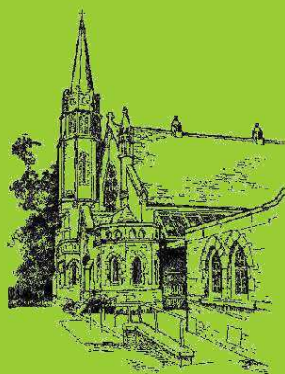


**Fulwood Methodist Church  
Crossroads Centre**



# ***Easter 2020***

***Special Online Edition***

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

**Revd Jane Wild - [jane.wild@methodist.org.uk](mailto:jane.wild@methodist.org.uk)**

**Tel. 01772 715134**

## YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

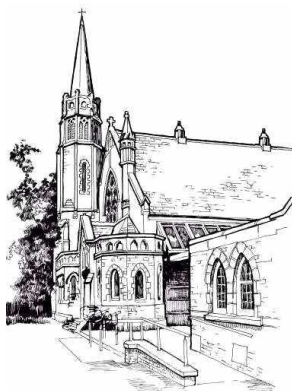
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## CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

**Denise Johnson - [djpastoral@outlook.com](mailto:djpastoral@outlook.com)**

**Tel. 07719200451**



## NORMAL 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  
Revd Jane Wild or Mrs. Sue Penrith (862273)**

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

# FINANCE AND COLLECTIONS

Our main concern at this difficult time is your health and wellbeing. Meanwhile - we are facing real financial difficulty as a result of the current lockdown. As well as the fact we cannot take our usual offerings, we are unable to generate additional funds through our outreach activities. However, despite losing this income, we must continue to pay our bills - not least our contribution to the Circuit, so that they can continue to pay our staff.



We acknowledge many of you are facing your own financial difficulties as a result of this terrible situation. If you do have the means, we are appealing for your support. Please can we ask you to consider:

- Changing your current regular offering from envelopes to standing orders - using your online or telephone banking facilities. The details you need are -  
*Name* - Fulwood Methodist Church Standing Order Account  
*Sort code* - 16-28-33 *Account number* - 12006229
- Sending a cheque made out to ***Fulwood Methodist Church*** in an envelope addressed to Jane Wild at - the Manse, 85 Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8NL. In no circumstances should you send any cash through the post."

***Amanda Latham*** on behalf of the finance team

\* \* \* \* \*

## EDITORIAL

Over the years we've had to cope with a number of obstacles, but nothing quite like the effect of the Coronavirus. However, just to prove that not everything has been brought to a grinding halt, here's the Easter 2020 issue! I realise that not everyone has (or desires!) access to a computer, but it's the best we could do under the circumstances and I hope it's one small step towards keeping some sense of normality in a bewildered world.

My most sincere thanks to all who've supplied material for inclusion and especially to John Butterworth for his sterling work in setting the whole thing up.

Michael & Mary Speight kindly sent a donation towards the cost of producing our magazine, which they always enjoy receiving, and his sister (in Cockermouth) also reads it.

We're very sad to have lost the Alchemy Computers advert. I know a number of you have called upon the services of John Hewitt and have benefitted from his down-to-earth approach. We shall greatly miss his big grin and, "Ey up, flower!" Enjoy your retirement, John.

Hopefully, for our Summer edition, we might be getting back to normal so the copy date will be **Sunday, 14th June, 2020**. Any contributions ahead of that date would be especially welcome. (N.B. Articles may be subject to editing.)

***Roy Smith*** (Editor)

## FULWOOD STEWARDS

### CHURCH

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Jacqueline Clarke, Sue Hogarth, Graham Johnson, Pam Johnson, Melba Southwood  
**Pastoral Secretary:** Sue Penrith (862273) email: *suepenrith@virginmedia.com*

\* \* \* \* \*

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For the time being, this magazine is only available at  
*[www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk](http://www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk)* and click the Magazine cover graphic on  
the **Online Magazine** tab on the 2nd page. We may be able to print some  
copies eventually.

If you have a smartphone, scan the QR-code alongside to access the site.  
Copies going back to Harvest 2001 are available!



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or email Barry Crossley - *fulwoodmethodist@yahoo.co.uk*



# **PASTORAL LETTER**

From Revd Jane Wild

Dear Friends,

I have spent some time wondering which passage of the Bible to share with you in this letter, debating where in our scripture, our comfort and hope come from. I have come to the conclusion that the remembered and favourite passages that we talk about are in our memories and hearts, because they are the ones that speak to us.

These times seem very dark and challenge our whole way of living and worshipping.

## **Psalm 23:4**

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

I hope we can hear the words of the God who is always with us. There is a degree of panic in our society, evidenced by the panic buying and the conversations I am having with people who are concerned about how they will cope with the isolation, the financial changes and the illness they may face.

## **Isaiah 41:10**

“Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

## **Joshua 1:9**

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Then there is the challenge of how we are to behave. It is natural to look to self and preserve what we have, but our faith demands that we build community. By God we are given intelligence and creativity. We can, and do, find ways to build relationships even in times of social distancing.

## **2 Timothy 1:7**

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

## **Luke 6:38 (MSG)**

“Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back - given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”

I pray for you and your families. Pray for each other. Find ways of keeping in touch and giving mutual support, for we are the hands that God works through.

God Bless.

*Revd Jane Wild*

## WORSHIP

Although we are unable to worship together at the moment this does not stop us worshipping in our hearts and with families.

There are also televised and radio services you can share. The circuit will be providing online services for those who can access them. These will be on a Sunday, with prayer posts during the week, and we are hoping they will be on Facebook and YouTube. Have a look at the church website for links to these and more related information - [www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk](http://www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk) and follow the links.

Below are some prayers you can use at any time.

### **Prayers**

Please use these prayers here and pray them at home. Though we cannot worship together, the Spirit unites us through our prayers.

We come to you, O Lord, recognising that only you can quench our thirst, only you can satisfy our hunger. As we approach your throne, may we recognise that your life-giving Spirit dwells within us. Draw us closer to you today.

***Amen.***

God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of others' reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty;

For those people who are worried about attending worship;

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others;

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend church;

Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ. Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

### **Loving God,**

Thank you for mums and children and for all the joy of family life.

Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;

Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;

Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love.

Let your love be present in every home and help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

Thank you God for the love of our mothers;  
Thank you God for their care and concern;  
Thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;  
Thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;  
Thank you God for all that they give us,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

God of grace, forgive the blindness that stops us from seeing the best in people, assuming that we are always right, so others must be wrong.

Forgive the blindness that sometimes makes us regard some people as inferior, or when we haven't allowed them a point of view because of disability or status.

Forgive our blindness to poverty, to prejudice, to injustice.  
Forgive our blindness when we see people as 'nobodies'.

Forgive us, Lord, and open our eyes to wonder and to possibilities, to relationships and to community.

***Amen.***



### **Psalm 23 for Busy People**

The Lord is my Pace Setter, I shall not rush,  
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,  
He provides me with images of stillness,  
Which restore my serenity.  
He leads me in ways of efficiency,  
through calmness of mind; and his guidance is peace.  
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,  
I will not fret, for his presence is here.  
His timelessness, his all-importance will keep me in balance.  
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity,  
by anointing my head with his oils of tranquility.  
My cup of joyous energy overflows.  
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruit of my hours,  
For I shall walk in the peace of my Lord,  
and dwell in his house for ever.

***Toki Miyashina***

# THE EASTER STORY

*Who killed the King?*

**GUARD**

I, the guard,  
When they gave me the wood  
I hoisted him high  
And left him to die.  
I killed the King.



*Who gave the orders?*

**PILATE**

I, Pilate, his judge  
Though I bore him no grudge,  
When they shouted so loud  
I gave in to the crowd  
And I gave the orders.

*Who yelled for his blood?*

**CROWD**

We, the crowd on the street  
Who had kneeled at his feet,  
But we tired of him soon  
And the priests called the tune,  
So we yelled for his blood.



*Who planned his death*

**CAIAPHAS**

I, Caiaphas, saw much  
How he questioned our law,  
Leading people astray.  
Yes, he got in my way  
So I planned his death.

*Who gave him away?*

**JUDAS**

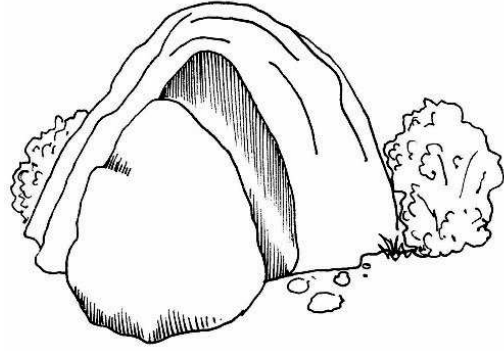
I, Judas, who knew  
What the priests meant to do.  
To save my own skin  
I thought I'd cash in,  
So I gave him away.



*Who stayed to the end?*

**MARY**

I followed my son  
And saw what was done.  
I stood by his side  
While he suffered and died,  
Yes, I stayed to the end.



*Who buried his body?*

**JOSEPH**

I, Joseph, one of the Jews  
Thought I'd so much to lose.  
I faced up to my fears,  
To the threats and the sneers  
And I buried his body.

*Who saw him rise?*

**MARY MAGDALENE**

I, Magdalene, who owed him so much  
Who was healed by his touch .  
For good or for ill  
I believed in him still  
And I saw him rise.



*Where is he now?*

**ALL**

In Greece and in Gaul  
With Peter and with Paul.  
In hope and despair  
He has always been there  
And he's here with us now.

*Found in an old copy of  
Guttridge Methodist Church magazine*

## THOUGHTS FROM DARREN

Hi all, hope your doing well! We find ourselves in unprecedented times. We don't know what's going to happen! When will things go back to normal? Well, one thing we are realising is that church is definitely not the building! We are learning to do services and meetings through media and the Circuit is putting up a daily reflection. We have attempted to continue with the launch of 'Breakfast Church' - this seemed to work well with just a few technical hitches from me! Obviously this is not for all, and for others there's no real difference. During this time of isolation it gives you lots of time for reflection, for questioning and for family.



Questions I've been pondering are; Is this God's way of telling us stop and think? Does He want things to stop so the world can repair itself? Is He making us understand what it is to love thy neighbour or be church without a building? Will more people turn to God as an answer? Will we now appreciate what we have: family, friends, creatures, trees, flowers, food, bird song, people who care for us (NHS). Has this stopped wars? However we also have to pray for those who have lost their jobs – what's their future? Please pray for the families of those in the NHS, other emergency services and teachers, as well as the doctors and nurses who are doing such excellent work. It just makes you realise how precious life is! Take care.

**Darren Arnold**

*Youth, Children & Family Worker*

\*\*\*\*\*

Moses was leading his people through the desert for 40 years.  
It seems, even in Biblical times, men avoided asking the way!

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## NEWS FROM OUR CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

As I sit to write this article it is a beautiful sunny day. All the family are at home, the roads are quiet, the neighbours are out tending their gardens. Usually this would be a good and lovely thing but we are a community that cannot go out; we are staying in to avoid each other and the chances of infection by the Covid-19 virus.

I have felt anxious, fearful, stressed and tired in the last few days. It is important sometimes to say this out loud and to acknowledge those feelings because then we can work with them and work towards a peaceful, safer place in our minds. I have been drawn to the Psalms as I reflect, pray and think. Many of the words in the Psalms come from a place of conflict within and a feeling of separation and isolation. They echo how I feel.

In amongst all of this I have found new ways of communicating and have probably spoken to members of my family more in the last few days than I would have done in “normal” circumstances. I have looked out for my neighbours and listened to their fears over the garden fence. I have connected with my community, with candles lighted in the window to signify hope, and I have clapped and cheered on my doorstep in praise of the hard work done by the carers and frontline NHS staff.

In our separation we have perhaps come closer than before and have developed new ways of being church that may shape the way we work in the future. Church has suddenly become accessible to a whole new group of people who had become disconnected with God.

May the absolute joy of the Easter season fill us in our isolation and may we know that peace which passes understanding now and always.

*Denise Johnson*

\* \* \* \* \*

### **ALEC ROBINSON (1936 – 2019)**

The family of Alec would like to say, “Thank you,” for the cards, flowers and prayers during his illness, and also last October when Alec died peacefully. Your kindness was, and is, very much appreciated.

*June Robinson & family*

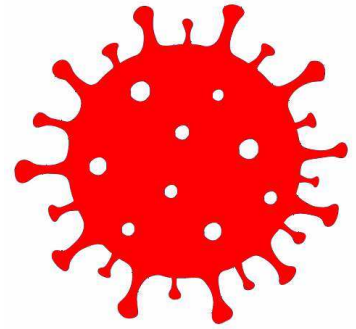


# STAY AT HOME TO STOP CORONAVIRUS SPREADING

**Everyone must stay at home to help stop the spread of coronavirus.**

You should only leave the house for 1 of 4 reasons:

- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
- one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle – alone or with members of your household.
- any medical need, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.



## **Important**

The 4 reasons above are exceptions – even when doing these activities, you should be minimising time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household.

## **Information:**

How to stop infection spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus.

### **Do**

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- wash your hands as soon as you get back home.
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.



### **Don't**

- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

## **Looking after your health and wellbeing**

To help yourself stay well while you're at home:

- stay in touch with family and friends over the phone or on social media.
- try to keep yourself busy – you could try activities like cooking, reading, online learning and watching films.
- do light exercise at home, or outside once a day.

*Source - [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) website*



## MILKMEN IN OUR AREA

At the current time, you may decide to have milk delivered to your doorstep. Here are some local suppliers of glass bottled milk, etc.

### KIERON FIELD

Mob 07731 847944

Email [Kiefield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Kiefield@hotmail.co.uk)

### Deliveries are made as follows:

Mon, Wed and Fri in Fulwood,  
Sherwood, Ashton and Plungington.  
Tues, Thurs and Sat in Walton-le-Dale,  
Higher Walton, Walton Park and  
Broadgate.

### He can provide:

1pt Glass milk bottles .....70p  
1 Litre cartons.....£1.10  
2 Litrecartons.....£1.70  
1pt Glass fresh orange juice .....£1.20  
6 Large free range eggs .....£1.50  
Delamere milkshakes .....£1.19  
1 Litre apple juice .....£1.69  
1 Litre cranberry juice .....£1.69

### ANDREW PHOENIX

Mob 07760408182

Home 01772 688336

### Deliveries

Mon Wed Fri  
Around Preston

### He can provide

1pt Glass milk bottles .....72p  
1pt Glass fresh orange juice .....£1.00  
6 Large free range eggs .....£1.20  
1pt Glass bottles milkshakes ....£1.00  
Cream:- Double, Single, Whipping  
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Phone 01772 720518

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6 Large free range eggs  
Bread  
Cream to order





## KNITTED NATIVITY SCENE

Back in the summer our Minister, Revd Jane Wild, suggested to the 'Knitwits' at Fulwood Methodist Church that, instead of knitting 400 individual angels to give away as last year, we could knit a life size Nativity Scene for the front of church this year. We said we loved a challenge and we'd try.

She found a design of a stained glass-style manger scene. This had to be scaled up so Revd Jane and her daughters could trace the outlines projected onto large sheets of paper and drew in the 'lead' outlines. Each section was labelled with the figure's initial and the number of that piece of the mosaic. The sections were cut out by Jan Astley, who chose yarns from our large stock of donations for each piece, and both pattern pieces and yarns were given out to the volunteers from the 'Knitwits' (our church knitting club) and other members of the congregation.



When I say patterns, don't imagine a proper knitting pattern with numbers of stitches needed, correct size of needles and how many rows to knit. We just had a piece of paper and wool!! So the fun began - working out which way to do it; how many stitches; when to increase or decrease and by how many, what stitches to knit or in some cases crochet? We were told it was probably better to err on being slightly larger than the shape, rather than smaller, as the shapes were to be stapled to a board to fit the old outside doors to the church and could be overlapped if necessary.

Over the autumn needles clicked and the pieces were completed by members, even those on holiday in Tenerife, Guernsey and Menorca. The frames were made to exactly fit the doors by Ken Wiggins. Then we came to the first assembly night in November and suddenly all the weird and wonderful shapes and myriad colours and textures came together. This was the first time a lot of us had seen the full design and we marvelled at how good they all looked together. Once the pieces were in place we could attach the black ribbons to represent the lead. Industrial strength double-sided tape was used for this, so the staples couldn't be seen.

The four panels were revealed to the congregation in church on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> and then erected outside for everyone to see. About 30 people contributed to this brilliant team effort. Baby Jesus was added on Christmas Day, so Happy Christmas. Wonder what the plans for Christmas 2020 will be?

*Veronica Frost*

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# VIDEO SCREEN IMPROVEMENTS IN CHURCH

As part of the planned enhancements to our premises and to improve the visibility in Church (particularly for those seated on the right hand side) of whatever is displayed by the projector (songs, prayers, videos etc), the Church Council has approved the installation of a number of TV screens as can be seen on the 'mock-up' picture.

To supplement the projector we have agreed to:

- Install a 65" screen on the right hand side above the 3<sup>rd</sup> pew.
- Install a 42" screen on the right hand side next to the organ pipes (Hymn board moved onto the organ woodwork).
- Install a 32" screen on the left hand side to match.
- Install a 19" screen on the pulpit for the Preacher.
- Install a 17" screen for the organist.
- Replace the current screen near the projector (for the band) with the screen which is currently located to the left of the pulpit.
- Purchase a laptop computer with current software and 'operate' it from the left hand side front pew.

The hardware has been ordered and most of the cabling installed. We were hoping to have the installation completed by Easter, but it is now held up by the virus.

*The Property group*



## **REVD GEORGE E STEWART**

**1927 - 2019**

Born in Belfast on 20 July 1927, George transferred his ministry from the Wesleyan Holiness Movement by retraining at Handsworth College and served in the following Circuits: Accrington and Haslingden, Garstang, Nelson, Loftus and Staithes, and Ormskirk. His wife May became a loyal, practical and spiritual supporter in all his churches.

He enjoyed working with young people. He served in various positions as Boys' Brigade chaplain, Hospital chaplain, Mayor's chaplain, Superintendent, Synod assistant secretary, and chairman of the governors of two primary schools.

For nine years he was external tutor in Biblical literature and Apologetics for Methodist Open Learning. George was a lifelong student. He gained a BA and BA honours, and MA in Applied Theology. Then, at Sheffield Urban Theology Unit and New York State University, he was awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree. He was also a fellow of Farmington institute for Christian Studies, Oxford.

As a supernumerary, he enjoyed preaching in the Lancashire circuits. He also found a new ministry in writing, producing five published books for primary school teachers about religious assemblies. He felt honoured to be a Methodist preacher.

He died on 2 December 2019 in the ninety-third year of his age and the sixty-ninth year of his ministry.



# **Martin's**

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## INTRODUCING THE PHILLIPS FAMILY

*Many years ago in the magazine, we ran a series of articles with information about various families or individuals in the church. We have decided to return to some more. Any suggestions to the editor.*

Ben and Sonia met aged 7, when Sonia's family moved to Hadfield in Derbyshire. They both attended Hadfield Methodist Church and the same primary school, secondary school and sixth form college. As children they weren't exactly friends: aged 8 or 9, Ben poured a full cup of orange juice over Sonia's head during a church event. But they grew closer as they grew older and started dating at 17.

After several long distance years, while Ben studied medicine at Cambridge and Sonia studied teaching in Scarborough, they married in 2011 and now have two children: Esther who is three and Naomi who is one.

Ben is a doctor - an endocrinology registrar, and Sonia was a primary school teacher before becoming a full-time mum. She was diagnosed with breast cancer while pregnant with Naomi and has been in remission since January 2019. She's now the chair of Climate Action Preston.



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## CRISIS

Around this time last year, I was having my last dose of chemotherapy. My daughters were two and four months old.

Chemo knocked me flat. I was exhausted and suffered lots of unpleasant side-effects. I had to spend many days in bed or in hospital, wishing I had the energy to be with my new born baby and my toddler and get on with my life. It was a good lesson in humility, in coming back to God in total weakness and allowing His strength to carry me through.

When someone is diagnosed with cancer, everything for that person changes, life goes on hold; the most important thing is getting treated. Because cancer kills. It's a serious problem and everyone recognises this. No one is going to try and argue that it shouldn't be taken seriously. No one is going to put off getting that seen to.

Now, as my energy and a sense of normality return, I'm waking up to a much bigger and more scary problem than my cancer diagnosis. One that will affect me and my children and the whole of humanity increasingly over the coming years, but people aren't really reacting the way you'd expect in the face of a crisis.

I'm talking about the climate crisis.

This is the world's cancer diagnosis. Scientists have known about it for many years and tried to convince everyone else of how serious a problem it is, but so far, most of the people in power are just carrying on with business as usual.



Maybe some are in denial, like some patients who first hear the word 'cancer' and don't believe it could possibly apply to them. But it seems more likely that most people are failing to sit down with the doctors and sign the consent forms because they realise how bad the treatment is going to be. Treating climate change will be a bit like long, drawn-out chemotherapy for millions of people. We have to stop everything and totally change our priorities in order to solve this problem. We have to give up things we've become accustomed to like driving petrol cars, eating whatever we like, buying things we don't really need... But if we don't go through this painful process, the consequences will be far worse, especially for our children. My beautiful daughters.

In the words of 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg, "Please treat the climate crisis like the crisis it is and give us a future. Our lives are in your hands."

We're the NHS now, we have our diagnosis and we need to start treating the world. Pronto.

Not sure where to start? Ideas at [friendsoftheearth.uk](http://friendsoftheearth.uk). Or to get more involved, email me at [ClimateActionPreston@gmail.com](mailto:ClimateActionPreston@gmail.com).

***Sonia Phillips***

## WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, DAD?

My father, Alfred Read (Fred to his friends and family), was born in Crewe and upon leaving school, joined his four brothers working on the railways. At the age of twenty he moved to Southport because, having had a weak heart since childhood, it was thought his health would benefit from the sea air. There he met a young lady at a church tea dance, they married and the beginning of the Second World War found them living with my maternal grandmother, along with my brother Bernard and a small baby (me).

Dad and his closest friend Billy went along to enlist. The two of them fancied joining the Royal Navy but it was not to be! “The first 500 this morning are for the Fire Brigade, sorry lads,” announced the recruiting sergeant. Dad is reputed to have replied, “It will have to be basement fires ‘cos I’ve a terrible head for heights.” That was perfectly true and I inherited the same malaise.

Off Dad went to his training and we saw very little of him for the rest of the war. He served in Liverpool, Manchester, the towns of the industrial Midlands and London. His final posting was to Plymouth, just before the invasion of France. Members of the Fire Brigade were billeted in guest houses and B & Bs around the city and wives were permitted to join them. Mum went off to Plymouth in great excitement and long letters came home describing in great detail the armoury that was being assembled, including the American battle fleet. Dad was horrified when he found out and thankful that the letters hadn’t fallen into the hands of the enemy – or the censor!

When the war ended Dad returned to his old life on the railways. He had lost friends and colleagues; he personally had sustained a number of injuries and had been left with intermittent back trouble. Nor had his chest benefitted from several years of close encounters with fire and smoke. However, he had conquered his fear of heights! As with countless numbers of men, he never talked about his experiences during those times – until some years later.

As it happened I had returned home for a weekend from my job in Sheffield and the three of us were enjoying a cup of tea after our lunch. Dad was, as usual, buried behind his newspaper and Mum and I were ‘catching up’. I had just been on a trip to the newly consecrated Coventry Cathedral and was saying what an amazing building it was. I was in full flow describing the Epstein statue, the Sutherland tapestry and the Piper glass. I mentioned that the ruins of the old, destroyed building had been retained, featuring an altar built from the rubble and a



cross fashioned from two blackened and charred beams from the roof timbers. At that Dad suddenly put down his paper. “It was hell, absolute hell!” he said, “we fought all through that night but we failed.” I was taken aback and Mum was thunderstruck. “I never knew you were at Coventry, Fred,” she said. Dad was quiet for a minute and then, “Oh yes, love,” he said, “that was where Billy died. It was our second ‘shout’.” He then went on to describe to us something of the horror of that night.

I have been back to Coventry several times since then and I still think it is an amazing place with a wonderful atmosphere. Now, however, I feel a personal connection. The last visit was about ten years ago, on a cold, dark, winter’s day. As was my custom, after I had wandered around the cathedral, I went outside and crossed over to the ruins. It was late afternoon and growing dark. I stood with my back to the cross (not the original: that is now kept inside as it was being threatened by the elements). I peered down the length of the nave and could just discern the outline of the old tower pointing heavenwards, as it had been on that dreadful night when death and destruction had rained down on Coventry and my father – a very ‘green’ firefighter on only his second ‘shout’ – had desperately fought to save the house of God.

*Barbara Hothersall*

## WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, DAD? (More)

**John Allcock’s** family were also from Crewe, engaged in protected jobs in the railway works there (building tanks) or at Rolls Royce building Merlin engines for Spitfires and Lancasters.

**Jan Astley’s** mum worked in the offices of the bomb disposal department in Ripon and her dad, unfit for military service abroad, was in office work too. Steve Grice’s dad was in a protected job in the food industry and also served in the Home Guard.

Another to serve in the Home Guard was **Allison Jarvis’s** great uncle. Apparently there was only one rifle between the whole squad, which a young lad dropped one night. The gun went off and worry set in: they now had only one bullet with which to defend their village if it was attacked!



All these stories! Everything mattered and it was of no consequence if you weren’t a war hero: everything that people did was necessary, and had impact and effect. Everyone sacrificed something. People’s mental health, too, suffered hugely. **Bernard Potts’** gran had a breakdown and his mum (still a child) had to be cared for by an aunt until after the war.

# LIVING WITH A LONG-TERM CONDITION: DIABETES

With thanks to diabetes UK; [www.diabetes.org.uk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk) the World health organisation and NHS conditions website. [www.nhs.uk/conditions/diabetes](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diabetes)

**What is diabetes?** Diabetes is a serious condition where your blood glucose level is too high. There are two main types, Type 1 and Type 2 which are different conditions; and there are some rarer, less common types as well. Type 2 diabetes is more common than Type 1. One in 15 people in the UK have diabetes, including one million people who have Type 2, but haven't been diagnosed. The number of people with diabetes has nearly quadrupled since 1980. There are currently approximately 422 million people worldwide with diabetes.



Diabetes is one of the leading causes of death in the world.

What all types of diabetes have in common is that they cause people to have too much glucose (sugar) in their blood. But we all need some glucose, it's what gives us our energy. We get glucose when our bodies break down the carbohydrates that we eat or drink and that glucose is released into our blood.

We also need a hormone called insulin. It's made by our pancreas, and it's insulin that allows the glucose in our blood to enter our cells and fuel our bodies.

If you don't have diabetes, your pancreas senses when glucose has entered your bloodstream and releases the right amount of insulin, so the glucose can get into your cells. If you have diabetes, this system doesn't work.

## Type 1 and Type 2

When you've got Type 1 diabetes, you can't make any insulin at all. If you've got Type 2 diabetes, it's a bit different. The insulin you make either can't work effectively, or you can't produce enough of it.

In both types of diabetes, because glucose can't get into your cells, it begins to build up in your blood. And too much glucose in your blood causes a lot of different problems.

## When to see a doctor?

Visit your GP as soon as possible if you experience the main symptoms of diabetes, which include:

- feeling very *thirsty* (1) - *weblink* - *see end*
- peeing more frequently than usual, particularly at night
- feeling very tired
- weight loss and loss of muscle bulk
- itching around the penis or vagina, or frequent episodes of *thrush* (2)
- cuts or wounds that heal slowly
- blurred vision



Type 1 diabetes can develop quickly over weeks or even days. Many people have Type 2 diabetes for years without realising, because the early symptoms tend to be general.

### **Living with diabetes.**

If you're diagnosed with diabetes, you'll need to eat healthily, take regular exercise and carry out regular blood tests to ensure your blood glucose levels stay balanced.

You can use the *BMI healthy weight calculator* (3) to check whether you're a healthy weight.

You can find apps and tools in the *NHS Apps Library* (4) to help you manage your diabetes and have a healthier lifestyle.

Anyone diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes also requires regular insulin injections for the rest of their life.



As Type 2 diabetes is a progressive condition, medicine may eventually be required, usually in the form of tablets.

### **Can diabetes be prevented?**

A large proportion of diabetes and its complications can be prevented by a healthy diet, regular physical activity, maintaining a normal body weight and avoiding tobacco use.

### **What can you do to help?**

- Blood glucose control through a combination of diet, physical activity and medication.
- Control of blood pressure and lipids to reduce cardiovascular risks.
- Regular screening to check for damage to the eyes, kidneys and feet, and if needed enable early treatment to begin.

### **Weblinks**

- (1) [www.nhs.uk/conditions/thirst](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/thirst)
- (2) [www.nhs.uk/conditions/thrush-in-men-and-women](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/thrush-in-men-and-women)
- (3) [www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/bmi-calculator)
- (4) [www.nhs.uk/apps-library/category/diabetes](http://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/category/diabetes)

***Rachel Imms***

Lecturer in Occupational Therapy (UCLan)



## CAROLLING AROUND

Come Christmastime and singers from Fulwood Methodist Church no longer go out and sing at people's doors; nowadays far too many restrictions are placed on that tradition. However, they do still go out into the community on a couple of evenings and sing for the residents of local care homes.

This year, on the first evening, we assembled at Oxford House, before moving on to Sherwood Lodge and then Preston Private; the following evening it was Brookside, Moor Park House and Derby Lodge. Sue Penrith had made all the arrangements.

Most residents are glad to have us there and love to join in with the singing; some request their favourite carols and some like to share their fond memories. A jolt to the memory was one lady who had attended Moor Lane Methodist Church – and that's really going back. We also had the pleasure of meeting up with a number of our own Church Members.

These jaunts are never dull! 'Phones ringing, sudden emergencies, alarms going off; variable acoustics; a receptionist totally startled by our sudden invasion (she'd no idea we were expected); they're all standard fare. There's also the question of whether you try to sing as much as you can from memory, or stare hard at the printed word. Is it imagination or do all modern compilers of books feel an irrepressible urge to make slight alterations to the wording of carols?

15 of us turned out on the first night and 10 on the second. A couple who'd found out about our planned perambulations turned up to swell the number, simply because they'd fancied singing some carols. Nobody is excluded.

Diane Bird did a sterling job of 'giving us the note' and we sang our way through almost everything in the 'Action For Children Book Of Carol's – several times over! However, just when we smugly thought we'd got away without slogging through The Twelve Days Of Christmas – it was requested at the very last stop of all!!

At Christmastime 2020, we hope that a few more of you will help swell the ranks – and some of the places we visit can be very generous with their mince pies and hot or cold drinks. Even if you're no great shakes as a singer, maybe you're good at talking to people. Perhaps you could also help us do justice to the hospitality of the various establishments.

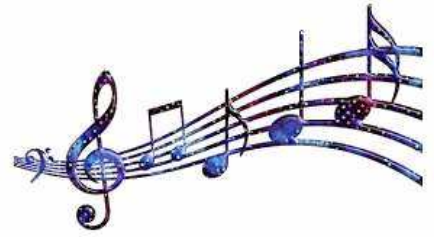
You would be more than welcome!!



*Roy Smith*

## THE OCCASIONAL SINGERS

Following on from a couple of previous ventures, we began to practise for the annual Carol Service. For some weeks, whoever was able to be there turned up for short, sharp rehearsals following Sunday morning services and we finished off with a final ‘blast’ on the Saturday morning before Christmas. Then came the Carol Service itself, when we discovered we’d a choir of 10 ladies and 8 men!! A good balance.



For inspiration we had a programme featuring many familiar carols; a church beautifully decorated and totally candle-lit; a full congregation and a group of musicians to accompany us – which featured a bassoon, a clarinet, a flute, two oboes (one played by our Minister, Jane) and a trombone.

There were a few surprise items too, for example *Away With Your Sorrows*. This comes from the late eighteenth century and has a jolly tune that switches from reel to jig time. I felt it had a touch of West Gallery singing about it and even a whisper of the tune *Bonnie Dundee* in its latter part. Certainly well worth singing again.

However, where would we be without some occasional ‘glitch’ to remind us not to take ourselves too seriously? Together choir and congregation launched into the first verse of *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* and thereafter, with the choir singing from ‘Hymns & Psalms’ and the congregation singing a somewhat different version projected onto the front wall, chaos reigned!! Ah well, it made for a good talking point. Nonetheless, I think we were all well pleased with our efforts.

Mavis Fletcher is the person to thank. She did all the hard work – and the best way of showing your appreciation would be to add your name to the list when next the call goes out for volunteers to sing. Ability to read music is not a necessity – and you’d be in good company. I know for a fact that a number of members of the world-famous *Morrison Orpheus Choir* (Swansea) learn to sing their parts parrot-fashion – and what they do, you also could do.

The group of musicians was an inspiring addition and we’d encourage others to come along and join with them.

*Roy Smith*

\* \* \* \* \*

Worrying does not take away tomorrow’s troubles; it takes away peace.

All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it; they will not last for ever. If going wrong, they can’t last long either.

Prayer is not a ‘spare wheel’ that you pull out when in trouble; it is a ‘steering wheel’ that directs us in the right path throughout life.

We must lay it down as an elemental principle of religion that no large growth in holiness was ever gained by one who did not take time to be often alone with God.

*Austin Phelps*

## A FARRAGO

- The dates of this year's Spring Harvest are 14 – 18 April at Harrogate Convention Centre. For more information and bookings go to [www.springharvest.org/harrogate](http://www.springharvest.org/harrogate) or call 01825/769111
- For the first time ever, the main marquee at this year's Keswick Convention will be based at the former Pencil Factory site. This year's theme is 'Grateful'. The dates are:- Week 1: 11th – 17th July; Week 2: 18th – 24th July; Week 3: 25th – 31st July. Further details available from: [www.keswickministries.org/convention](http://www.keswickministries.org/convention)

**Both the above events have been cancelled due to the current virus pandemic.**

- Did you notice that Preston was featured in the Methodist Recorder of 13th March, detailing early days of Methodism in Preston and some of John Wesley's visits?
- Other folks' magazines and weekly news sheets have arrived from Arnside Methodist Church; Central Methodist Church, Preston; Christ Church, Fulwood; Fulwood URC; Isles of Scilly Methodist Circuit; Lytham Methodist Church; Mitton (near Clitheroe), All Hallows; Oakworth Methodist Church, Keighley; the Parish of Ingham, Ampton & the Livermeres, W.Suffolk; Penwortham, St Leonard's; Church Rd. Methodist Church, St Annes; Warton, St Paul's and the RC Parish of St Martin of Tours, Philipsburg, USA.
- We've also had a copy of the Diocese of Blackburn's 'Mothers' Union News' and 'In Focus', which circulates around the villages of the east Fylde area and includes news from the churches there and we regularly receive a copy of the magazine from our twinned Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany.
- The business of the bell foundry at Loughborough (John Taylor & Co.) – now the only one in the country – is in good fettle. However, the buildings are in a perilous condition and need urgent investment. The Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust is working to secure a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, but also needs to raise £1.1 million from other sources to secure the Lottery grant i.e. the public.

Since 1859 the foundry has cast more than 25,000 bells that are hung in over 100 countries around the world. No doubt many of our local churches feature on the list, as do St Paul's Cathedral, York Minster, Truro Cathedral and Newcastle Cathedral.

- 'May Dewing' at Blackburn. The old custom of 'May Dewing' or washing the face in dew on the first Sunday in May, in order to ensure lasting beauty, was observed on Sunday by a large number of Blackburn girls and women, some of

the latter very elderly. The weather was fine and bright for those who went into the fields soon after dawn, but broke down afterwards, and latecomers were drenched with rain before they got back. For a similar purpose many went into the parks, which, by the way, are now brilliant with tulips. (*Blackburn Times, May 13th, 1905.*)

- Should you happen to be one of the hikers, ramblers, roamers or walkers out there who have ever wandered the pathways around Glasson Dock, then your assistance would be greatly valued by a local resident, Mrs Gwen Chester. She is working hard to have some local footpaths reinstated (for the benefit of all) and urgently needs written confirmation from people who've used them in the past. You can contact her at 9, Pennine View, Glasson, LANCASTER, LA2 0AS for further details.

Y Y U R

Too wise you are

Y Y U B

Too wise you be

I C U R

I see you are

Y Y 4 Me

Too wise for me

*Roy Smith*



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## HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

Oh, to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees, some morning, unaware,

That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England – now!

And after April, when May follows,  
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark! where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover.

Blossoms and dewdrops – at the bent spray's edge  
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!

And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,  
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower –  
Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!



*Robert Browning (1812 – 1889)*

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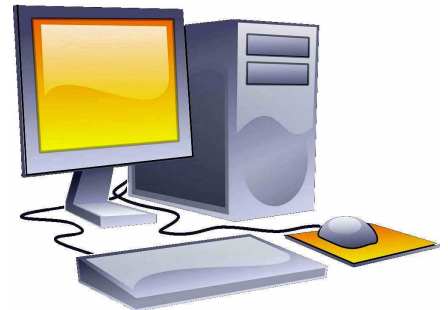
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References available



## THE PARADOX OF OUR AGE

We have taller buildings, but shorter tempers,  
wider motorways, but narrower viewpoints.  
We spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less.  
We have bigger houses and smaller families,  
more conveniences, but less time.  
We have more degrees, but less common sense,  
more knowledge, but less judgement.  
We have more experts and more problems,  
more medicine, but less wellness.  
We spend too recklessly, laugh too little,  
drive too fast, get angry too quickly,  
stay up too late, get too tired, read too seldom,  
watch television too often and PRAY too seldom.  
We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.  
We talk too much, love too seldom and lie too often.  
We have learned how to make a living, but not a life.  
We have added years to life, not life to years.  
We have been all the way to the moon and back,  
but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour.  
We have conquered outer space, but not inner space.  
We have done larger things, but not better things.  
We have cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul.  
We have split the atom, but not our prejudice.  
We have learned to rush, but not to wait.  
We have higher incomes, but lower morals.  
We have more acquaintances, but fewer friends.  
We build more computers to hold more information  
to produce more copies, but have less communication.  
These are the times of fast food, steep profits,  
shallow relationships and domestic warfare.  
These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce,  
of fancier houses, but broken homes.  
These are the days of quick trips, disposable nappies,  
throw away morality, one night stands, overweight bodies  
and pills that ruin the character.



*Attributed to Dr. Bob Moorehead,  
former pastor of Seattle's Overlake Christian Church*

## FORGIVENESS

Forgive all they who do you wrong  
And seek to bear them no ill will -  
Let your mind be ever strong  
With fortitude your heart to fill.  
A shining example to one and all  
That thou, indeed, doth have a soul.

What righteousness will then ensue  
For all the living world to see ?  
That you, yourself, do not pursue  
The foolishness of bigotry.  
Thine only enemy then will be  
The one who lurks within thee.

*Victor Hobson*

\* \* \* \* \*

A wise man will desire no more than he may get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully and leave contentedly.

*Benjamin Franklin*



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# I ALMOST WENT TO CHURCH LAST NIGHT

1

I almost went to Church last night,  
But couldn't find the time;  
So much to do about the house,  
To leave it would be a crime!  
So I brushed and sewed and polished  
And went wearily to bed ,  
But I made a resolution  
To go next week instead.

2

I almost went to Church last night,  
But then an old friend came;  
And to have closed the door on him  
Would have been a shame.  
So we talked and chatted and gossiped  
Until the goodbyes were said.  
But made a resolution  
To go next week instead.

3

I almost went to Church last night,  
But something made me late;  
And unpunctuality  
Is a sin I really hate!  
So I didn't go and stayed at home  
And to my conscience said:  
I'll make a resolution  
To go next week instead.

4

I almost went to Church last night,  
But the air was chill and cold;  
To venture out on such a night  
Would be foolish I'd been told.  
So I sat by the fire,  
Took up a book and read.  
But I made a resolution  
To go next week instead.

5

I almost went to Church last night,  
But a certain preacher was there;  
And for that type of preaching  
I really didn't care.  
So rather than go to Church  
And come home with a heavy head,  
I made a resolution  
To go next week instead.

6

I almost went to Church last night,  
But my favourite programme was on;  
And by the time it ended  
The time for Church had gone.  
So I stayed before the telly  
Until the set was dead.  
I'll make a resolution  
To go next week instead.

7

I actually went to Church last night,  
But I went too late!  
The Church was locked and silent,  
'For Sale' was on the gate.  
Oh the remorse that then I felt,  
For that little cause was dead:  
And I, 'twas I who killed it  
By going next week instead!



*Revd Mike Shepherd, minister Lammas St English Baptist Church, Carmarthen*

## IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two,  
If he came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do?  
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured guest,  
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,  
And you'd keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there -  
That serving Him in your own home is a joy beyond compare.

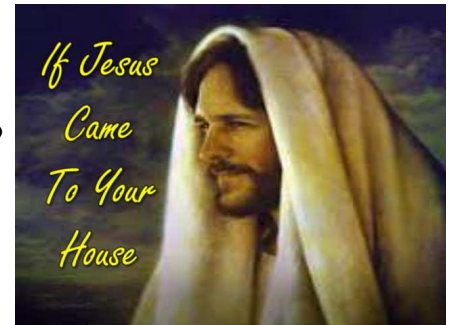
But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door  
With arms outstretched in welcome to your Heavenly Visitor?  
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in,  
Or hide some magazines and put a Bible where they'd been?  
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard  
And wish you hadn't uttered that last loud hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?  
Could you let Jesus walk right in or would you rush about?  
And if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,  
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?  
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?  
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?  
And would you find it hard each meal to say grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,  
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?  
Would you take Jesus with you every place you'd planned to go,  
Or would you maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your closest friends,  
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?  
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,  
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?  
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do  
If JESUS Christ in person came to spend some time with you.



*Lois Blanchard Eades*



## STUCK WITH A STICK

I used to be able to climb on a table  
And race around just to be quick,  
But now I'm frustrated, I'm tired not elated,  
For now, I am stuck with a stick.

No walk in Australia was ever a failure,  
I'd stride round the Outback with glee.  
I've patted koalas, seen grey and pink galahs,  
Kangaroos couldn't keep up with me.

But now I am stuck with a stick,  
It's enough to make anyone sick.  
As I've said, I'm frustrated, I'm tired not elated.  
I hate to be stuck with a stick.

But sticks can be useful, and sticks can be fun,  
Just look at this stick and think what can be done.

I can rake things towards me or poke them away,  
Tie on a cloth and chase cobwebs all day,  
Go in the garden and rub out a weed,  
Then dibble a small hole and drop in a seed.

But if I encounter a boyfriend by chance  
I try to look younger and do a quick dance,  
I bully-off in hockey and practise my putting,  
Holding a chair so I don't lose my footing.

But though I can laugh, I am starting to struggle,  
I totter around and get things in a muddle.  
So, as we get older, my sisters and brothers,  
Let's all stick together, support one another.

Let's stick up for people with sticks!



*Brenda Rowley*

\* \* \* \* \*

Don't worry, God is never blind to your tears,  
Never deaf to your prayers,  
And never silent to your pain.  
He sees, He hears and He will deliver you.

*Anon*

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## NORMAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**To be resumed - eventually.**

### **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 1.00 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)

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)



# LET'S LOOK AHEAD AND ENJOY OURSELVES WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER. BOOK YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY VIA EASYFUNDRAISING AND RAISE MONEY FOR CHURCH



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