop.

Sunday morning was the time of Festival Worship in the main marquee. We were told to get there early and we did but even then we couldn't get within twenty yards of the marquee. We heard everything but saw little. Several thousand people shared in a very simple but deeply meaningful Eucharist and we listened in awe, and some joined in, with the music from The Kingdom Choir (the choir which sang at the recent royal wedding).

So what did we talk about on the way home? Well for us it was the joy of being in the presence of thousands of people who it seemed shared our interests and convictions. that there is much more to religion, to our faith, than personal salvation. That God is active in the whole world and not just within the walls of our churches. That sharing ideas and passing on our convictions and facing up to our doubts, our hopes and fears, and encountering the wide variety of God's creation was so refreshing and encouraging.

We were told that, unlike any other festival, two days later the whole site was litter free and fully restored to its rural tranquility.

Would we go again, one year older still? Well, I have answered that question already.

Ken Wales

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KEEPING FIT IN OLDER YEARS

Regular physical activity in later life is important for so many reasons. Countless studies have shown that there are the obvious benefits for physical health, but mental health also benefits as many activities involve socialising.

Why is keeping fit in later life so beneficial?

Here are some of the benefits of physical activity:



- Helps you to maintain a healthy weight
- Reduces your risk of falls by strengthening your muscles
- It is linked to supporting your thinking skills
- Boosts your mood and energy levels (exercise releases endorphins)
- It's social – joining a sports team or a class can help you to make friends

Exercise classes run by Age UK

Not all local Age UKs run all these types of classes. This is an example of the different things available across England. If you haven't exercised in a while, don't worry. Our classes and clubs focus on gentle exercise to help you to regain your fitness at your own pace. If you're used to regular physical activity, exercises can be tailored to be more strenuous.

Dance

Show off your moves at an Age UK dance class. Relaxed classes cover everything from Latin to ballroom to freestyle to line dancing, and beginners are welcome to attend. Learning to dance will also support your brain and memory functions.

Pilates and yoga

Pilates is all about slow, controlled movements to help build up your core muscle strength, and yoga concentrates on gentle stretching to boost your flexibility and balance. Most exercises are performed seated or lying down, so you may need to bring along your own mat and towel.

Seated exercise

Seated exercise classes are some of our most popular. The gentle, chair-based exercises are great for improving your posture and balance, and are suitable for people with reduced mobility.

Some classes introduce resistance bands and hand weights for muscle strengthening.



Tai Chi

Tai Chi, which originates from Ancient China, is now practised by older people around the world. It focuses on slow and gentle movement, which supports balance and posture, and is also known for its effects on mental wellbeing, helping you to relax and de-stress.



Walking clubs

Explore your local area and meet new people at an organised walking group, led by one of our trained walk leaders.

Groups go at a pace that suits everyone and take on a mixture of flat walks through to more demanding, hillier trails over different distances. There's often a chance to stop for a hot drink and a cake along the way!

Walking football

Competitive, fast and lots of fun, walking football is currently taking over the UK. Most Age UKs have their own team for anyone who wants to continue playing the beautiful game and improve their general fitness.



Zumba Gold

Zumba is known as the ultimate dance party, bringing together Latin-inspired moves and music with more traditional aerobic exercises. Zumba Gold classes are set at a level and pace suitable for all ages and abilities, and are so much fun that it won't even feel like exercise.

Fulwood and West View Leisure Centres are now run by 'Better' and offer a range of leisure facilities and do a specific over 50's aerobics class (generally attended by over 60's / 70's...) and is always popular.

Ambulant Physiotherapy on Plungington Road offer both Yoga and Pilates classes which can be 6 week blocks or pay as you go. Tel 01772 717271

Just for Ladies gym on Derby road, Fulwood 01772 788743 offers an over 60's membership.

Rachel Imms

MOSES – BRINGING THE STORY UP TO DATE

In the last issue of the Magazine the Church minibus was given the name 'Moses' after 40 years with no name !! I thought it might be appropriate to partly repeat the article I wrote ten years ago to refresh memories and to update its story.

It was June 40 years ago that the Church first took delivery of a brand new minibus. The acquisition was made possible by being able to make an application to the 'Harold Bridges Trust', which is still in existence.

www.haroldandalicebridgescharity.co.uk/. The latter had been established by Harold Bridges, a Leyland transport haulier, who decided on the death of his daughter to use the funds to provide a new minibus for any youth organisation in the area in exchange for their old one.

Our minister at the time was the Reverend Michael Wearing and he realised there was an opportunity for the Church to make an application, since the Fulwood Scouts had previously bought an old minibus. The new minibus duly arrived in June 1978 with an acknowledgement on the side that it had been provided by the 'Harold Bridges Trust'.

The Church Council agreed that since the acquisition had been possible through the Fulwood Scouts, they and the other uniformed and youth organisations should have first call on its use. This priority has always been honoured over the years and is the reason why from time to time the minibus is not available for Church transport on Sunday mornings.

For several years prior to the acquisition of the minibus the Church had hired a coach for Sunday transport and started its journey at the Broughton crossroads collecting passengers as it travelled via Broadwood Drive, Sharoe Green Lane (North) and Conway Drive before arriving at Church. The cost of the coach was about £12 per week and the Church Council agreed to terminate the hire once the minibus became available with assistance from private cars as necessary. It soon became apparent that the latter were not required. The route now taken by the minibus is more extensive and takes in Holme Slack and Coniston road, with Gamull Lane and Sherwood Way occasionally included.

It was fortuitous that about the same time as the application to the Harold Bridges Trust was made, the Church Council was considering the then-grassed area at the rear of the Church which had been identified as a possible District Manse for the Chairman. The Council's view was that the land should be used for Church purposes, in particular a car park, and duly obtained planning permission early in 1978. Shortly afterwards permission was also granted for a garage to house the minibus.



For Sunday transport a rota of drivers was drawn up and user groups nominated their own particular drivers with the names included in the vehicle's insurance policy. A charge per mile was introduced to cover the running costs which now stands at 45p. The Church Council agreed to put aside an amount each year in the budget to provide for a replacement vehicle at the appropriate time. This is the reason why the Church was able to replace the original vehicle and was able to do so again 14 years ago when acquiring their third and present one.

From memory we had seven drivers on the initial rota, with John Butterworth being the last to retire some twelve months ago after 39 years behind the wheel. He has now used his IT skills to digitise map amendments to the minibus route to accommodate new passengers. The DVLC require drivers of minibuses when reaching the age of 70 to undertake a medical examination and insurance companies raise further obstacles. These requirements pose problems for other groups in the Church as their usual drivers reach the watershed age!



Paul Curtis



Ray Askew



Ray Armstrong



John Butterworth

About 10 years ago there were 9 drivers on the rota including Paul Curtis (2009) and Ray Askew (2010). The current number is only 5 including the recent addition of Andrew Cuckson and means the frequency of driving is the shortest it has ever been. Also with three of the drivers committed to stewarding duties for some Sunday Services or leading worship as a local preacher, more changes are needed to the prepared rota which is now very much a provisional one. The reader will appreciate that there is a desperate need to recruit new drivers and anyone who feels they could serve in this way should contact one of the Church Stewards or one of the drivers (Andrew Bennett, Emma Byers, Andrew Cuckson, John Ferris or Anne Garsed) You can also contact Ray Armstrong, who is the minibus manager and the person to contact if you wish to book the minibus for a particular group, or contact myself.

The number of passengers regularly using the minibus twenty years ago was about 15 but that has now fallen to 8 with a further 4 doing so occasionally. Rarely

are all 8 present on a Sunday morning and since the minibus has 15 seats, it means that generally it runs less than half full. Consequently if there is anyone who lives in the general area covered by the minibus as outlined above, and would like to take advantage of this service, please contact one of the Church Stewards, one of the drivers or myself, and hopefully we will be able to arrange to pick you up. The current round trip before and after Church is about 10 miles depending on the passengers using the minibus,

I am aware that this article is concerned very much with the use of the minibus for Sunday transport and you, the reader, may feel even from this limited perspective there are errors or omissions, so please do not hesitate to draw them to my attention as they can be published as errata in the next issue of the magazine! Also having written this article perhaps others, especially leaders of groups, may be persuaded to recount their own particular experiences, serious or humorous, of using the minibus and the way it has benefited them. If you haven't time to write a full article, short snippets would be useful since they can be collated in to an article if forwarded to the editor or myself – go on have a go!

Eric Waterhouse

Sunday morning transport organiser

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A DAY, A DAY OF GLORY

1. A day, a day of glory!

A day that ends our woe!
A day that tells of triumph
Against our vanquish'd foe!
Yield, summer's brightest sunrise,
To this December morn:
Life up your gates, ye Princes
And let the Child be born!

3. He comes, His throne the manger;

He comes, His shrine the stall;
The ox and ass His courtiers,
Who made and governs all:
The 'House of Bread' His birth place,
The Prince of wine and corn:
Lift up your gates, ye Princes,
And let the Child be born.



2. With Gloria in excelsis

Archangels tell their mirth:
With Kyrie eleison
Men answer upon the earth:
And angels swell the triumph,
And mortals raise the horn,
Life up you gates, ye Princes,
And let the Child be born.

4. Then bar the gates, that henceforth

None thus may passage win,
Because the Prince of Israel
Alone hath entered in:
The earth, the sky, the ocean
His glorious way adorn:
Lift up your gates, ye Princes,
And let the Child be born.

John Mason Neale



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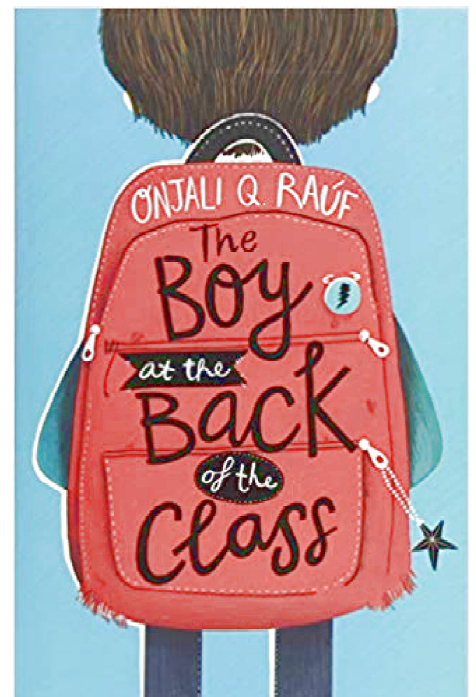
Fulwood Methodist Church Book Club continues to thrive, to read and discuss a variety of books and to eat chocolate biscuits. Our meetings are advertised on the Church web site and the weekly notices. We would be very happy to welcome new faces so if this might be your scene, do come along and give us a try. You don't even have to have read the books we are discussing: although it does add to the fun when our members do read them beforehand.

Since the summer, but before the publication of this edition of the magazine, we will have held three meetings.

First off, and this sounds rather grand, we read a biography of Heinrich Schliemann, called '*Priam's Gold*'. What a story that was. First we learnt about Schliemann as a German businessman who made a vast fortune from indigo. He was a truly, and perhaps sadly, driven-man who appeared to put himself and his business before any other consideration. Then we learnt about his highly controversial work as an archaeologist. Using his fortune, he was able to spend years discovering some of the middle-east's most famous historical sites including, most dramatically, Troy. One of our number had visited Troy and seen at first hand what is a rather small but very complex site, much of which had been excavated by Schliemann in a much more primitive way than archaeologists of today would follow. Then finally, the book asked what became of the many treasures he discovered? Here the book, for me, was at its most fascinating and disturbing for it developed into a commentary of the way that thousands of priceless works of art and ancient treasures had gone missing, or were simply destroyed, during the second world war and in its aftermath.

This was one of the best meetings we have had. A book and topic which has opened other doors in the personal reading lists we have for over the winter months.

Next up, we met to discuss Onjali Q Rauf's recently written children's book called '*The Boy at the Back of the Class*'. If you have a 9 - 12 year old in your family I cannot recommend this book strongly enough. It has been very widely publicised and is now on a short list of books being considered for a major prize for children's fiction. Until I read this book, I knew nothing of this author. But then by chance I mentioned her on Facebook and was contacted by Rev. Micky Youngson, the current President of the Methodist Conference, who surprised me by saying Onjali was a personal friend of hers. Well, since then,



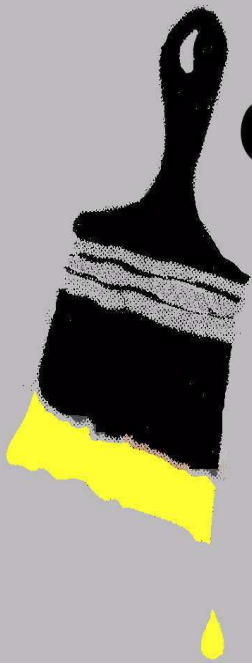
I have been in contact with Onjali several times. It is possible that in 2019 she will be coming to Preston and, if so, we will try to arrange an event where you could meet her.

The book is set in a primary school. One day, a child appears at the back of the class who is clearly a stranger and who is shy and withdrawn. An adult helper is with him. A small group of children are intrigued and slowly seek to befriend him. It isn't easy and takes time but just as his confidence grows the possibility arises that he may have to leave the school to be deported. I won't spoil the story beyond saying that it develops into a most heart-warming tale of friendship, courage, determination and kindness as a small group of children take on the powers that be so he can remain here.

Onjali tells me that she wrote the story to answer a question which arose in her mind on one of her visits to the refugee camps in Calais. Namely, if any of these children came to England, what fate might await them in a local school. Friends, this is a wonderful book - do please read it and encourage others to do so too.

In early December we will be meeting to discuss some Christmas reading. More about that in the next magazine. Then, we will be reading some very interesting books in 2019. Please look at the Church website for more information.

Ken Wales



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50 YEARS AGO THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

Apollo 8, the first manned mission to the Moon, entered lunar orbit on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1968. That evening, the astronauts; Commander Frank Borman, Command Module Pilot Jim Lovell, and Lunar Module Pilot William Anders did a live television broadcast from lunar orbit, in which they showed pictures of the Earth and Moon seen from Apollo 8. Lovell said, “The vast loneliness is awe-inspiring and it makes you realise just what you have back there on Earth.” They ended the broadcast with the crew taking turns reading from the book of Genesis.



“For all the people on Earth the crew of Apollo 8 has a message we would like to send you”.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.”

William Anders

“And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.”

Jim Lovell

“And God said, Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas: and God saw that it was good.”

Frank Borman

Borman then added, “And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you - all of you on the good Earth.”

LESSER KNOWN CHRISTMAS FACTS

Down the years I have written in the Christmas issue of the church magazine articles about Christmas customs and activities; carol singing and wassailing, yule logs, holly and decorations of all kinds, crackers, candles, cards, Christingles, puddings, mince pies and other goodies, present-giving, Christmas trees and so on - the list is endless! The following is a small collection of unrelated facts which you may find interesting.

- In 320 AD, Pope Julius I proclaimed that 25th of December was to be celebrated as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- The word Xmas, a common abbreviation for Christmas, is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is the Greek letter Chi which is, of course, the first letter of the word Christ.

- Members of the Serpentine Swimming Club in London hold an annual race for 'The Peter Pan Cup' on Christmas Day. This was donated to the club by the writer J. M. Barrie, author of the play 'Peter Pan'. He often walked in



1913 winner, G Gyton and swimmers

- Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park, where he used to watch the swimmers. In 1913 he sponsored the race and donated the cup.
- Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, was so named by Captain William Mynors of the British East India Company when he sailed past it on Christmas Day in 1643. Another Christmas Island was discovered and named by Captain James Cook in 1777. Part of Kiribati, it is now called 'Kiritmati' which is a re-spelling of Christmas in the local language.
- The song 'Jingle Bells', written by James Lord Pierpoint, was not originally intended to be a Christmas song, but to celebrate the American festival of Thanksgiving.
- Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer, was invented by an American company for their 1938 Christmas promotion. He was not one of the reindeers listed in Clement Clarke Moore's poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' or 'A Visit from St Nicholas', published in 1823. These were Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.
- William the Conqueror ordered a survey of land holdings in England at Christmas 1085. This became known as the Domesday Book.

- On Christmas Day, 1950, four university students from Glasgow stole the historic ‘Stone of Scone’ (the Stone of Destiny) from the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey. It was later recovered from the altar of Arbroath Abbey, where it had been deposited by the students several months later, after London had refused to return it to Scotland. However, in November 1996, the Stone returned to Scotland and now resides in Edinburgh Castle. It was returned to Westminster Abbey, just for the Coronation of the Queen in 1953 but will return again for any future Coronations.



- The first Christmas Day broadcast was delivered in 1932 by King George V. Since 1952 Queen Elizabeth II’s Christmas Message is broadcast on radio, television and the internet.

These are just a few snippets of information connected with Christmas. I hope you have found them interesting. Happy Christmas.

Barbara Hothersall

Martin's

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DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

Sat 15th	10.00 - 11.30am	Christmas singing practice
Sat 15th	10.00 - 12.00noon	'Who Let The Dad's Out?'
17th and 18th	Evening	Carol singing in homes
Thurs 20th	7.00 - 8.00pm	Lancashire Sings Christmas (Radio Lancashire)
Sat 22nd		Christingle making
Sun 23rd	10.00am	Messy Nativity
Sun 23rd	6.00pm	Carol Service
Mon 24th	3.30pm	Christingle Service
Mon 24th	11.15pm	Midnight Communion
Tues 25th	10.00am	Christmas Celebration
Sat 29th	12noon - 2.00pm	Friendship lunch

2019

JANUARY

Sun 13th	4.00 pm	OMG
Sat 19th	10.00 - 12.00noon	'Who Let The Dad's Out?'
Sun 27th	6.00 - 8.00pm	GWNN Youth Group

FEBRUARY

Tues 5th	7.00pm	Alphabites
Sun 10th	4.00pm	SPACE - Visit of President & Vice-President
Sun 10th	4.00 pm	OMG
Tues 12th	5.00 - 7.00pm	Messy Church - Zaccheus
Sat 16th	10.00 - 12.00noon	'Who Let The Dad's Out?'

MARCH

Wed 6th		Ash Wednesday Circuit Service
Tues 5th or 12th	7.00pm	Alphabites TBC
Sun 10th	4.00 pm	OMG
Sat 16th	10.00 - 12.00noon	'Who Let The Dad's Out?'
Tues 19th	5.00 - 7.00pm	Messy Church - Martha and Mary
Sun 24th	6.00 - 8.00pm	GWNN Youth Group

APRIL

Tues 2nd	7.00pm	Alphabites
Fri 19th	5.00 - 7.00pm	Good Friday Messy Church
Sun 21st	10.30am	Easter Sunday service

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 (07719 843543)

Thursday

7.00 pm	Knitting Group (Copper Beech Room)	Veronica Frost (717415)
7.15 pm	Table Tennis matches	Alan Smith (07943 406021)
8.01 pm	Ladies After 8 group (fortnightly)	Barbara Hothersall (716203)

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 (07545 869326)
7.00 pm	Explorer Scouts (14 - 18 yr)	Operated by Scout District
7.00 pm	Scout Network (18 - 25 yr)	Operated by Scout County

Thursday

5.45 pm	Rainbows (5 - 7 yr)	Jayne Myatt (718217)
6.15 pm	Brownies (7 - 10 yr)	Diane Bird (715298)
7.30 pm	Guides (10 - 14 yr)	Hannah Jones (718741) (church)

Friday

6.30 pm	Escape (7- 11 yr)	Darren Arnold (07811 775825)
8.00 pm	Youth Club (Secondary School age)	“ “ “

Sunday

10.30 am	Sunday Club	Janet Wales (863791)
12.30 pm	OMG (2nd Sun of month for years 5 to 8/9)	Wendy Bennett (860965)

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