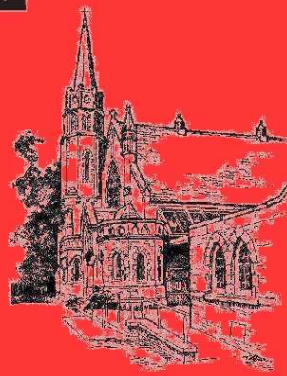


**Fulwood Methodist Church  
Crossroads Centre**



**CHRISTMAS  
2022**

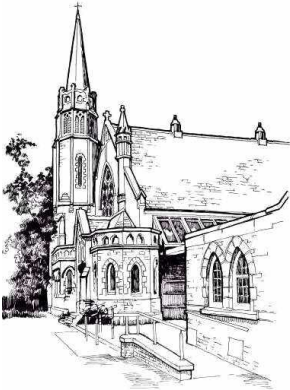


Twinned with the Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche,  
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**THE FULWOOD METHODIST**

**FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH**  
Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8EA  
Tel. Preston (01772) 718741  
Registered Charity No. 1133929



**MINISTER**

**Revd Jane Wild - *jane.wild@methodist.org.uk***  
**Tel. 01772 715134**

**YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER**

**Darren Arnold - *darrenarnold.church@gmail.com***  
**Tel. 07811 775825**

**CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER**

**Denise Johnson - *djpastoral@outlook.com***  
**Tel. 07719 200451**

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

- 9.45 am SINGING PRACTICE (occasional)
- 10.30 am MORNING WORSHIP & SUNDAY CLUB
- 6.00 pm. EVENING WORSHIP. Usually 3rd Sunday of the month

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.

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 Revd Jane Wild

\*\*\*\*\*

**If you need any help, or have any concerns, please contact  
Revd Jane Wild or Mrs. Sue Penrith (862273)**

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

# PASTORAL LETTER

from Revd Jane Wild

Dear Friends,

I was telling my husband about our theme for Advent this year- LOVE. He didn't reply with some romantic assertion of his feelings for me but rather said; "Isn't that a Joan Baez song?"

Inevitably he was right. Written by Bob Dylan, it begins in this way:-

*Seems like only yesterday  
I left my mind behind  
Down in the gypsy café  
With a friend of a friend of mine  
Who sat with a baby heavy on her knee  
Yet spoke of life most free from slavery  
With eyes that showed no trace of misery  
A phrase in connection first with she occurred  
That love is just a four-letter word*

However, Dylan was wrong. Love is more than a four-letter word. It is much more than the sum of its parts. Sunday by Sunday we will look at **L**onging, **O**ppportunity, **V**ocation and **E**nactment which are words that reflect our relationship to God, our penitence and preparation in a very contemporary way.

Then on Christmas Day we will bring all our thoughts together and focus on **LOVE**. Despite what many advertisers may say, Love is what Christmas is all about. It's a celebration of God's love for us and an invitation to us to respond to God in Love.



Mathematically, it is true that love is a four letter word. Sadly for many it is also true that it is just a four letter word because they have such limited experience of giving and receiving love. However the Christian claims and celebrates a different truth.

**Love is much more than a four letter word.**

I pray that you will experience true love this Christmas and that the experience of Gods presence will enable you to truly love others

With wishes for God's blessing of peace

*Jane*

## EDITORIAL

Many thanks to all who've contributed to this magazine and please keep up the good work. It is much appreciated by very many people.

Each year we send our Christmas Blessings to the church in Recklinghausen. As usual, a general Christmas card will be sent from Fulwood with Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Just a reminder: the **copy date** for our **Easter 2023 issue** will be **Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March**. Any material submitted prior to that date would be most welcome – and please do remember that articles may be subject to editing!

Meanwhile: “*Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda*”, as my Welsh friends would say. (*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*)

*Roy Smith* (Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

## FAMILY NEWS

### Baptisms

2nd October 2022      Sienna Hodgson

### Funerals

7th October 2022      Irene Nixon

7th November 2022      Jennifer Cole

1st December 2022      Mary Hogg

\*\*\*\*\*

## ALTERNATIVE CHURCH

Over the last few months we have been running alternative church at the Black Bull pub. We have met at 6.30 and shared a meal together (although you are most welcome to join us and just have a coffee or something else to drink.) The format is usually a conversation starter: an opportunity to link that to the Bible (very informally) and time to share some concerns and prayers. So far we have shared our faith, had lots of fun and some very insightful conversations. Going forward we intend to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month and welcome anyone who would like to join us.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHURCH STEWARDS

John Ferris, Cheryl Arnold, Hilary Banks, Sue Rennie, Sue Salisbury.

\*\*\*\*\*

## COMMUNION STEWARDS

John Butterworth, Jacqueline Clarke, Barry Crossley,  
Anne Garsed, Sue Hogarth, Olivia Parkinson.

\*\*\*\*\*

## EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR	Roy Smith	7 Southgate, Fulwood Preston PR2 3HX
	Assisted by	Barbara Hothersall
		Libby Stone
Computer layout		John Butterworth
e-mail		<a href="mailto:fmc magazine@yahoo.co.uk">fmc magazine@yahoo.co.uk</a>

## ‘ALTOGETHER WORSHIP’ REVIEW

Challenging

Active

Inclusive

Informal

Varied

Difficult

As part of a general review of our church worship and work, a small group of people were asked to look at ‘Altogether Worship’ at Fulwood and identify ways we could develop this area. At Fulwood, the term ‘Altogether Worship’ is used to describe the monthly services involving people of all ages. They are usually informal, welcoming, inclusive with active participation of both adults and children making them truly intergenerational. Feedback was sought by questionnaires, conversations and key ‘word’ responses. An information sheet is available in church together with a response form. It’s not too late to add your views in a questionnaire available from Janet Wales or follow the QR code link at the end of this article.

Although a relatively small number of people responded, there was a consensus that we are working from a position of strength. Participants valued the involvement of all ages and the range of activities e.g. puppets, art and craft and movement round the church being encouraged. Other examples of positive responses - children and adults playing instruments, having visual stimulus and links with the topics in Sunday Club or having the children’s work used in the Powerpoint. The key words describing these services were: inclusive, active, varied, sharing, family focused, bitesize, surprising, 0 to 100+!

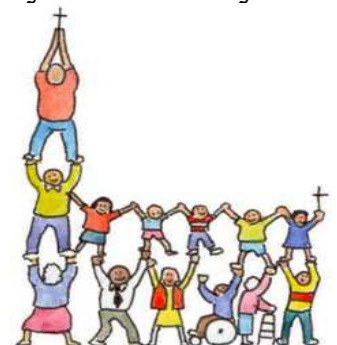
The suggestions that were made to develop and improve the provision include: focus on more music making, meet occasionally in Willow Grove (café style), consider the layout of the church, ensure people of all ages are involved in reading etc. ‘Altogether Worship’ could also provide opportunities to get to know other people better. Keywords describing concerns included complicated, difficult and challenging.

### Future action

It was agreed that it was important to develop ideas incrementally to ensure overload was avoided. When the group reviewed the feedback, it was felt that there was strong support for music and drama to be developed in an intergenerational way and that was an obvious starting point. In addition, a meeting is planned in the New Year for those who volunteered their services. Activities for pre-school children are to be maintained and volunteers asked to staff these. Thank you to all those who have responded so far, otherwise, please let us know your views by completing the questionnaire or talk to a group member.

### Group members:

Darren Arnold, Mavis Fletcher, Janet Wales,  
Lindsay Walton, Hope Wild, Rev Jane Wild.



# FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Wishes you a peaceful and joy filled Christmas.

We invite you to join with us as we remember the birth of Jesus.



- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 15th December             | 7.00pm Lancashire Sings Christmas at Church. Join us for carols with the BBC programme across Lancashire. We will also be receiving the Peace Light from Bethlehem, so you can bring a candle from home and continue to spread the light of Christ back to your home. All are welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards. |
| 18th December             | Messy Nativity 10.00am. Service starts at 10.30.  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> December | 5.00pm Carol service.   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> December | 6.30pm Longest Night service at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church for those who are seeking some peace this Christmas.   |
| 23rd December             | 10.00am Christingle making. Help make the Christingles and share a bacon butty.   |
| 24th December             | Christingle Service 5.00pm.   |
| 24th December             | 11.15pm Midnight Communion  |
| 25th December             | Christmas Celebration 10.00am   |

# FROM OUR CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

**Denise Johnson**

Advent and Christmas in 2022 seem and feel a little different. The message of love for all is a constant, but the world seems to be in a difficult and darker place this year. As we plan and prepare for our festivities, we may be conscious of the need around us. The cost of living is rising. I have noticed myself, not buying some items from the shop and replacing others with cheaper alternatives. People in our own streets and communities are struggling to keep warm and are restless about the amount they are paid and the conditions they work in. Pensions don't seem to stretch as far as they did. The squeeze is real.

All this being said; Advent is a hopeful time, a time of light shining in the darkness. It can feel that we haven't got much to give or we feel powerless in the face of so much need, but only a small amount of light can make a real difference in someone else's darkness. This does not have to be complex or cause us stress; it can be as simple as a 'phone call to someone, an email, a note in a card. Some of the kindest pastoral engagements are the simple ones.

The calling of Advent is one to share the simple essence of faith which is all about love. As the word LOVE hangs high and large in our church (have you seen it?) the challenge is to live it; to really live it with all of our beings. If we are busy trying to love much and deeply there is no time for all the distractions or trimmings which sometimes cloud the way.

I wish you a time of real love this season and I hope that you find opportunities to share this love with those around you.

With Love,

*Denise*



\*\*\*\*\*

Two children were watching their Grandmother reading her Bible. "Why does she do that?" whispered one. "I expect she's studying for her final exams," said the other.

Prayer is the door into the hospitality of God's home.

Laugh every day; it's like inner jogging.

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

*(Aesop)*

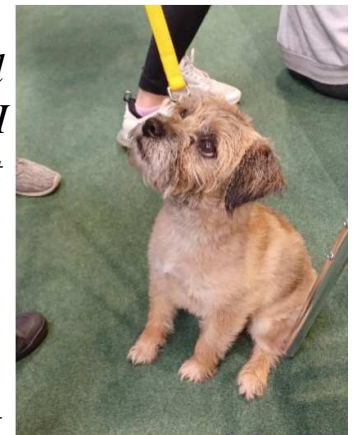
## YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORK

At the time of writing this we are preparing for the start of Advent! We are preparing for the birth of our Lord, the celebration of new life. I'm seeing a new life within the church here at Fulwood, and the meaning of Advent is 'Coming'. More families are coming and being welcomed in on a regular basis through worship, which in turn means Sunday Club now has a regular attendance of between 20-30 a week of mixed ages and these youngsters are creating some great work. Our older Youth Group members are leading their own sessions with leaders there for supervision and safeguarding, I'm sure you will agree with me it's been great seeing them become members of the church and taking roles in helping with worship. The younger group of youngsters will see a relaunched OMG group in the new year. Talking of both groups, four youngsters joined me and a group from the Circuit at '3Generate' at the NEC Birmingham at the end of September. It was a packed weekend full of choices, good company and lots of tents. I'm not going to mention much else, as one of our youngsters' Lucy, has written about the weekend.

*I went to Birmingham from 30 September to 2 October for '3Generate'. I travelled on a bus and went with some people from church. Rosa and I shared a tent. When we arrived we set up our tent and got some food. I saw Hope and she told me to try Peace Art. I painted a sunset. We had a vote about the most important issue. The choices were homeless people, climate justice and world hunger. I voted for climate justice. On Saturday I did more art. Michael and I went to the therapy dogs. We got to pet a Chihuahua called Harry Potter. He was the best dog ever. We played lots of games of hide and seek. At night we slept in a*



*big hall with loads of tents. It was a bit uncomfortable on Friday but I made it comfier for Saturday. We had chocolate in our tent at night. On Sunday I got a mega milkshake, it wasn't very mega, but tasted nice. I got chocolate and Rosa got strawberry.*



*3Generate is great fun. A place where you can do what you want. I'm going to go back next year because it was so much fun.*

*Thank you Lucy and I am glad you enjoyed your first visit to 3Generate.*







Growth is also going well in other groups. Our toddler group is busier than ever and sells a lot of toast and fruit loaf. 'Who Let The Dads Out?' is doing well with new dads joining us monthly. Escape, the Friday night Youth group is steadily increasing in number.

In the next few weeks you will see the recently

purchased puppetry set up which will be used within many groups in the church and circuit.

So, Advent is about 'Coming' and we have lots of youngsters and families coming to the groups we run and Christmas about new life, and I think we can say new life is coming into Fulwood. And talking of new life if you didn't know myself and Cheryl have become Grandparents again to a beautiful Grandson Murphy.

*Darren*



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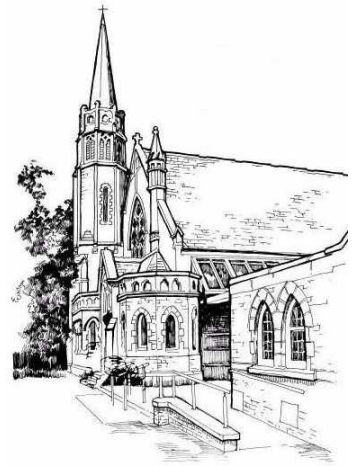


[tomaseve@virginmedia.com](mailto:tomaseve@virginmedia.com)



# LEADERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS IN FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

You may know that an important conversation is taking place in the Church at present about how aspects of our activities are organised and led. Some of our readers may have taken part in a recent General Church meeting and made suggestions then.



We want to hear from everybody! If you want to know more please see the information provided on a leaflet and response sheet in the Willow Grove or on the Church website via this short link - [tinyurl.com/53dbh6f3](http://tinyurl.com/53dbh6f3) All views will be carefully considered. You can respond by email to Ken Wales at [kenwales9421@gmail.com](mailto:kenwales9421@gmail.com) or leave any comments you have in the box in the Willow Grove at Church.

## DO YOU NEED A VENUE?

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**CONCERT**

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[www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk/rooms/rooms.htm](http://www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk/rooms/rooms.htm)

or email - [administrator@fulwoodmethodist.org.uk](mailto:administrator@fulwoodmethodist.org.uk)

## A FARRAGO

- No sooner was our Harvest issue available, than the *Lancashire Post* of Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, ran a two-page spread on the blue plaque which is to be found on the now-closed Old Dog Inn, Church Street. Do you think someone had tapped into Barbara's series on them?
- On Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, we enjoyed the rare experience of singing 'Happy Birthday' to somebody who was 101 years old i.e. Cyril Leake! We also applauded the presentation of a certificate to Mavis Fletcher, marking 70 years as an organist at FMC. (And I remember Mavis in her Balshaw's GS gymslip!!)
- If you weren't already aware, the President of the Methodist Conference 2022/2023 is the Rev. Graham Thompson and the Vice-President is Anthony Boateng, a local preacher.
- In mid-August the Plungington Community Centre held a 'Land Trust Open Day' to inform the public of the exciting plans for the Emmanuel Church building. Does any reader know what those plans are? We'd be interested to know.
- If you didn't already know: you must use up any new, non-barcoded, regular stamps by 31st January 2023 – or to have swapped the old for the up-dated version.
- Did you hear the tale about the Goths' Weekends which are a regular feature at Whitby? At St Mary's Church, close by the ruined Abbey, they've had to put out a notice assuring visitors that there **IS NO** Dracula's grave in their churchyard!!
- Our usual appeal for other folk's church magazines etc. has brought in one from the City Church of Oxford: St Michael at the North Gate, which stands on Cornmarket Street. It has a Saxon tower, is one of the oldest buildings in the city and its status as City Church means that most civic religious services are held there. There are also examples from St Mary's, Rufford with Holmeswood; the three churches of Croston, Bretherton & Mawdesley-with-Bispham; Whaley Bridge Uniting Church & Fernilee Methodist Church, and the High Peak Partnership (which serves congregations in the High Peak and the Derbyshire Dales).
- By the way: at Fernilee, near Whaley Bridge in Derbyshire, the old Methodist Sunday School building has been transformed into a classy holiday let – for those who may be looking for such accommodation.
- For anyone, but particularly ex Theatre Group members, The Hall Players are putting on 'Dead Ringer' at Preston Playhouse. 25 - 28 Jan 2023. A play with a topical nature. When the Prime Minister drops dead from an apparent heart attack on the eve of a General Election, two Cabinet Ministers who fear they need his charisma to get re-elected, hire an out-of-work actor to replace the deceased. The dead ringer is supposed to fill in until after the election is won, but grows to like the role - until he discovers the real prime minister was poisoned.



*Roy Smith (editor)*

## CHURCH FINANCE

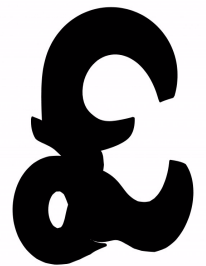


**A massive thank you to everyone who responded so generously to our appeal for funds earlier this year. The response was amazing and has made a real difference to our financial security.**

- \*Regular donations from standing orders have now increased from £4,500 per month to £5,500.
- \*One off donations from our Gift Day totalled £10,275.
- \*Internal groups made contributions of £9,300.
- \*External and internal youth groups have agreed to make regular contributions to the running cost of our building.
- \*Groups within the church have each agreed to run a fundraising activity.

As a direct result – we have finished the year with more general funds than where we started. At 31 August 2022, we had General Funds of £32,984 compared to a starting balance of £25,287. This increase in our reserves has been essential – helping to ensure we have sufficient ‘savings’ to provide longer term security for the church.

And .... we were able to utilise the Benevolent Fund to top up the shortfall of funds available to fund our grants to wider Methodist charities: Mission in Britain, World Mission Fund, Methodist Fund for Property, Methodist Women in Britain, Methodist Ministers Housing Society and Action for Children. We were also able to make a donation to the Foxton Centre. These grants were in addition to the donations made to the Foxton Centre and Action for Children from our Christmas collections and to Marie Curie from the Easter collection – and the many donations made to a range of charities directly by our internal groups.



Looking ahead – we have positive signs! Our rental income has started to grow, as external organisations have resumed face to face activities, and - thanks to the generous giving of time and talent by many in our church (too many to name them all) – our outreach income is on track to provide a healthy source of funds going forward. We recognise that outreach is not provided to earn money – but it is a great by-product!!

However, we cannot rest on our laurels. We cannot rely on transfers from our internal funds to support our general funds. We need to continue to strive to generate income each month to match our outgoings – whilst continuing to keep our costs as low as we can. Fortunately we have fixed energy prices for a while – but

once these contracts expire, we will face the same levels of increase as households across the country. Whilst we are doing our best to keep the costs of maintaining our building as low as we can – there is always the risk of unforeseen problems which require external contractors to resolve.

As such please continue to review your contribution on a regular basis – in terms of both your financial giving and your support to our outreach activities. And finally – please continue to pray for the financial health of our church.

Thanks again on behalf of the Finance Group and the Church Council

*Amanda Latham*  
*Finance Steward*

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Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.

*(Janice Maeditere)*

When we work we work. When we pray God works.

Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.

The family that prays together stays together.

*(American proverb)*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GROUP

### Domestic Abuse – What is it?

I want to continue to cover another three forms of abuse. In this issue I would like to explain what Spiritual abuse looks like. This is when an abuser ridicules or insults someone's religious or spiritual beliefs. They can prevent you from practising your beliefs, they can also manipulate God's word. Remember God loves everyone and would never cause you harm.

Financial abuse is when an abuser uses or misuses money, which can limit your current or future actions and also limits freedom of choice. This can include the perpetrator gambling your assets away, putting contractual obligations in your name and also using credit cards without permission. They can also only give limited funds, or no funds, to run your home, pay bills, etc.

Then we move onto social abuse, this is where the perpetrator aims at cutting you off from family, friends or your community. The perpetrator will say things to damage your relationships with others; they can also spread lies to damage your reputation.

Thank you  
*Cheryl*

If you require support, you can speak to either –  
Cheryl Arnold – Steward  
Sue Penrith – Pastoral  
National Domestic Violence Helpline - 0808 2000 247



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## Stuart Black

## MORE BLUE PLAQUES

Preston's Blue Plaque Trail covers just a few of the plaques found within the city's boundaries. The next batch I have selected cover a wide range of famous folk who have either passed through or lived here.

We shall begin with royalty. On 14th November 1745, during the Jacobite Rebellion, Prince Charles Stuart, the Young Pretender to the British throne, spent a night in The Bull and Royal in Bolton Court. The plaque is to be found in the courtyard.



John Wesley visited in Preston and preached outside the Market Tavern in Lowthian Street on 16th April 1790. One of his devout followers was a young woman called Martha Thompson who had invited Wesley to come to Preston. There is a plaque commemorating this on the wall of the now derelict pub, the Old Dog Inn on Church Street. I have a copy of an interesting article by Keith Johnson about Martha, covering her life and dealings with John Wesley



and her contribution to the growth of Methodism in Preston published in the Lancashire Post on October 5th this year, I am happy to give anyone a copy of same.

Literature is represented by a novelist and two poets. Charles Dickens stayed at the Old Bull Hotel in Church Street, The plaque has sadly disappeared now, possibly it fell victim to metal thieves! In Winckley Square there is a stone tablet dedicated to the poet Francis Thompson and in Christian Road, a plaque to Robert William Service, born in Preston, but becoming famous as the Yukon poet having settled in the USA.

Science is represented by a plaque mounted on the wall at the entrance to the Harris Building on Corporation St. This commemorates John Tyndall FRS (1820-1893). He was Professor of Natural Philosophy at the Royal Institution and in 1842 had been a student at the Harris Institute.

Finally, we come to politics, both national and local. On the wall of the Trustee Savings Bank on Fishergate, we find the memorial to Henry "Orator" Hunt, called by some a rabble rouser in 1831. He stood against Edward Smith-Stanley, Earl of Derby and won. Considering the way politics operated at this time and also the fact that the Earl served as Prime Minister twice. Hunt's victory was quite an achievement. A very new plaque was erected at 7, Ribblesdale Place on 2 November 2022. This remembers Avice Margaret Pimblett, the first woman town councillor, first woman alderman and first woman mayor in 1933. She was an ardent campaigner for the needs of women and children.

Next time we will take a trip to the railway station where there are blue plaques in abundance.

*Barbara Hothersall*

# ‘THE INQUISITIVE MIND OF A CHILD’

## Update

A few years ago, in a Harvest issue, we published a poem about Poppies. We recently received an email from a Ruth Pattinson about the poem. When we originally included the poem, we checked on Google to see who the author might be and all results returned as ‘unknown’.

The email stated that the author was in fact her grandfather, Col. John F. Willcocks OBE and that the poem had been stolen, plagiarized and distributed. Ruth also said that if I could remove the poem from the web, she would be happy to send us the correct version and some history about the author.

Fortunately, we could do as she wished and were still able to remove the poem from our Magazine website.

Below, we publish the correct information about the poem and the author and the original version of the poem on the next page. The poppies picture is supplied by Ruth.

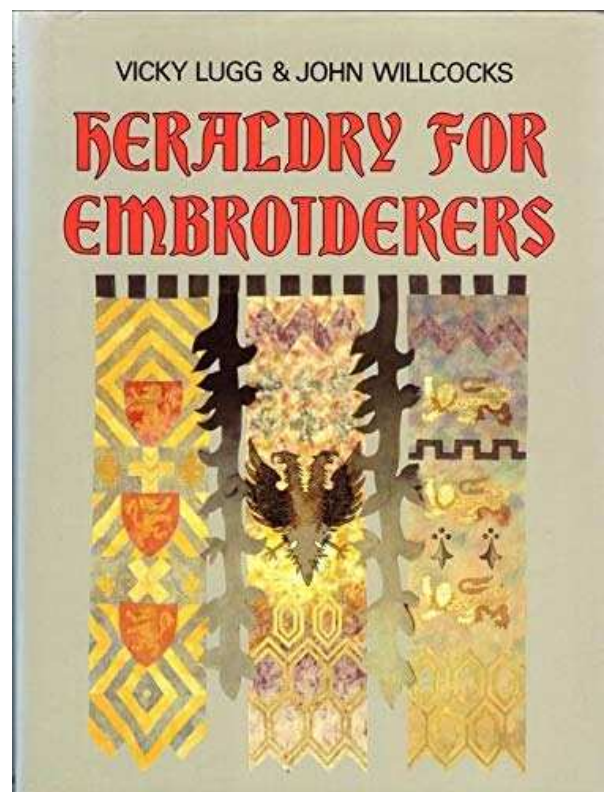
*Col. John F. Willcocks OBE was a wonderful man and served in WW2 in the Army as part of the Gunners, in fact the Chestnut troop. He lived with his wife in Froyle, Hants for around 50 years where they raised their two children, my dad Timothy and Aunt, Penny. They were always a big part of village community. He loved writing, particularly poetry, mostly just for fun. He had a particular interest in heraldry as well, he co-wrote a book titled ‘Heraldry for Embroiderers’. He loved nature and enjoyed the countryside.*

*My aunt strongly believes that my grandfather wrote this poem toward the end of his life while reflecting on his own life, referring to himself as the young boy who had lost his father due to being gassed in WW1. His father, my great grandfather was Harold Willcocks and died at the young age of 29.*

*I hope this gives you a very brief insight into the author of this very well known poem, though very few know the background of it. Please enjoy it and share it as it is.*

*Very kind regards,*

*Ruth Pattinson (was Willcocks)*





# POPPIES



Why are they selling poppies, mother?  
Selling poppies in town today?  
The poppy, my child, is flower of love  
for the men, who marched away.  
Why did they choose a poppy, mother?  
Why not a beautiful rose?  
Because, my child, men fought and died  
in the fields, where the poppy grows.  
But why is the poppy so red?  
Red is the colour of blood, my child,  
the blood that our soldiers shed.  
The heart of the poppy is black, mother.  
Why does it have to be black?  
Black is the symbol of grief, my child,  
for the men, who never came back.  
But why, mother dear, are you crying so?  
Your tears are like winter rain.  
My tears are my fears for you, my child,  
for the world is forgetting again

*J.F. Willcocks - 2004*



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## RAMJS

When asked the question by our Chair of Governors, Ken Wales, “What is Christmas like at RAMJS?” it seemed the perfect topic for our contribution to the church magazine. Not only do I get to think about my favourite season, I can link it to one of the greatest books, I believe was ever written, ‘A Christmas Carol’.

Hark, the Herald Angel Sings, as the lights start twinkling whilst school transforms into a winter wonderland, adorned with Christmas trees, tinsel and all things Father Christmas related. This is not the true meaning of Christmas you may be thinking, but when we think about the context of the school, this is as equally important for us as exploring the faith elements of Christmas in a Methodist school!

For many of our children, Christmas is an integral part of a religion, different from their own. The Christmas cards and decorations may not be included in their own homes. The sheer joy that twinkling lights and the pleasure of gift-giving or receiving is something that may not be experienced (in a Christmas sense) outside of school, but is something that teaches a wonderful message to all our pupils; tolerance, respect and the enjoyment that can be gained from shared experiences.

As Fred says to his uncle Scrooge when referring to Christmas, “Though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, “God bless it!”

This sense of the ‘shared experience’ is never limited solely to Christmas! We celebrate Eid, Diwali, Chinese New Year even, with equal enthusiasm and pleasure as we revel in the opportunities our diverse and multicultural context affords us.

For the RAMJS family, our school values, especially Respect and our golden thread of ‘doing all the good we can’, become a real-life experience as we encourage and experience the sense of joy that these festive, celebratory seasons bring. This can be felt in the giving of a Christmas card and wishing Merry Christmas from a Sikh child to a Christian child or the jolliness of sharing Christmas lunch between a Muslim child and non-faith member of staff. At RAMJS we embrace our differences to enhance our own lives and the lives of those around us.

*“Every traveller has a home of his own, and he learns to appreciate it the more from his wandering.”*

*Charles Dickens*

As we prepare for Christmas, the Nativity and the beautiful range of Christmas Carols become a learning opportunity for all. Whilst enhancing our performance skill we are also branching out beyond our school walls by singing to our local



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Methodist Junior School

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Courage and Respect; filled with Love,  
Hope and Faith"*

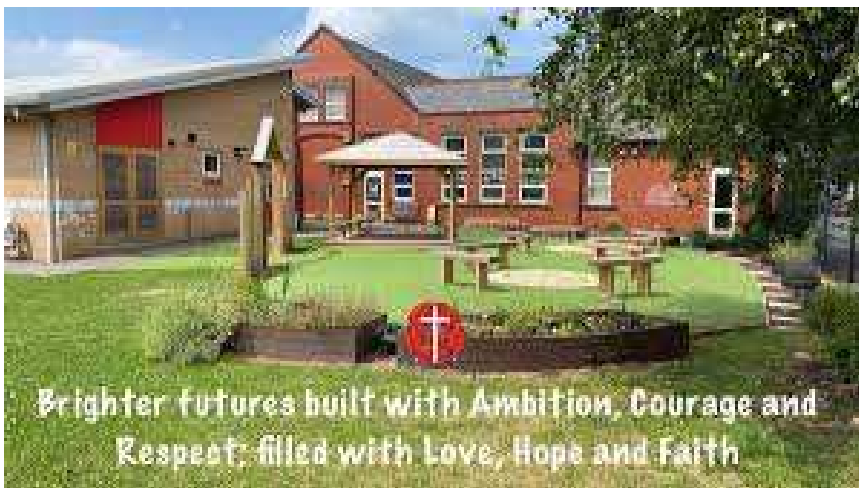
community, bringing festive cheer to Morrison's or a local Nursing Home. Our annual Cards of Kindness, written with genuine love and care, are sent to our community members who may be most affected by a sense of loneliness at Christmas. Receiving a response of heartfelt joy from our recipients only sweetens the knowledge that we have done something special for another human with the sole purpose of bringing happiness.

*“Business!” cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. “Mankind was my business.”*

***Marley's Ghost***

As early as July we are making requests to Cash for Kids and Fulwood Methodist Church to access donations that can be gifted to our families in need; ensuring that no child has the experience of a present-less Christmas.

We talk about the true meaning of Christmas and the importance of Jesus. We find common ground in our shared understanding of who Jesus was, both to a



Christian and a person of a different culture and faith. We find the similarities between our faiths in school, especially the shared understanding that helping those less fortunate than ourselves serves to make the world a better place. We draw on our comparisons whilst recognising the religious

similarities between Christmas and the important festivals within different cultures. We embrace how Christmas brings out the best in people. At RAMJS, the twinkling, brightly decorated message is clear; Christmas is a time to care for each other and share in a time of year when we are perhaps a little kinder, more thoughtful and, most of importantly of all, sharing in humanity as equals with goodwill to all.

*“But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time . . . as a good time . . . the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave . . . ”*

***Ebenezer Scrooge***

kindest Regards

***Fran Nickson***

Headteacher

## SUNDAY CLUB ADVENT TRAIL

For just the second time, the Sunday Club led the whole Church in celebrating the first Sunday afternoon of Advent at the end of November. After good vibes from last year's experience, around 100 people of all ages joined in to mark this special day in the Church's calendar.

The event itself has been totally shaped here at Fulwood by an energetic group of creative people led by Sunday Club leaders. It provided an opportunity for a number of inter-generational social, learning and worship experiences as well as an excuse for the consumption of pizza and other goodies. A puppet show reminded us all of the Christmas story. At the end, carols around the Christmas tree (thanks Community Choir for your help) were followed by the distribution of Fairtrade Advent calendars.

The first task was to make truly beautiful Christmas candles - which feature so prominently at this time of the year. You can see some of them in the photo. At the centre of the event was the Advent Trail. Advent is about waiting and coming and this year the Church is using LOVE as a motif for longing, opportunity, vocation and enactment.



Children were formed into small groups, who with a guide (and a lantern) travelled round the Church to meet five current-day witnesses of the Advent good news. This was a magical time of story telling and at each station children were presented with a bag containing an activity they will be able to complete during the weeks to come.

This is a new activity for our Church. We had wonderful feedback both last year and this. If it intrigues you watch out for publicity about next year - everyone may just about have recovered by then.

***Ken Wales***

\* \* \* \* \*

The love you give and receive is a reality that will lead you closer and closer to God, as well as to those whom God has given you to love.

*(Henri J.M.Nouwen)*

## **TEN FACTS ABOUT THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY**

1. The Three Kings (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively.
2. Hundreds of years ago, roast lamb was traditionally served at Epiphany in honour of Christ and the visit of the Three Kings.
3. Whoever finds the small statue of baby Jesus hidden inside their slice of the Rosca de reyes throws a party on Candlemas in February.
4. In some European countries, children leave their shoes out the night before to be filled with gifts, while others leave straw for the Three Kings' horses.
5. According to Greek Orthodox Church tradition, a priest will bless the waters by throwing a cross into it as worshippers try to retrieve it.
6. In Bulgaria too, Eastern Orthodox priests throw a cross into the sea and men dive in, competing to retrieve it first.
7. In Venice, a traditional regatta that started as a joke in the late 1970s has been incorporated into the traditional celebrations of Epiphany Day.
8. In Prague, there is a traditional 'Three Kings Swim' to commemorate Epiphany Day in the Vltava River.
9. In New York, El Museo del Barrio has celebrated and promoted the 'Three Kings' Day' tradition with an annual parade. Thousands take part in the procession which features camels, colourful puppets and floats.
10. In New York, the day's activities also involve singing holiday carols called Aguinaldos.



**Rosca de reyes**

*Brian Mengella*

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# HOW I BECAME INTERESTED IN ....

## 1, Short story writing

It was way back in 2014 that I was reading the weekend edition of the Lancashire Post when I became aware of the short story feature. On reading the story in that particular edition, I had the notion that I could do better than that item. My wife suggested that if I thought I could, then go ahead and prove it. As it was nearing Christmas, I wrote a nativity story based on a fictitious stable in Lancashire. On completion, I submitted it and received a reply to inform me that the entry must contain 1500 words. I rewrote it and was pleased that they were going to publish the story. Following my success, I decided that I would submit a further story a few months later. This was also published. Since then I have submitted a story every three months on all sorts of differing ideas. To date I have had 30 published in the Lancashire Post.

## 2, Trams

Way back in the mid 1940's I was living in Bradford. The school that I attended was situated on a main road on which trams passed regularly. I watched them with interest whenever I could. Later I began to explore the various routes that they served and to visit the various depots in different locations around the city. Later I discovered that nearby Leeds also had trams and this extended my interest. At that time there were 40 towns and cities operating trams in the British Isles, but I discovered that most of these were due to be replaced by buses in the next few years. In 1949 we moved to Blackpool and I discovered that this was a modern system and was in no way going to be abandoned. This stimulated my interest further as I discovered the history of the system. On my visit to the 1951 Festival of Britain I was amazed to see a model of one of the new trams being built at Wakefield, due for delivery the following year.



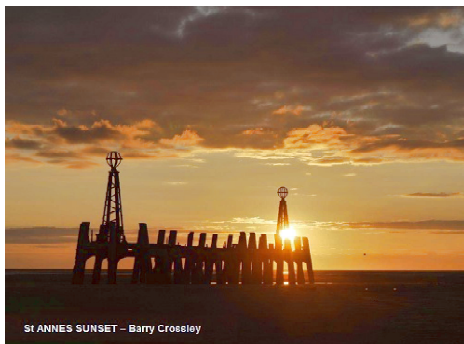
## 3, Post card collecting

My interest in post card collecting came as a result of my interest in trams. I realised about forty years ago that there was much to be learnt from old post cards depicting street scenes from long ago, where trams were depicted. Some cards were of special events where trams were used, for example as WW1 recruitment where trams toured the streets picking up people wishing to join the army. Others were



decorated for coronation celebrations and were illuminated for the event. There are also many laughs to be had viewing comic cards depicting trams. Cards can be collected from post card fairs held periodically by the local Red Rose Post Card Club.

#### 4. Photography



My interest in photography started in my early teens when I obtained my first camera. At that time I used it to photograph trams. Later I became interested in photographing architecture, especially in the many cathedrals and churches throughout the country. At this time I joined Preston Photographic Society where Muriel, my wife was already a member. We entered photographic competitions where we submitted many of these subjects. We were also keen on landscape and natural history photography which involved on some occasions, crawling along the ground to close in on butterflies, moths and other insects which required a lot of patience to get the best results.

*Barry Crossley*

*Below is Barry's latest Lancashire Post story*

\* \* \* \* \*

### **THE CHRISTMAS STABLE**

A short story by Barry Crossley

It was approaching Christmas once more and the villagers of the Much Needing committee were discussing the arrangements for its decorations, Christmas tree and the nativity stable on the village square. They wanted an impressive display to rival that of the nearby village of Much Boasting. Every year Much Boasting were determined to put on a display to beat all others and with money no object, they were convinced that they could not be beaten.

Stan, the chairman of the committee opened the discussion by proposing that they should purchase a taller Christmas tree than previously obtained. The committee agreed, provided villagers would donate towards the extra cost. When it came to decorations an air of disagreement surrounded the members. Some considered that last years were adequate and saw no reason to expand the displays. When a vote was held, additional expenditure was proposed and agreed.

The next item for discussion was that of the nativity stable. George suggested that the stable should not be static on the night of the switch on. To draw more interest and support to the event his suggestion was for the stable to be animated on the first night. Ivor, however was not convinced. George explained that his vision

was that children from the local school could stage the various parts of the nativity, whilst farmer Tom could be approached for the use of some animals in the background. David, who always put a spanner in the works of any item that he disagreed with, put up an objection. “What if the animals broke loose, there would be chaos everywhere. Imagine people chasing all around the place trying to round them up again.” Another member suggested that it would not be worth the risk, someone may be injured.

George encountered that some of the committee were a lot of doubting Thomases, and until we try new ideas we will not get anywhere. Others agreed, pointing out that they wanted to make an impression and beat Much Boasting at their own game. Finally all the ideas were passed and the planning of the event commenced.

Stan volunteered to visit the garden centre to select a suitable Christmas tree that would suit his idea of a larger tree. At the garden centre he described to the proprietor the type of tree that he had in mind. There was such a large selection that he was spoilt for choice. However he spotted a suitable candidate lying near the fence. Stan explained that this was just what he had in mind and he would like that one to be delivered. The centre proprietor explained that the tree Stan was wanting was already sold to Much Boasting village, so he would need to select a different one. Having asked if there was a similar tree available he was disheartened to hear that there was not. The centre manager pointed out another tree, although this one was slightly larger.



“That’s great” explained Stan, “Now we will be able to outdo Much Boasting for a change.”

George agreed to visit the village primary school. Would their drama group be willing to perform a nativity tableau in the village square? This would take place on the night of the lights switch on. The school head agreed to put the idea to the drama teacher and let the committee know of the outcome. All that was needed now was to contact farmer Tom to borrow some animals for the stable. The farmer offered them the use of a donkey, a cow and a couple of sheep. George was pleased with the progress that he had made. David however was still convinced that there could be trouble ahead. After all, he explained that when working with children and animals anything could happen.

Soon the time came for the delivery of the Christmas tree. In preparation for it the metal lined hole in the village square was opened up. The tree was hoisted up and lowered into position. Due to its larger diameter trunk from those of previous years, the base had to be reduced. The tree was again lowered into the hole and the



hoist taken away. As they did so it was noticed that the tree was now leaning at a worrying angle. The metal lining had loosened from constant use as a support for the maypole. The tree had to be hoisted again until the hole had been reinforced. As the hoist was moved away, it became entangled in the Christmas lights strung around Much Needing village square.

At the school the drama group were well into preparation for the tableau. Costumes were being completed and modelled by the children, who were all excited by the prospect of being in the stable among the live animals. In their enthusiasm to try on the nativity costumes some of them were accidentally damaged and needed some last minute repairs. Meanwhile, in the village the stable was in the process of construction. Everyone in Much Needing was looking forward to the final result and the forthcoming lights switch on. They were also anticipating what the tableau might be like.

The date for the switch on of the Christmas lights was announced as the stable was nearing completion. It was fitted out with a rail to secure the animals. The floor was covered with fresh straw and the manger placed in a central position.

Lanterns were hung to illuminate the interior. Everything was now ready for the animals to be delivered. First to be brought was Daisy the Jersey cow, followed by the two Herdwick sheep. Finally it was time to bring in the donkey. This was easier said than done. The animal refused to enter the stable. In spite of all the pushing and pulling by Tom and some members of the public, it refused to move until a carrot was produced to coax the donkey inside.

The children were next to be brought inside. They were seated on the floor dressed as angels and shepherds. Pride of place went to Mary and Joe who played their namesakes. A doll representing the baby Jesus was placed in the manger. The tableau was now complete. Suddenly the peace was disturbed as Daisy insisted on pushing the donkey away from the hay in the manger as she started to eat a mouthful from it. Then the children shouted “Poo” in unison as the cow relieved itself onto the stable floor and the sheep started bleating. Once the children were restored to silence, they began to sing the carol ‘Away in a Manger’ as the Christmas lights were switched on by a village dignitary. There was a round of applause by all the villagers attending. The chairman of the committee gave a speech and was pleased to announce that the Chairman of Much Boasting was in attendance and he congratulated Much Needing on the outstanding display and wished that Much Boasting had thought of it first.



**Barry Crossley**

# DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

“The lack of mystery in our modern life is our downfall and our poverty. A human life is worth as much as the respect it holds for the mystery. We retain the child in us to the extent that we honour the mystery. Therefore, children have open, wide-awake eyes, because they know that they are surrounded by the mystery. They are not yet finished with this world; they still don’t know how to struggle along and avoid the mystery, as we do. We destroy the mystery because we sense that here we reach the boundary of our being, because we want to be lord over everything and have it at our disposal, and that’s just what we cannot do with the mystery.... Living without mystery means knowing nothing of the mystery of our own life, nothing of the mystery of another person, nothing of the mystery of the world; it means passing over our own hidden qualities and those of others and the world. It means remaining on the surface, taking the world seriously only to the extent that it can be calculated and exploited, and not going beyond the world of calculation and exploitation. Living without mystery means not seeing the crucial processes of life at all and even denying them.”

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is regarded as a hugely significant figure in Christian thinking and practical action in the twentieth century. He was a German pastor who resisted the oppression of Nazism in his own country leading to his execution in the latter stages of the second world war. Further information will be provided about his life, work and thinking in the next magazine.

*Ken Wales*

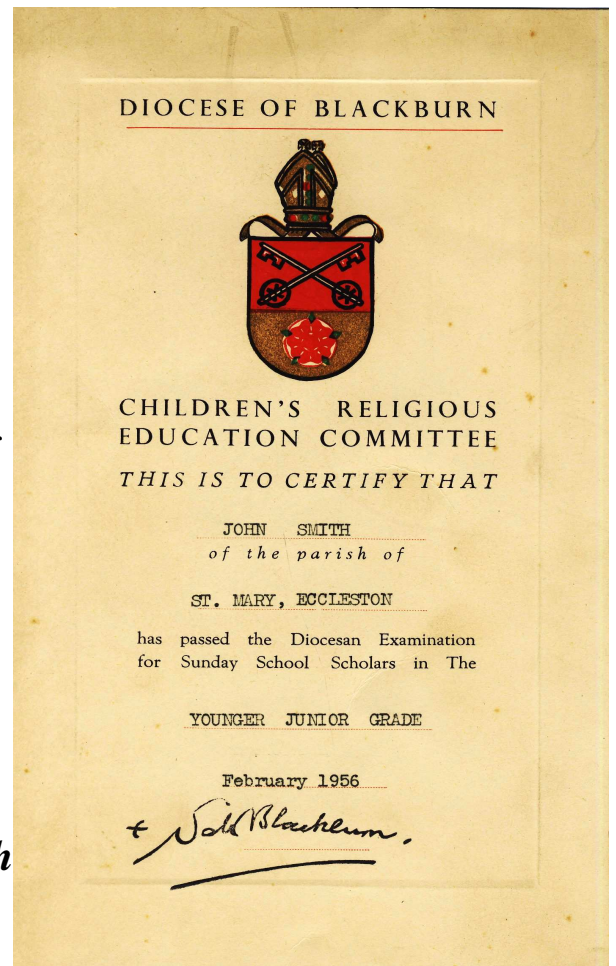
\* \* \* \* \*

## RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE EXAMS.....

.....were a common enough feature of church life for youngsters in the past. Although we’ve previously appealed for a Methodist example of a RK certificate from you, none have yet been forthcoming - so we’ll have to make do with one from the Anglican Church!.....unless, of course, YOU manage to unearth one!! We’d be absolutely delighted with that.

This was my brother’s certificate.

*Roy Smith*



## SOME MORE SEASONAL CUSTOMS

As you will know, we are into Advent now. Next up is the Christmas season, with the New Year and Epiphany following on closely. A time when traditions abound. Although modern lifestyle seems to have dealt the singing of carols from door to door a cruel blow – most of us still fondly remember it and it's still featured on many Christmas cards. In days long gone it was often combined with performances of the local Mumming Play: a sort of winter version of the Easter Pace Egging Play. On the morning of Christmas Eve in Richmond, North Yorkshire, the 'Poor Old Horse' appears and causes mayhem with its 'horse play'.



In the counties of Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire it's the time for the local Morris Dancers to be out and about. Not, perhaps, something you'd expect at this time of year. Noisy and vigorous in style, it's just what's needed in chilly weather.

The Christmas season is the traditional time for teams performing English Sword Dancing, both Longsword and Short (Rapper) Sword. Much of it goes on in distant places such as Sheffield, Flamborough and Monkseaton, but

travel over to Southport on Boxing Day and you could see the town's own Longsword team in action. (Google 'Southport Swords' to find out more.)

Come New Year's Eve and at the northern end of the Pennines, in Allendale, there's the fearsome sight of a procession of 'guisers' carrying flaming tar barrels on their heads. Quite why they indulge in this dangerous activity or how it began seems very debatable. As with many other traditions – on the very first occasion, way back - it must have seemed like a good idea at the time!!



Into early January and some people continue the tradition of Twelfth Night Revels; others sing to their apple trees (Wassailing) and, between New Year and Easter some indulge in a game of Old English Football – which is definitely not to be confused with Association football!! It's still played annually at various places from the Scottish Borders down to Cornwall.. The nearest places for us to see it are up at Workington or down at Ashbourne in Derbyshire.

As our country has become more multicultural, it isn't unusual to find families with an Italian connection celebrating Maritozzi Day in early December. (Maritozzi are sweet buns with a history going back to the Middle Ages – even Roman times, some claim.). There are also places which nowadays feature Continental Christmas Markets and it isn't unknown for some people to be travelling to Holland or Belgium or Germany to enjoy the real things in their home settings.

*Roy Smith*

# EXTRACTS FROM FULWOOD METHODIST'S MINUTE BOOK OF TRUSTEES

(Jan. 1937 to Nov. 1954)

- Jan 1938 Mr J.P Smith presents an harmonium for emergencies.  
To seek County Authorities permission to use Library for a bazaar.
- May The receipts from the bazaar enabled debt on chapel and schoolroom to be totally redeemed.
- Nov When the above debt is redeemed the church was able to contribute from surpluses to connexional and circuit funds.
- Jan 1939 Assessments were adopted and the church became a Pastorate Church with A E Foley as resident minister.
- Sept Organist resigned due to international situation.
- Nov 1939 Church to be blacked out.  
Use of school rooms to accommodate persons affected by air attack.
- Jan 1940 Lancashire Education requested use of schoolroom as a day school for evacuee children.
- Sept Work to protect rear windows from blast.
- Jan 1941 Second shelter placed on church lawn.  
Active service roll proposed and accepted.  
Insurance cover: Organ £500: Church contents £2000: School £500.
- Oct FUDC requested use of church and school as rest centre and communal feeding centre.
- Jan 1942 Use of gable end door above choir vestry for ARP warden.
- Feb 1943 Iron railings taken away for war effort.
- Jan Army vehicle damaged one of the church gates.
- Sept Dr Sangster invited to preach at chapel anniversary.
- Feb 1944 Property transferred by declaration to the New Methodist Model Deed.
- May 1945 Trustees looked at plans to extend the schoolrooms. (left in abeyance)
- Nov Launch of organ and extension fund. (letters to members for donations)
- May 1946 Resolved to buy organ from Barrow not exceeding £2000 including installation.
- 1946 Air raid shelters removed from back garden.
- Sept 1947 Abolition of pew rents.
- April 1948 Fire caused by electrical fault. (old wiring and unsuitable fuse wire)  
Damage to organ, choir stalls and Steinway piano.
- Nov Hearing aid system agreed to.
- Mar 1949 Rewiring and re-lighting agreed.
- Feb 1951 Opening of new organ by Dr Reginald Dixon of Lancaster.
- Nov 1950 Old organ sold to a church at Outwood for £100.
- Apr 1951 New organ now to cost £2427 due to increased costs.
- Nov 1954 Discussions with Grenfell Baines about alterations for storage, etc., adjacent to school hall.

## U3A AND LIFE POST-PANDEMIC

After two years of lockdown, life seems to be getting back to some form of normality, with people looking for new challenges and experiences. A number of members of our congregation have been involved with Preston and District **u3a** for some time and are now reaping the benefit of the various activities on offer.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

I'm sure many of you have seen the leaflets in Church, but for those who haven't come across us, the **u3a** was set up to cater for people of retirement age (or just pre-retirement). It is a self-help group where members run groups according to their personal interests. Some groups are educational or continuous learning, some offer gentle exercise and some are purely social. In fact, if a member feels there is a place for a new group, the committee will support them to start one up.

Diane took over the running of the folk-dance group in 2021 (with an expert caller in Ann Smith, who many of you know from Church, ably assisted by Allan), also she assists with the communications part of running the bird-watching and natural history group. Lynne has recently taken over the role of assisting with the communications within the recorder group. Volunteering brings its own rewards as you get to know people and with over 700 members there are plenty of opportunities to make friends.

Several members of the Church already belong to Preston and District **u3a** and get much pleasure from the activities, including Creative Writing, Music, Cookery, Walking (both easy walks and longer ones), Ukulele, Meet and Eat, Archaeology and Members on Their Own, to name a few of the 60+ groups currently running, all thanks to the volunteering of its members.

Each member pays a small annual fee plus a cost for each group, which varies from just transport costs for the outdoor groups up to £3.50 for some taught groups.

We joined the **u3a** after we retired and are making the most of the activities on offer and if anyone wants to have a chat about the group, feel free to ask one of our members.

*Diane and Graham Bird  
and Lynne Oliver*

Local **u3a** website - [u3asites.org.uk/preston/welcome](https://u3asites.org.uk/preston/welcome)

Local groups list - [u3asites.org.uk/preston/groups](https://u3asites.org.uk/preston/groups)

## ...SHREDS AND PATCHES...

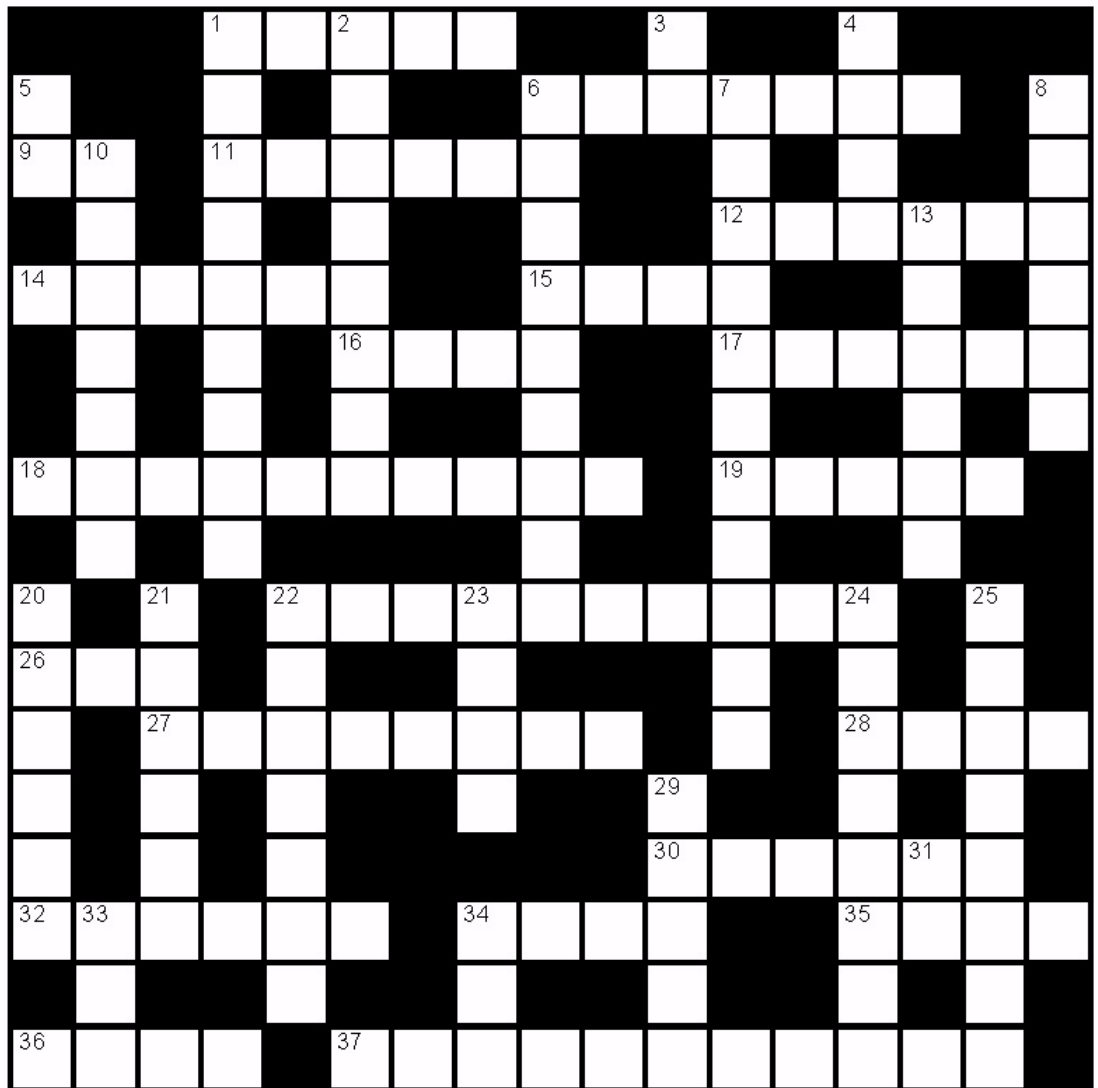
This word puzzle (I hesitate to call it a crossword) is dedicated to the many people at Fulwood Methodist Church who do so much to keep everything in great order. All these practical people leave me standing with their skills and ingenuity. Thanks to them for all they do.

The title comes to me because so often they make better use of what I would simply discard. Our world needs that and we all benefit from it. But the phrase itself comes from another source which figures prominently in the puzzle itself. Hope that makes sense.

Clues marked with an \* indicate the answers are linked with the source just mentioned.

Happy puzzling.

*Ken Wales*



### ACROSS

- 1 Country setting for 12 across. (5)
- 6 \* Character who held too many offices at one time. (7)
- 9 Acceptable answer. (2)
- 11 Footwear for the perfect beach, Jolson. (6)
- 12 \* Crunchy biscuit, ninth of fourteen separate works. (6)
- 14 \* Imaginary place of perfection; next to their last. (6)
- 15 Technology which helps us to see each other in isolation. (4)

- 16 Played by Kathy Staff and famed for her wrinkled stockings. (4)  
 17 The sort of car to be inherited. (6)  
 18 \* Character in Iolanthe - not Mr Hunt and several more in 2022. (10)  
 19 \* Hotel, theatre. (5)  
 22 \* They provide an expensive boat trip... (10)  
 26 Quercus robur is the scientific name for one of two species of these trees in this country. (3)  
 27 \* Opera carrying the same name as the Violet flower in Greek. (8)  
 28 Vaughan Williams' seems to be ascending for a laugh. (4)  
 30 ....where 22 across ply their trade. (6)  
 32 Sounds like Hammerstein's musical partner; actually two or more jolly ones might be seen flying in 2 across. (6)  
 34 The colour in classical art used to denote the mother of Jesus. (4)  
 35 Singer or detective? Could be either! (4)  
 36 Don't start to change something make it better. (4)  
 37 \* The job of 3 down and 5 down in Titipu. (11)

## DOWN

- 1 \* Name of the captain's daughter in one of the operas - and Napoloeon's close friend. (9)  
 2 \* Where the Pirates came from. (8)  
 3 \* See 5 down. (2)  
 4 Listen, when Wesley (and Whitfield) tell you - t'angels are bawling!! (4)  
 5 \* (with 3 down) Sounds like comforting bedtime drink; fearful figure from 12 across. (2)  
 6 \* Visitor of the Grand Inquisitor in 22 across, the Duke of ..... (9)  
 7 Lyrical partner of 32 across. (11)  
 8 \* Men of substance, wealth, land and character who formed the Guard. (6)  
 10 \* Obsessed noblewoman, the villain of 12 across. (7)  
 13 Do you get deliveries from this forest? (6)  
 20 In full, it sounds like he delivers the fuel. Surname of American musician for whom almost 'anything goes'. (6)  
 21 Is king tumbling on a slippy slope? (6)  
 22 \* Partner of 24 down - the lyrical one. (7)  
 23 \* Tax burden? - underlying theme of several of the works. (4)  
 24 \* Partner of 22 down - the noted one. (8)  
 25 \* Dukas' one was an apprentice - 22 down and 24 down's was based on a Christmas story. (8)  
 29 Saw first woman before last section of Bible - that's something to write home about. (5)  
 31 Current form for dating events after birth of Jesus previously AD. (2)  
 33 Typically, a verse in praise of someone or something. (3)  
 34 A short farewell or an extra on the pitch. (3)

## COMMUNITY CHOIR

The TV programme “Dementia Choir” highlighted the benefits of music and singing for people with this condition. However this was of no surprise to our own Community Choir members. WHY?

Well some time 4 or 5 years ago, well before Covid, I read a card in my local Post Office window asking for someone to befriend a gentleman who could no longer go out on his own due to the onset of Dementia. His wife needed a little time to do things or go to places without him.

For the next two years I took him out once a week and we developed a friendship, although on returning home he could not say where we had been or even my name. We had visited many places including Brockholes Nature Reserve, Rivington Pike, Glasson Dock, the Barracks and Harris Museums. We always had lunch out and shared many a laugh.

It was when I suggested he join us on a Wednesday evening for our choir that I realised that his memory was awakened by the music. He rarely knew the words, but he would dance along with the music which he seemed to recognise. The Choir members loved him and his attitude and pleasure at joining us.

Sadly Ian is now in a home at Lytham and he recognises no-one, not even his wife for most of the time, but I am told that he still shows off his footwork when he hears a familiar tune on the radio or television in the home.

Having lost my own father to Alzheimer’s some years ago helped me to understand Ian’s difficulties and he will never be forgotten by those who were part of our choir at that time.

*Dave Topping*

\* \* \* \* \*

We are planning a spectacular Church family fundraising event for Saturday March 4th. There will be a concert by the Wyre Music Group Orchestra - playing tunes which you will know - as well as a sit down hot meal, raffle, quiz, puzzles, games, stories. Lots of fun for all.

Please put the date in your diaries. Tickets will be on sale after Christmas. Please see poster opposite.

\* \* \* \* \*

Guard well within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness.

*(George Sand)*







# Spring Spectacular

*Special Fundraiser for Fulwood Methodist Church*

*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March ★ 5.30pm – 8.30pm*

## Concert by Wyre Music Group Orchestra

*Easy listening*

*Film and Show music*

## Sit-down Supper

*Hot 2-course meal*

## Other Activities

*Raffle, Quiz, Storytelling, Singalong and more*

*Tickets to be purchased in advance - at the refreshment hatch  
in church or from Mavis Fletcher 01772 655939*

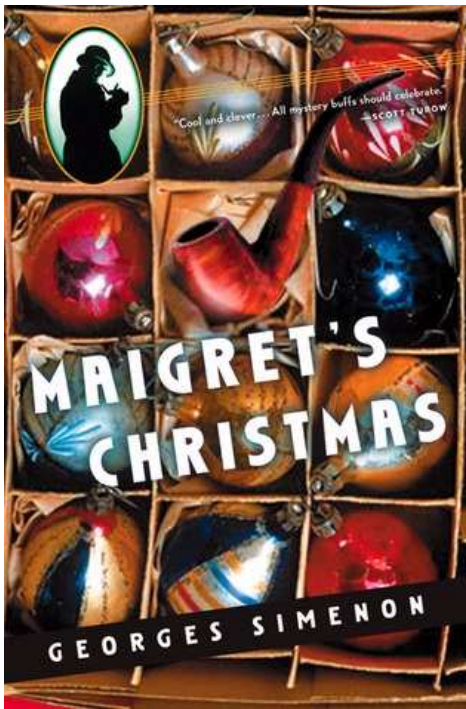
*Suggested donation: Adult £15, Child £8  
or as you feel able.*



## BOOK CLUB

Once again, we have a couple of meetings to report upon and a warm invitation to anyone who wishes to join us. It has been good to welcome back faces from previous meetings and new members. They will tell you the biscuits and the friendship were very acceptable.

First to report, in October we departed from our usual pattern of discussing one or two specific books and decided to have a themed evening – detective stories. Who better to lead us in that session than our old friend Mike Halewood from his treasure trove of a bookshop on Friargate? (What, you haven't been? Take a visit if you have an hour or two to spare!). Mike has had a lifelong interest in the work of Arthur Conan Doyle and especially his detective Sherlock Holmes. He explained how this came about and grown and shared with us some of the unusual Sherlock Holmes publications from his stock – one whole window there has a display to whet the appetite.



In discussion, members shared thoughts about other writers of detective fiction who interested them. A wide range certainly and one or two folk strongly expressed recommendations in favour of Georges Simenon and his range of Maigret books. Happily, the day after in, the book exchange at Costa, I came across a collection entitled *Maigret at Christmas* which has set me up for the festival.

In November, we had another themed evening (this time thinking about biography/autobiography). Some of the readers of this magazine may have heard of a Methodist minister, who hailed from Oswaldtwistle, and who

in the last century established a movement for young people in a church setting called Clubland. His work was mainly in London but there were similar ventures here in Preston and Leyland, for example. Well, Rev. Jimmy Butterworth's son now lives in Fulwood and John Butterworth (another one, not our magazine producer) along with Jenny Waine have written a beautiful biography of him called *The Temple of Youth*. John and Jenny had kindly and generously donated copies of the book to the Church and we had read it with great interest. It turned out that one of our number had met her life-long partner in



*Two John Butterworths*



Preston's Clubland. Another visitor to our club had lived just across the road in Oswaldtwistle from where Jimmy had been brought up as a child. Small world.

This led to a very interesting discussion not only about Methodist history and approaches to working with young people over the years but also what a commitment it is to produce a biography, not least one whose memory was so special to those concerned. Another rich meeting and one which makes us look forward to our January meeting when we will be looking to two recent books – *Spider Woman* by Barbara Hale (remember her contretemps over Brexit and the

intended prorogation of Parliament. With the then Prime Minister in the Supreme Court) and *Cecily* by Annie Garthwaite. This is a fictionally told but feminist biography set in the Wars of the Roses – and you thought Brexit was complicated! Do come along on Tuesday 24 January at 7.30pm, after Messy Church, to join in discussion or just to listen.

But before then, we have our Christmas meeting on December 13. This time I have unsportingly been banned from offering a quiz. I wonder what we shall do instead.....?

*Ken Wales*

# Martin's

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## C IS FOR .....

I am a sucker for almanacs, year books and any other printed material which enables me to dip into something different each day.

So, I was easily tempted a few weeks ago on a visit to one of my favourite bookshops by a recent paperback edition of *Word Perfect* by Susie Dent. Some of you will know the author as one of the key figures behind the popular Countdown television programme. She is a well-known expert on unusual and interesting words. So, starting off the next day after this purchase (that is, 21 October) I discovered much about a word I had never met before – ‘shotclog’. We don’t meet many of them at Fulwood Methodist Church – it is the name given to the pub bore whose presence is only tolerated because it is their round next. So now you know – watch out for the word in a future crossword or puzzle.

But as ever, I couldn’t resist reading on and before I knew it I was asking myself what the entry in this collection might be for December 25<sup>th</sup>, which in case you have forgotten is Christmas Day! At first, I was delighted to see that the chosen word began with ‘C’ – it was a word though which I had not met before. It was ‘**confelicity**’, which I learnt from this book is the feeling you have which describes the pleasure you have from the happiness of others. Quite an appropriate word I think to choose for Christmas Day.



So, this Christmas, might I suggest that we try to pause for a moment or two to consider any occasion we can remember which has given us pleasure to witness the pleasure of others? And possibly pause also to consider what we might do next to ensure others feel better than before.

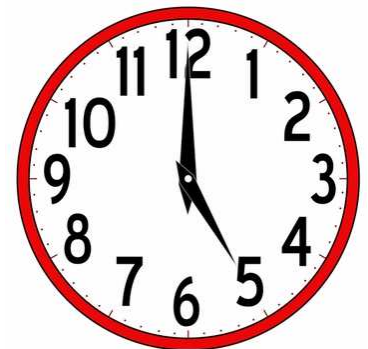
Go on, be **confelicitous**.

*Ken Wales*

\* \* \* \* \*

### TIME

Time is free,  
but it’s priceless.  
You can’t own it,  
but you can use it.  
You can’t keep it,  
but you can spend it.  
Once you’ve lost it  
you can never get it back.



*(Harvey Mackay)*

## EDDI'S SERVICE (Set in AD 687)

*Kipling firmly believed that Christianity should embrace the animal kingdom, and this poem precedes a tale in which a seal plays a key role in the conversion of the South Saxons. That story and this poem are pure fiction, though Eddi (Eddius Stephanus, Stephen of Ripon) really was St Wilfrid's chaplain.*



Eddi, priest of St. Wilfrid  
In his chapel at Manhood End,  
Ordered a midnight service  
For such as cared to attend.

But the Saxons were keeping Christmas,  
And the night was stormy as well.  
Nobody came to service,  
Though Eddi rang the bell.

‘Wicked weather for walking,’  
Said Eddi of Manhood End.  
‘But I must go on with the service  
For such as care to attend.

The altar-lamps were lighted, –  
An old marsh-donkey came,  
Bold as a guest invited,  
And stared at the guttering flame.

The storm beat on at the windows,  
The water splashed on the floor,  
And a wet, yoke-weary bullock  
Pushed in through the open door.

‘How do I know what is greatest,  
How do I know what is least?  
That is My Father’s business,’  
Said Eddi, Wilfrid’s priest.

‘But – three are gathered together –  
Listen to me and attend.  
I bring good news, my brethren!’  
Said Eddi of Manhood End.

And he told the Ox of a Manger  
And a Stall in Bethlehem,  
And he spoke to the Ass of a Rider,  
That rode to Jerusalem.

They steamed and dripped in the chancel,  
They listened and never stirred,  
While, just as though they were Bishops,  
Eddi preached them The Word,

Till the gale blew off on the marshes  
And the windows showed the day,  
And the Ox and the Ass together  
Wheeled and clattered away.

And when the Saxons mocked him,  
Said Eddi of Manhood End,  
‘I dare not shut His chapel  
On such as care to attend.’

*Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)*

## AN OLD RECIPE

### Christmas Plum Pudding

- $\frac{1}{4}$  lb Currants
- $\frac{1}{4}$  lb Stoned Raisens
- $\frac{1}{4}$  lb Suet
- $\frac{1}{4}$  lb sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$  lb flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$  lb Bread crumbs

2 ozs Candied peel (mixed)

$\frac{1}{4}$  of a teaspoonfull of Spice

1 teaspoonfull of Baking powder

2 eggs (2 teaspoonfulls of milk)

1 pinch of salt

Boil for six hours

1 hour when wanted

## DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much. I'm happy anyhow.  
And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than sowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cos my cup has overflowed.



I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.  
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.  
I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cos my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin  
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.  
So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cos my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.  
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.  
And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'cos my cup has overflowed.

*(John Paul Moore)*



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## THOUGHTS OF AN OLDER PERSON

Remember we old folks are worth a fortune, with silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys and gas in our stomachs.

I have become a little older since I spoke to you last, and some changes have come into my life, I'm quite a frivolous Old Girl, I'm seeing five gentlemen each day.

As soon as I wake up WILL POWER helps me out of bed, then I'll visit LOU; next it's time for MR. QUAKER to give me my oats.

They leave and ARTHUR RITIS shows up and stays for the rest of the day. He doesn't stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I'm ready for bed with EARL GREY. What a life, oh yes, I'm flirting with ALL ZYMER

The preacher came to call the other day, he said at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him I do that all the time. No matter where I am, in the living room, the study, in the kitchen or upstairs, I constantly ask myself – "What am I here after?"

Found by *Veronica Frost*



\* \* \* \* \*

## MORE INTEREST VIA THE INTERNET

Very recently, we received an email from Rochford Methodist Church, near Southend in Essex. They are celebrating their Bicentenary this year and are holding their final 'special' service on 11 December. They had found the Centenary Hymn written by our own Dave Topping, that we sang at our Centenary, on our church website, in the Christmas 2012 edition of our magazine. We checked with Dave to ask his permission, which he gave. We informed the church and they are very pleased. They will be changing the second verse from *A hundred years have passed since then*, to *Two hundred years have passed since then*. We wonder if we will sing the same lines in 2112?



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\* \* \* \* \*

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase.  
Just take the first step.

*(Dr Martin Luther King)*

Kindness is a language the dumb can speak and the deaf can hear and understand.

*(Christian Nevell Bovee)*



## THEY DID IT!

Somebody scoffed, “Oh, they’ll never do that;  
At least no one ever has done it.”  
But they took off their coats, and they took off their hats,  
And the next that was known – they’d begun it!

With a lift of the chin, and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quitting;  
They started to sing as they tackled the thing  
That couldn’t be done – and they did it!

*(From Croston Parish Magazine, July 1940)*

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.”



*Author unknown*

\*\*\*\*\*

## HARVEST CROSSWORD SOLUTION

**Across** 1) damsel 5) teetotal 9) revolver 10) reefer 11) Lancashire 12) toys  
13) betrayer 16) Turner 17) tidy up 19) resisted 21) bull 22) abstinence  
25) strays 26) lemonade 27) relapses 28) rotary

**Down** 2) arena 3) stoic 4) Livesey 5) terrier 6) earnest 7) overtures  
8) acetylene 14) etiquette 15) royal gala 18) praises 19) results 20) slimmer  
23) Ernst 24) cider

## WINTER SONG

The browns, the olives, and the yellows died,  
And were swept up to heaven; where they glowed  
Each dawn and set of sun till Christmastide.  
And when the land lay pale for them, pale-snowed,  
Fell back, and down the snow-drifts flamed and flowed.

From off your face, into the winds of winter,  
The sun-brown and the summer-gold are blowing;  
But they shall gleam again with spiritual glinter,  
When paler beauty on your brows falls snowing,  
And through those snows my looks shall be soft-going.



**Wilfred Owen**

\*\*\*\*\*



*Jordy - Pinterest*

“Look, buddy, we live next door, and all night long we’ve been puttin’ up with the singing angels, the crying baby, the stinking frankincense, and that big, bright star. But I tell ya, that damn pa-rum-pa-pum-pumming has gotta stop!”

*found by Ken Wales*

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### Sunday

10.30 am	Sunday Club	Janet Wales
12.30 pm	OMG (2nd Sun of month for years 5 to 8/9)	Darren Arnold

### Tuesday

10.00 am	AM Club (fortnightly)	Roy Smith
2.00 pm	Tuesday at Two (fortnightly)	Barbara Hothersall
5 - 7.00 pm	Messy Church (half-termly) for families	Delma Whitman
7.00 pm	Bible Fellowship (monthly)	Margaret Holmes
7.00 pm	Book Club (monthly)	Ken Wales

### Wednesday

10 till 1.30	Welcome Wednesday - food, activities, games and New2U stall	
10.30 am	Midweek Communion with prayers	
7.30 /8 pm	WoW (monthly Women's Group)	Wendy Gaskell
7.00pm	Community Choir	Dave Topping

### Thursday

2.30 pm	Knitting Group	Veronica Frost
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### Friday

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

10.30 - noon	Who Let The Dads Out? (monthly)	Darren Arnold
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## FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### Monday

5.45 pm	Beavers (6 - 8 yr)	Fiona Jackson
7.00 pm	Cubs (8 - 10½ yr)	Dave Killingback

### Tuesday

7.00 pm	Scouts (10½ - 14 yr)	Chris Thomas
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### Thursday

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

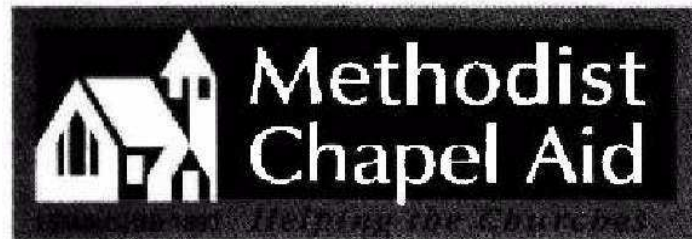
### Friday

6.30 pm	Escape (7- 11 yr)	Darren Arnold
8.00 pm	Youth Club (Secondary School age - Hoping to restart soon)	

### Sunday

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

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