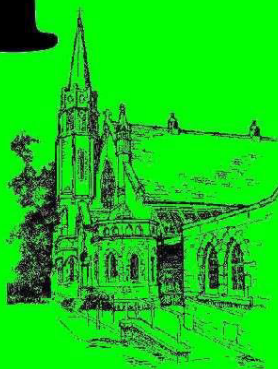


**Fulwood Methodist Church
Crossroads Centre**



**Easter
2021**



Twinned with the Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche,
Recklinghausen, Germany



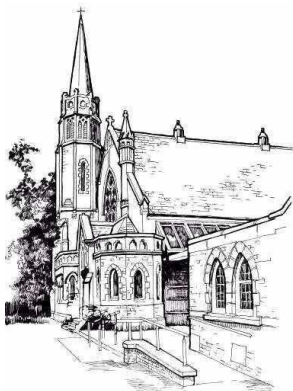
THE FULWOOD METHODIST

FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8EA

Tel. Preston (01772) 718741

Registered Charity No. 1133929



MINISTER

Revd Jane Wild - [email](#)

Tel. 01772 715134

YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

Darren Arnold - [email](#)

Tel. 07811 775825

CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

Denise Johnson - [email](#)

Tel. 07719 200451

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 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.....

EDITORIAL

Not long ago the cupboard was looking pretty bare and I was wondering how we were going to produce an Easter issue of the magazine. However, a sudden deluge of items has come through and we may have to hold one or two of them over until another time. Very, very many thanks to all concerned.

For our **Summer** issue the **copy date will be Sunday, 13th June, 2021**. Any contributions ahead of that date would be especially welcome. (N.B. Articles may be subject to editing.)

Roy Smith (Editor)

* * * * *

FULWOOD STEWARDS CHURCH

Wendy Bennett [email](#)
Hilary Banks [email](#)
John Ferris [email](#) (1st contact steward)
Amanda Latham [email](#)
Susan Rennie [email](#)

COMMUNION

Pauline Kirkham (Senior Steward), Lesley Birkett, John Butterworth,
Jacqueline Clarke, Sue Hogarth, Melba Southwood

Any volunteers please for extra Communion Stewards? Two have finished recently.

Pastoral Secretary: Sue Penrith. [email](#)

* * * * *

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR Roy Smith 7 Southgate, Fulwood Preston PR2 3HX

Assisted by Barbara Hothersall, Libby Stone and Ken Wales (Welcome Ken)

Computer layout John Butterworth [email](#)

For the time being, this magazine is only available at www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk .
Click the Magazine cover graphic on the front page or the **Online Magazine** tab on the 2nd page. We print a few copies for those without internet access.

Copies going back to Harvest 2001 are available online!

PASTORAL LETTER

from Revd Jane Wild

Dear Friends

I would like to do three things in this letter. Firstly, to wish you all a Happy Easter as we rejoice in our shared faith in the Risen Christ.

Secondly, to say that we are working hard on how we respond to the emergence of the world from lockdown. We do not know the details yet and as I write this we are waiting for guidance from the local public health department.

As you can guess it will be a slow process. Our re-opening has many features in common with resurrection. Our community will come back to life strengthened by the experience of deprivation and we are charged with adapting to new ways of being church whilst mourning the things we have rightly lost and reinstating those things we cannot live without. Our God of hope and new life is with us.

Thirdly, a resource:- During Lent this year, the online services and Zoom study group has been looking at the 'Methodist Way of Life'. (See pages 24 & 25) [Download 'Finding the Way'](#)

We are being encouraged to assess how we live as Christians, what it is to be Methodist and why we choose to live our lives as Christians affiliated to the Methodist Church.

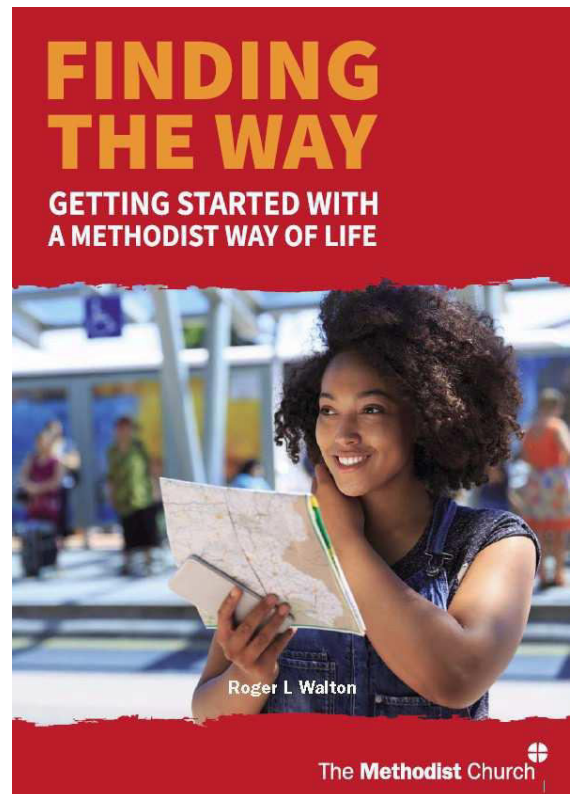
'The Methodist Way of Life' is a commitment to practising the faith we have in Christ in a certain way. This pattern of living gives us a framework, allowing us to be responsible to and for other people in the context of our faith.

You will find a document with the commitments below, although many of you will have received your card as members of the Methodist Church.

The other side asks questions. They are the sort of questions that can seem difficult to answer and live with; that is not their purpose. Humans have a great capacity to take the easiest line to choose things that allow us to be comfortable and to gain good for ourselves. These questions, however, are there to help us, in times like Lent certainly, but also on a daily and weekly basis to connect with God, to be steppingstones on the way to knowing God to the best of our ability and recognising the wonderful creation founded in the beginning of time and continuing into eternity.

This is how Paul puts it in Colossians 3: - "knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."

So, what do we do?



One way to enter the ‘Methodist Way of Life’ is to read the commitments each week. Look at the questions on your own or with someone else. Maybe start with one question at a time. Answer the question and then take a small achievable action that will help you to put them into practice.

For example, one of the questions is “What has spoken to you recently in the Bible?” Your response could be a whole host of things which you might like to share with others. Or you may not read the Bible but may decide to pick it up sometimes and have a look. Both are huge steps on our journey of faith.

I am more than happy to talk to anyone if you are exploring this process and feel you need some help. Or why not find someone else in the congregation who wants to grow in faith and share the journey with them.

God bless you on this lifelong Journey

Jane

SABBATICAL

From the middle of May until the middle of August, I will be on Sabbatical. That is the gift of the Church to Ministers, Pastoral care and ministerial cover will continue to be provided by the staff team during this time. Details of who to contact will be in the notices at the appropriate time.

Jane

DIARY DATES

Sunday 21st March

4.00pm Family quiz on Zoom.

‘Messy Holy Week Activity’ - look out for details in notices.

Prayer cross available at church during Holy Week.

Tie a ribbon to our outside cross, for a person, situation or yourself.

Monday 29th, 30th, 31st March

7.00 - 7.30pm - Holy Week Meditations either on Zoom or in person TBC.

Friday 2nd April

Good Friday Meditation 11.00am details TBC .

Easter Sunday 4th April

6.00am Beacon Fell Service. Live on site, or on Zoom TBC.

10.30am Easter Morning Service. Details TBC.

7.00pm District Easter celebration on Zoom.

Book Club meetings -

Tues. 20th Apr. ‘*The Midnight Library*’ by Matt Haig

Tues. 18th May (TBC) ‘*Hamnet*’ by Maggie O’Farrell

Tues. 29th June ‘*The Gospel of Mark*’ as literature, with Revd Michael Wood.

All Book Club sessions are by Zoom. For passcodes, email Janet or Ken Wales, or see the notices.

NEGATIVE - POSITIVE

To be honest with you, when I was asked to do an article for the magazine I thought “I don’t know what to write or say” Do I tell you that everything is going well, or do I tell you the truth and say I am struggling! I think I am a positive person who always knows that everything will end up good.

We have been in various guises of lockdown for nearly a year now and to start with it was OK, but for the past couple of months things have been tough. I cannot work properly, most of the groups and work I do are ‘face to face’ and based at the church or in school. I’ve read, listened to and been part of conversations concerning horrible things that have happened to some dads around the Lancashire area, as well as some of the pastoral concerns of our families; not being able to travel and see my family and hearing people saying when they are having their vaccination, knowing they could have a bit of freedom in my mind, or maybe I was jealous!



Now I know you all have probably had a similar experience so please excuse me. I’m not in a bad place: I have Cheryl and the boys and dogs to keep me going and I know how lucky I am to have them around and for

their support. Can I feel any positiveness from this? Well yes, I can, although I cannot do the job properly, physically, I can still reach out and help. Breakfast Church is helping the younger members of our church and circuit continue their learning of the Bible in a fun, interactive way. OMG spend time together playing silly games, looking in at current issues and learning how to use puppetry for use in worship. I have been able to go around delivering things like Advent and Lent bags and puppets to our youngsters and families, and this enables a short time of pastoral interaction for which I know I am grateful.

We have been able to do some work in the way of recorded assemblies for the school and often exchange emails on how things are going. With regard to ‘Who Let the Dads Out?’ I am in continual communication with the organisation and with the members of our group through social media and Zoom sessions. The social media place is a good tool for finding out how the men are dealing with the lockdown, although the talk is usually fun and people asking for advice on plumbing, cars and tools etc. Some is hard to listen to and give advice on. Things such as marriage breakdowns and not seeing their kids due to lockdown restrictions are some things no one should have to deal with. The positiveness of this group is the support these men have for each, other even though they don’t actually know the person. It reminds me of what the church does for the people and the community.

I hope I am not repeating this or taking someone else's page, but this church's congregation and groups have really helped! Cakes have been baked and given out to cheer people up as well as being delivered before Christmas to the Police, Fire and Ambulance stations and the staff at the school. The chocolate and sweets left from the Escape/Youth club have been donated, as well as cash donations and purchases for other groups. Advent, Lent and Christmas bags have been delivered to our families. Currently hearts are being made for display and we gave away over 320 knitted Angels at Christmas and 40 cork reindeers. Cards have been made and more are being made to distribute to care homes along with various recordings and there are probably more things happening I'm not aware of.

We can feel down and not positive. That is OK, but we also need to know that we are all doing what we can under the circumstances and keep praying that God will guide us all through this. We are a great family in this church, always there for each other and the community that surrounds us.

I am a positive person and although I will still struggle some days, I know soon things will be better and some normality will resume.

Take care, stay safe.

Darren Youth, Children's and Family Worker.

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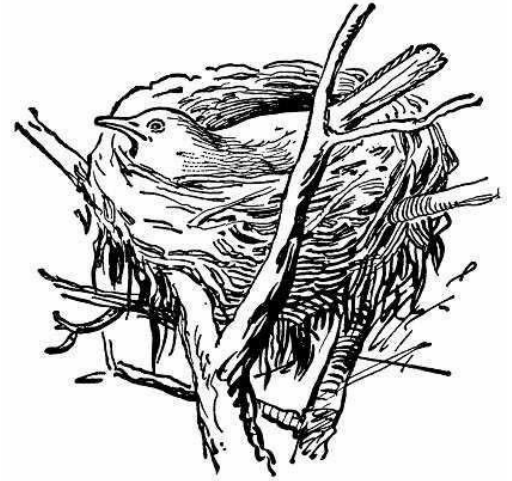
Tel: 0845 606 1331. Fax: 0845 604 6302

www.methodistinsurance.co.uk Methodist Insurance PLC

For details - contact Allan Clarke at church

FROM OUR CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

As I write this today the sun is streaming through the window and I am watching some very busy birds eyeing up the prime real estate in the local gardens with a view to building their nests. The honeysuckle is bursting into life and the spring bulbs are pushing through the grass. It is a hopeful and positive time and season. I have always loved Spring, but this year I have longed for it more than ever before. January stretched out almost endlessly and seemed to linger longer than necessary. I found it difficult and challenging and had to dig deep to keep myself positive as I sought to encourage others to do the same. My grateful thanks go out to all the encouragers who kept me going with calls and messages. Maybe this resonates with you; we have all needed those around us who have lifted our spirits recently.



Now is the time to be hopeful, now is the time to begin to make plans and to look forward. Maybe for a time we have to hold onto the remnants of Covid-19 and acknowledge the effect it has had on our loved ones, friends and communities. Maybe there will be a time to share that painful stuff with each other and hold each other close. In all that 'holding' there will be a hopeful future, a moving forward to a better time.

At the very first Easter there was this same sort of tension, this 'holding' of difficult and painful thoughts. There was a recognition that Jesus and all that he was had died brutally and was gone from the lives of his friends. This was quickly followed by pure, unfettered joy as Jesus overcame death and was very much alive.

I hope that this Easter may be more special than ever for you and yours. May it be a time of real, unfettered joy. May it fill our hearts with hope and may this be enough for you to want to share that hope with others.



Take Care Everyone.

Denise.

*A little brown bird
Has a nest in a tree.
I can see the brown bird.
Can the brown bird see me?*

*The brown bird sees the cat.
But the cat cannot see
The little brown bird
And the nest in the tree.*

*The little brown nest
Of the bird in the tree
Is under the leaves,
And the cat cannot see.*

Author unknown

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sky

The Works

£ Over £30 million raised

8 1.6 million users

130,000 causes

CHURCH FINANCES

Those of you who come to the AGM on a regular basis will know that we struggle to balance the books each year. This is despite a significant income in prior years from Outreach Activities (Welcome Wednesday, New To You, book/craft sales, the Farmers' Market, contributions, coffee/teas and so on) and Rental Income. Due to Covid-19 we have lost these sources of income, which amount to around £32,000 each year.

During the past 12 months our Church Family has continued to provide their regular giving. This has enabled us to meet our Circuit Assessment. However, it does not cover the ongoing costs which we incur, despite the building not being in use – including grants, repairs, maintenance, cleaning, admin costs, heating/lighting and so on. We have had to meet these costs from our reserves in recent months. Clearly these funds are finite and will run out in a matter of months.

The current situation has highlighted our over-reliance on outreach activities and lettings to provide the money to cover regular expenses. In an ideal world our regular giving would cover all regular outgoings, with Outreach and Lettings income providing money for those areas of expenditure which are discretionary – such as investments in our technology, improvements to our building and so on.

If I can use this analogy, our salaries will usually cover all monthly costs such as our mortgage, bills and food. Our savings (or reserves) are for special one off costs such as a holiday or an extension. If we had to use our savings to pay the mortgage, they would soon run out.

On a more urgent note, we are not currently able to make our usual grants to the national Methodist charities we support each year. Details of these charities are shown overleaf. Some Internal Groups have kindly made donations to cover some of these grants, but we still have a shortfall in 2021 of £3,550.

I have summarised the accounts for the first 6 months of the current financial year overleaf. In summary, this shows that each month, we spend £2,500 more than we receive in the Offertory.



Income	2020/21
Offerings and tax recovered	21,260
Gift Aid	0
Interest	37
Lettings	0
Other receipts	2,182
	23,480
Expenditure	
Circuit assessment	-21,750
Grants and donations	0
Utilities	-2,494
Repairs and Maintenance	-2,527
Other payments	-4,281
	-31,052
Surplus / (deficit)	-7,572

Bank balance b/f	35,114
Surplus / (deficit)	-7,572
Transfers	163
Bank balance c/f	27,705



We are therefore have two requests:

- **Please will you consider making a one off gift towards our grants?** If we are in the fortunate position of getting more donations than we need – we will use the money towards the same grants in 2021.

- **Please will you consider an increase in your regular giving to help us address the monthly shortfall in income?** The shortfall each month equates to around £2.50 each week per church member – which is equivalent to a cup of coffee. We know an increase is not possible for everyone – but we will be grateful for any increase you feel able to give.

We know other churches have an annual ‘Gift Day’. This is often an event that combines giving with a social activity. If you would be interested in helping to arrange a Gift Day for Fulwood – please can you let me or one of the stewards know.

Best wishes

Amanda Latham (on behalf of the Finance Group)

FUNDS SUPPORTED ANNUALLY BY CHURCH

World Mission Fund (£1500)

This fund supports projects and individuals around the world, including:

- Local people in key mission projects in their own countries.
- Mission partners who are initially trained in this country and are invited to serve for periods of at least one year by partner churches in the Caribbean, South and Central America, Africa, The Pacific, Asia and Europe.
- Men and women to study advanced or post graduate courses in a cross-cultural setting.
- Annual grants given to partner churches enabling the partner church to decide its own priorities for the work of the Kingdom.
- Grants to a partner who is facing particular difficult circumstances or an emergency situation, especially Coronavirus.



Mission in Britain Fund (£1500)

This fund is an essential part of the One Mission of the Methodist Church in Britain. The fund enables us to support mission orientated church projects through grant giving across the following categories:

- Mission, Action on Poverty and Justice.
- Ministering opportunities at Methodist Heritage sites.
- Chaplaincy.
- The use of church properties to serve local communities.
- Sharing the gospel with all ages.

Church Fund for Property (£750)

Church Councils fulfil the duties of managing trustees, namely managing the buildings on behalf of the owner, the Methodist Church. This fund allocates grants to managing trustees who are undertaking building projects to improve mission and community focus.

Fulwood and other churches in the Circuit have benefited from grants from this fund in the past.

Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (£100)

This is an ecumenical charity which seeks to provide resources, training and grants for preachers and leaders of worship of all ages and Christian denominations. This included the launch of Preach Resources, including a quarterly magazine, a website and a series of events.

Methodist Women in Britain (£500)

The aim of MWiB is to know Christ and make him known, encouraging, enabling and equipping women to participate fully in the life of the Church and in society, support the Church to become truly the whole people of God. MWiB is also the British branch of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Methodist Homes for the Aged (£500)

MHA is the largest charity care provider for older people in the UK offering some of the highest quality care, accommodation, and support services throughout Britain. MHA provides care homes, many residents receiving specialist dementia and nursing care, independent living and retirement communities with access to social and leisure facilities and support to people living in their own homes.

Action for Children (£500)

Action for Children provides practical and emotional care and support. They make sure children's voices are heard and campaign to bring lasting improvements to their lives. The charity runs circa 500 services in local communities across the UK, in schools and online. These include nurseries, children's centres, fostering and adopting services, helping to protect children from neglect and abuse and help those who care for others or are at risk of homelessness.

Methodist Ministers Housing Society (£200)

Methodist ministers have cared for others during their ministry. This fund helps care for them in their retirement. It provides houses for retiring Methodist presbyters and deacons who need them. It also provides housing for their widowed partners and for ministers who retire early due to ill-health.

* * * * *

Exercise daily – walk with the Lord.

The wages of sin are death. Repent before pay day.

God doesn't look at our imperfections, only our potential.

God is at his best when I am not.

A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.



Sales of these knitted covered Chocolate Oranges have so far raised about £90!

OUTREACH CAKE MINISTRY (or the Cake Fairies!)

What have we been doing for the past year?

Delivering meals and cakes to the Fulwood Methodist Church Family.

When the first Covid 19 lockdown began we all wondered just how long it would last. For a few weeks we hoped that the pandemic would soon be over, and we would be back to church in no time. We would be able to carry on with all our normal outreach activities such as Tuesday coffee morning, Welcome Wednesday and the Farmers' Market. These were all activities which had thrived over the ten years since our redevelopment and were aided by the provision of our much-improved kitchen facilities.

By the end of April 2020 it became clear that it would be a long time before things got back to anything which resembled normal and we would not be able to use the kitchen for many months. We began to think about what we should be doing with all food in the freezers and cupboards which would soon reach their use-by dates.

Sue Penrith and I went into church to see just what food we had left and decide the best way to use it. An idea developed and over the next three weeks we prepared 30 three course-meals and delivered them in a take-away form to people from the congregation who were living alone or struggling with the restrictions that had been put in place.

These meals were very well received, and we enjoyed delivering and having doorstep conversations with everyone. This then set us thinking on how we could continue this doorstep ministry to extend to other members of our church. A plan was hatched and a team of bakers were enrolled with a simple request to bake a cake, traybake or biscuits of their choice which could be divided into 12 portions. Three bakers each week deliver their cakes for me to put together 6 plates of delicious, freshly baked, homemade cakes safely packed in catering packs, then Sue and I or other helpers deliver these to 6 different homes each week.

We have been pleasantly surprised by the number of times we have arrived at just the 'right moment' be it a birthday, an illness or bereavement. We have tried to widen the deliveries to all the church family and not only those who live alone as we recognise that everyone is struggling in their own way at this time.



Christmas Tray

The week before Christmas we asked each of our bakers to make their contribution and we had enough to deliver two large trays of cakes each to the Fire Service, Police and Ambulance Service, and also to Ribbleton Avenue Junior School. These were much appreciated and they were humbled to know that we were remembering them.

At Christmas we decided to canvas people on our pastoral list who live alone to ask if they would be spending Christmas Day on their own. On Christmas Eve Wendy Bennett joined us to prepare 10 trays of Christmas lunches and a few extra festive treats for some of our folk who were on their own on Christmas Day. These were delivered by different volunteers.

Since we started what has been christened our 'Cake Ministry' we have made well over 200 deliveries to our church families, both old and young. We have 22 bakers and around six people willing to deliver. Our volunteers have doubled over the months and we are very grateful for all their time and efforts. Especial thanks must go to Emma who as well as trying to study hard at home for her GCSEs has done several sessions of baking for weeks at a time. She tells me it is


therapeutic and I believe that all our bakers have found joy in the knowledge they are helping to brighten the day for our church family friends. I want to give a big thank-you to everyone who has helped out in any way, it has been a worthwhile effort from you all.

We will continue with our ministry until we can all meet together as a full church family, whenever that will be. If you have not yet received a surprise visit from our 'Cake Fairies', be assured we will try to get round to as many as possible in the coming weeks and months.



Weekly delivery

Margaret Squire
(Church Outreach Co-ordinator)



♦ All dogs walked daily
♦ Heated kennels & cattery
♦ Dog grooming available
♦ Small animals & birds accommodated

Jennifer Holland

Londonderry Cottage, Cow Hill,
Haughton, Preston, PR2 5SH

Tel: 01772 701336
Mob: 07958 262133
www.cowhillkennels.com
jenniferholland99@btinternet.com

MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

Since lockdown we haven't been able to take fresh flowers out to members of our congregation and community because there haven't been any flowers in church. For the few weeks we were open, Jan Astley and I did three arrangements using the silk flowers we had in store, so they could be used in rotation both in church and in the porch.

In December I did a little arrangement as a birthday gift for Barbara Hothersall, and thought I'd do a few more with the spare flowers and give them to neighbours and some of the older ladies at Sandybrook House where my dad Cyril lives. I used small spice jars or jam jars, which were all cleansed with disinfectant wipes after I'd sanitised my hands before starting. I said they were an everlasting gift for the year. They were to return the container and I would refill them with seasonal flowers every month or so. I ended up doing six.



Christmas arrangements.

In February I refilled them with spring flowers and added in three more recipients.



Early spring arrangements

This month there are two more to add in. I've ordered the flowers from Hanna at 'Another Bouquet' and they will be done and delivered at the end of the week. Everyone has been delighted with these little gifts which show we care.

I'm not a great baker, but I can do other creative things to make life a little brighter for people who are feeling isolated in these strange times.

It has certainly had a positive effect on me too as, during the first lockdown, I lost interest in doing anything creative, possibly because we had almost 'too much' time. Who knows how these circumstances have affected us? Hopefully I've turned a corner now.

Veronica Frost

MESSY CHURCH

Just before lock-down in March last year we decided to take Messy Church on Zoom as we felt that our forth-coming meeting wasn't going to be very safe. Since then we have met each half-term as usual, learning as we go! We did miss our Messy Nativity, but quite a few members took part in the Zoom Nativity drama and our Good Friday Messy Church didn't happen – we were very new at the game then! Hopefully we will have something for this Easter.



It has been quite a learning curve adapting to communication on the computer, we have missed eating together, but enjoyed the fellowship that we have shared. This year we have been focusing on the “I am” sayings of Jesus and our last meeting in January was “I am the Bread of life”, so it was all things bread! We made flat bread, jam sandwiches with a cross on, a pop-up toaster with a text on and had some discussion about types of bread and its world-wide appearance in people's diet. It is difficult to make sure that we don't make it a repeat of home-schooling, so we do try to include some action. Darren introduced us to some actions, the first letter of which spelt BREAD, Bounce, Run, Elastic, Aeroplane and Dance. We had actions to do for each of these which meant everyone getting up and doing! In conclusion to our session Jane turned those actions into themes for prayer and I would like to share these with you so that as you eat your toast or sandwich you can think of things to pray for. So....

- B** Bounce with thanks for all that God has given you
- R** Run with Jesus each day
- E** Elastic, help to stretch God's love to all people
- A** Aeroplane – even those in far off places
- D** Dance for joy in praise of God.

You don't have to do the actions! But we would love you to remember ‘Messy Church’ in your prayers and encourage any families that you think might enjoy our time together to [contact me](#). You could also think up some actions or prayers based on MESSY CHURCH!

Delma Whitman

* * * * *

When the teacher asked the class, “What does this century owe Edison?” A small hand went up and a child answered, “Miss, without Edison we would all be watching television by candlelight.”



THE PASTORAL SYSTEM AT FULWOOD

I would like to start with acknowledging all the hard work people do at Fulwood in caring for people inside and outside of the Church community. Pastoral visitors do a magnificent job.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have noticed a few things

- That there are many groups that care for people
- That these groups are a good natural way of enabling the care of a pastoral community.
- Pastoral care works best when we have a mutual responsibility for each other.
- That it is easy, if care is the responsibility of a few individuals, to leave people out. (We do not have enough pastoral visitors)
- We operate a system that no longer meets the needs of people who communicate in all sorts of ways.

We suggest to Church Council that we begin to develop pastoral groups

Everyone would be allocated to a group small group (eg. 6) where they would have a responsibility to keep in touch with the rest of the group.

Each group would have a key person who would encourage people to do that.

All Church members i.e. those who are confirmed and received into church membership would be allocated to a group as part of their commitment to membership of the Methodist Church. Members of the community roll would be asked if they wanted to be part of the system.

The groups would not be for delivery of magazines etc. but on occasion could be used for means of communication.

Also, we would have feeder groups for new people who came to church.

A system of this nature is aimed at enhancing the strong pastoral community at Fulwood Methodist church and filling any gaps.

To set this up

Current pastoral visitors would be consulted as to what role they would like and, if they wished to be a key person, whether they would like to keep any of their current pastoral list in the group to which they were attached.

As we begin, we need to do some work on the contact details we hold, particularly email, and consult with people as to how they would like to be contacted.

Members of the groups would be encouraged to contact the Pastoral team if someone faced a situation where extra pastoral support was needed.

Contact [Sue Penrith](#) for details

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

In life the rear view mirror is always clearer than the windscreen.

Do what you can, for whom you can, with what you have and where you are.

Every minute you're angry with someone, you lose 60 seconds of happiness that you can never get back.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS – THANK YOU LETTERS

The gifts given by our congregation at the Toy Service in December are shared out to various charities. One of these was The Good Goddess Project run by my daughter Helen and her friend Luna, who have connections with the women's Refuges both in Preston and other towns in Lancashire. You may know them through seeing the pink bucket for donations of sanitary items and chocolates in church during recent years. Well here are two "Thank You" letters from both organisations. Some members of the Fulwood Knitwits also made items as gifts (see the photo)



Dear Friends at Fulwood Methodist Church,

The Good Goddess Project would like to thank you all for your generosity in supporting women in need, through giving to our project. It is always so touching to receive your donations.

At Christmas we like to give a gift to each woman who is in a refuge, in Preston. The refuge told us they receive lots of gifts for the children but the women don't get so much. Well this year we had a phenomenal response and ended up with over 100 gifts!

Together We are the Change! And together we are able to bring some comfort and love in lives where there has been none. Thanks for your ongoing support.

Love from

Helen Frost

and all at The Good Goddess Team

The following letter was received by Helen and the Good Goddess team from the group running the refuges.

Dear Friends of Fulwood Methodist Church,

On behalf of SafeNet Preston, I am writing to thank you for your recent generous donation to our refuge. Your donation is very important to us and is given directly to the women and children living at our Preston refuge.

Your support and generosity were instrumental in helping us create a Christmas every child deserves. The selection boxes you kindly donated helped us create Christmas Eve boxes for the each and every woman and child in our refuge, adding to the magic of Christmas!

For many that walk through our doors, this was their first Christmas where they felt safe. On behalf of the staff, we would like to thank you so much for your support and helping us make over 25 women and 32 children's Christmas special.

Numerous women and children arrive at the refuge with very little or no belongings and therefore have to start afresh.

Your donation is greatly

appreciated and contributes

towards this process. The presents you generously donated were wrapped by our staff elves and put under each family's Christmas tree. Thank you for contributing towards making this year an amazing one to remember for 25 families.

It has been a tumultuous year for us all and we thank you so much for your patience and generosity. We feel very lucky that you thought of our refuge, organised, personally collected and donated at such an unprecedented time.

Thank you once again to everyone involved that kindly donated, helping us make their 2020 Christmas extra special.

Yours Faithfully,

Samarah and the team at SafeNet Preston.



* * * * *

Harsh words break no bones but they do break hearts.

Don't look down on people unless you're helping them up.

God wants spiritual fruits, not religious nuts.

EASTER

During the last few months, it has been so easy for many of us to feel dwarfed by the events going on around us. The ways in which so many people normally make a contribution to society have been curtailed or even reduced to ashes. Recently two poems have been brought to the editor's attention and they may throw some light on our feelings.

Both have a special relevance at Easter because they are centred upon that unassuming creature – the donkey. Even when we feel least effective, we have our roles to play supporting the Jesus story. In our memories or even now 'we also have our hour'.

These poems have been suggested by Barbara Hothersall and Janet Wales. Having read them, you may wish to read again about the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem at the feast of the Passover.

THE DONKEY

By G. K. Chesterton

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings
The devil's walking parody
Of all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth
Of ancient crooked will:
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears
And palms before my feet.



Source: *The Collected poems of G. K. Chesterton*
(Dodd Mead & Company 1927)

THE DONKEY'S OWNER

Snaffled my donkey, he did – good luck to him! –
Rode him astride, feet dangling, near scraping the ground,
Gave me the laugh of my life when I first see them,
Remembering yesterday – you know, How Pilate come
Bouncing along the same road, only that horse of his
Big as a bloody horse and armour shining
And half Rome trotting behind. Tight – mouthed he was
Looking he owned the world.

Then today,
Him and my little donkey! Ha – laugh? –
I thought I'd kill myself when he first started.
So did the rest of them. Gave him a cheer
Like he was Caesar himself, only more hearty:
Tore off some palm – twigs and followed shouting,
Whacking the donkey's behind....Then suddenly
We see his face.



The smile had gone, and somehow the way he sat
Was different – like he was much older – you know –
Didn't want to laugh no more.

Clive Sansom (1910 - 1981)
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A Methodist Way of Life

A Methodist Way of Life encourages us to grow together.
Make time to discuss these questions regularly with others.

Worship

- What is the pattern of your prayer life?
- How easy or hard do you find it to pray?
- What has spoken to you recently in worship or in the Bible?
- When, lately, have you felt close to God or distant from God?

Learning and Caring

- How have you practised generosity since we last met?
- How have you shown hospitality to others recently?
- How are you caring for yourself?
- How and what are you learning now?

Service

- How are you seeking to serve others in your communities and beyond? What has helped or hindered you in your service of others?
- How are you caring for God's creation?
- How are you using God's gifts (including your financial resources)?
- What issues of injustice are you currently concerned about? What are you doing in response?

Evangelism

- When was the last time you were able to talk about God?
- What opportunities to share your faith have there been since we last met?
- How have you responded to opportunities to share your faith?
- Is there anyone you might invite to consider Christian faith?

How can we support each other in our Way of Life commitments?

A Methodist Way of Life

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

As far as we are able, with God's help:

Worship

- We will pray daily.
- We will worship with others regularly.
- We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

Learning and Caring

- We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- We will learn more about our faith.
- We will practise hospitality and generosity.

Service

- We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- We will challenge injustice.

Evangelism

- We will speak of the love of God.
- We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- We will share our faith with others.

**May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church,
for the transformation of the world.**

PROGRESS

In the [*previous edition*](#) of this magazine, I shared some thoughts about a subject which has long interested me:- is the world making ‘progress’? What a time it has been, and still is, to think about that question. We use the word ‘progress’ very widely – we talk about ‘progressive politicians’, our children ‘make progress’ at school or with a hobby or interest and when we ask about someone recovering from an illness we hope to hear that they too are ‘making progress’. But that is at the individual level, what about the world itself? Is it making progress and what would it mean if it were?

Well, certainly, I have watched with admiration and much gratitude, the progress made by scientists and others in developing new vaccines and new medications against the virus. I for one have had much to be thankful for in the progress made by dentists! But, frankly, I have come to think over the last few months that the question I am asking is the wrong question. I see no progress in terms of war, poverty or injustice, nor in terms of the ability of the human race to live in peace and harmony or with nature and none with regard to natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis and, even, pestilence.

A recent long discussion on one of the websites used by some members of the Methodist Church across the country, drew a very sharp distinction between the progress the human race has made in terms of what had been discovered and understood (good progress) and the nature of the human race itself (no progress).

Similarly when we look at history and the way in which the nations organise themselves to live more sensibly within and between themselves we could possibly identify progress. So at the levels of knowledge, social function and artistry many do indeed ‘stand on the shoulders of giants’ - (a phrase used by Isaac Newton many years ago) - advancing (or progressing) their field of interest or expertise. But none of us have been able to progress our basic human nature simply because others before us have done so. That is my position too.



Isaac Newton

During my working life I met many people who in their own way were ‘making a difference’- pushing the boundaries of progress. Some were doing so through using their acute intelligence to analyse the situations they faced, exercising deep imagination in envisaging potential outcomes of alternative actions and, simply, having the courage to move the world forward. Meanwhile I witnessed others who showed patience, depths of care and compassion almost beyond comprehension, whilst yet more were inspiring others to reach new heights in sports, arts and many other human endeavours. Jesus in general terms spoke of those making contributions according to their gifts, resources and situations, not in terms of the comparative size of their contribution, but rather in terms of the cost to themselves. They were the ones

who made a difference by overcoming fear, selfishness, rivalry and prejudice to make the world a better place.

During the past twelve months it is these people, who are making a difference, who have enabled our world to progress. We all know someone or many who have performed that service. Within our own community in north Preston, we all know folk who have worked in 'front line' occupations, often at great cost to themselves, and we know just a few of those who have chosen to do new and different things to help their neighbours to cope and to survive. We owe them all a debt of gratitude far beyond that we can repay. Even in our own Church community much has been given to fulfil our desire to act collectively to worship God and to serve others.

So, where does this leave me in my search to understand 'progress'? It takes me to reflecting further that our world depends on those who 'make a difference'. What is that difference, the difference which is crucial? In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul wrote about the ultimate human qualities, the ones on which we all depend in the end. They are not wealth, learning, technical ability or charisma, they are not even common sense: they are, as the first English translations had it 'faith, hope and charity'. Nowadays we tend to use the word 'love' for the final one of these, which Paul says is the most important. Our ability to do more in this way comes not from our ability to 'stand on the shoulders of giants'. Each woman and man has to learn this, from scratch, for themselves. We all have that journey to make.

I am a firm defender of the rights of others to religious beliefs and practices which carry meaning for them, but for me it is Jesus of Nazareth who best exemplifies this quality in practice. For me it is the person known as Jesus of Nazareth who has made the biggest difference of all and, just as the early Church came to recognise Him, it is Jesus Christ who can make the biggest difference in our personal lives and enable us to display that love which the world so deeply needs.

Long ago, long before Jesus lived his life on earth, the prophet Micah spoke clearly about this. In a translation in contemporary language he speaks as follows

*But He's already made it plain how to live, what to do
What God is looking for in men and women.
It's quite simple:
Do what is fair and just to your neighbour,
Be compassionate and loyal in your love.
And don't take yourself too seriously -
Take God seriously.*

*don't take
yourself too
seriously*

The Message - Micah 6:8

Eastertide is a good time to reflect on all this and to ask questions about our own willingness to be changed and to make a difference. That is how we and the world will make progress.

Ken Wales

COMMUNITY CHOIR

Our inability to meet and sing pales into insignificance when we consider the health effects on people throughout the UK in particular and the world at large. However, we need to stay as positive as we can and wait with bated breath and voices for the opportunity to meet up once again. They reckon that singing is a great help in overcoming sadness and depression and with this in mind we would welcome everyone to join us when we are able to get back.



There is no need to be a good singer, just have an enthusiasm to join in and enjoy the amazing camaraderie and fun we share. We sing a variety of songs from as far back as the 50's and also from the Musicals as varied as South Pacific to Mamma Mia.

Watch out for details in the notices about our return or if you wish we can e-mail you nearer the time. Contact - [Dave](#).

Dave Topping

* * * * *

THE JOY OF LOCKDOWN!



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Pam & Graham Johnson

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RIBBLETON AVENUE METHODIST JUNIOR SCHOOL

Over 100 years ago, the Methodist people in Preston founded a Methodist School in east Preston. This School still continues, indeed thrives, providing a splendid Key Stage 2 education for some 260 pupils. It is situated close to the Morrison's store and shares a site with a non-denominational Infant School. The two schools are working ever more closely together to offer a continuity of provision for many families.

In future issues of the magazine I will try to provide more news from the school. The Circuit and people from several Preston Methodist churches support the school in a variety of ways and there are always some interesting pieces of news and developments which are worthy of support.

As a starter, I am delighted to reproduce in this report two pieces of writing by pupils at the school which have caught my eye. Both were written towards the end of 2020 when the school was still in session and are topical. I actually had a very difficult task choosing just two. Writing and poetry by Ahmed (age 10), Logan, Sammi, Hanna (10), Zohaib, Warisha (11), Adam P (11), Gurdas (11), Uishah (10), Vritika (10), and Haniya (10) have especially taken my eye and I am going to print below just two for your enjoyment. Both are, not surprisingly, enabling the children to express their feelings about their lives during the COVID epidemic.

INVISIBLE KILLER

**Corona virus, oh what a killer,
It's like a movie, a horror or thriller,
It's funny to think we we're living real life history.
A labyrinth, a maze or a mystery.**

**Oh what a killer, a life-threatening disease,
NHS workers being strong but still not at ease,
They work lots of hours till the break of dawn,
Loads of worries and strife but don't let out a single yawn.**

**Now when we can see each other and give them help,
Going to our favourite restaurants and rating them on Yelp,
Even though it's not over, who are we to blame?
Will it ever be normal, will things be the same?**

by *Gurdas*

LOCKDOWN LIFE

**Lockdown life has been quite weird
In the period my dad has grown a beard,
I couldn't see my friends, my school was shut We
were eager to get out and worried quite a lot. I
kept annoying my brother
We were all so fed up with each other.**

**As time went on I got used to this new way,
From lessons on-line to checking 'Seesaw' every day,
People were dying
There was a lot of crying.**

**Now these were hard times,
It was like one big crime.
The NHS did all they could To
get rid of this horrible bug.
This year has brought challenge and strife
But now I'm grateful for my life.**

by *Hanna*

Poems such as these are not just educational exercises. They offer skilled educators so much material to discuss with their pupils – they reveal hopes and fears, hopes and challenges. In the last year the mental health and resilience of the whole school community, pupils and staff, has become an ever greater priority for the school. Already there is much that builds a healthy community and in future articles I hope to show what these are and how you, the church and the circuit, can help even more. For now, your prayers will be very welcome.

Ken Wales

P.S. 'Seesaw' is a learning website.



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References available

DOROTHY SMITH

As many of you will already know, Dorothy died on 12th January in the Royal Preston Hospital. Kathy, David and I received a great many letters, cards, 'phone calls and bunches of flowers – which all helped us through a tough time, and the home-cooked food has been especially welcome!

Many of your memories of Dorothy mentioned her cheerfulness and her smile. The Thanksgiving Service held at Church (and which a number of you 'Zoomed' into) included a selection of photographs to which I added a commentary. One of the events featured was our wedding and it has been suggested to me that the hilarious sequence of events which unfolded on that day deserved a wider audience, so here it is:-



“Saturday 11th August, 1962 was an eventful day, because I clearly remember my new wife promising to obey me, but I guess it quickly became a moot point thereafter.

That morning a friend and I had gone on an errand. We were delayed and were late back: so late in fact that my mother feared that I had changed my mind about getting married and had run off!

In spite of it being August the weather was more like November. It was cold, it was windy and it was wet. Len & Mavis Fletcher – both here today – were married on the corresponding Saturday the following year and met with similar conditions. Our joint advice is: be very cautious if you ever have ideas of planning anything of importance for the second Saturday in August!

Most of the photographs had to be taken indoors, so bad were the conditions.

My cousin Margaret's five year old twins, Ann and Patricia, had been so excited at the prospect of being bridesmaids that they'd cut each other's hair in preparation for the big event and they had to be hauled off to the hairdresser's to see if she could improve matters at all.

Following the reception and meal Dorothy and I had been taken to Croston to see my Great Aunt Alice, who hadn't felt up to attending the wedding. When we arrived back in Preston, Dorothy found she'd left her handbag at Croston and there was absolute panic!! Tickets for the train, tickets for the ferry from Liverpool to Dublin and the address of where we were going to be staying were all in there.

Our Dads drove off to Croston to retrieve the handbag, with the strict instruction that if they didn't think they could make it back to Preston in time they

were to stand on Croston station and pass the handbag over when the train stopped there.

Well, we made it to Liverpool and to the ferry OK, but ‘The Fates’ hadn’t finished with us just yet. We found that the lock on the cabin door wouldn’t work properly. Never mind, we thought, we would pile the cases against the door. Later a passing drunk fell heavily against the door and landed in a crumpled heap at our feet!

Life was further enlivened by my new wife announcing, with all the nautical confidence of someone with Cooks on one side of her family and Nelsons on the other, that the ship had run aground. Sure enough, the note of the engines was surging and falling, surging and falling. We must be on a sandbank and struggling to get off. Actually we were calling at Holyhead before going on to Dublin and the ship was simply manoeuvring into the dock”.

I have to tell you that this set the pattern for almost fifty eight and a half years of fun and laughter; certainly our life together was never dull.

Many thanks to all who made donations in memory of Dorothy. A total of £680 has gone to the ‘Hearts of Gold’ charity at the Cardiac Centre, Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Roy Smith



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MARGARET BOLTON 1937-2021

Margaret was born on 1st January 1937 to William and Rachel Beavers in South Yorkshire. She flourished in a good and kindly home environment, doing well at school, eventually fulfilling her dream to teach physical education and German. Margaret trained at Nonington PE College and took her first post at Barnsley Girl's High School. She loved it and was sad to leave in 1960.



Margaret first met John in 1954. It was at a dance and the time came for the ladies to choose a partner for the quick step. She had a crush on a boy called Chris. She moved over and then chickened out. She asked John instead and from that moment a relationship was born. The courtship went on for 6 years before they tied the knot in 1960.

Margaret was an interesting and talented lady with enormous physical and emotional energy. She played the piano, reaching grade 8; she played lacrosse, hockey, tennis and netball. She skied and reached an extremely high level in athletics. Margaret ran and trained alongside and competed against Dorothy Hyman, who took the 100 metres silver medal at the Rome Olympics.

In 1967 Margaret after a great deal of thought decided it was time to make serious and public commitment to the Christian faith. This was so important to Margaret and it proved to be the starting point and guideline as to how she would conduct herself for the rest of her life. At college she was selected for a trial with the England hockey team but decided not to attend the trial because it was on a Sunday. It was a painful decision, but she was praised for taking such a brave decision. Over many years she grew in her faith and today she may have taken a different decision.

During 60 years of a happy and successful marriage John and Margaret moved between Germany, England, Wales and Northern Ireland; moving 19 times.

Margaret taught in 16 different schools. This was because John moved around by the army and the NHS. She loved the moves because it meant new places in UK and abroad, as well as having new neighbours and additional friends.

Much can be said of this truly lovely lady, but we save the best for now: Margaret gave birth to two super daughters, Wendy in 1961 and Nikki in 1969. They proved to be wonderful gifts to John and Margaret, and they grew and developed into loving and successful daughters, with fabulous careers in the caring business.

In time the family grew with the happy arrival of Henry, now 21, and Finley now 18. Margaret was so happy in their company and supported them in so many practical and emotional ways. Two years ago, Nikki married Neil. (comment from Mum "he is Dishy Nikki"- when you have finished with him, let me know and I will take over.)

Five years ago, Margaret was diagnosed as having Alzheimer's disease. It advanced over the years and she became a resident in the Heather Grange Care Home, Burnley on 10th October, where she received such loving and Christian care until she died peacefully on 10th December 2020.

A (SHORT!!) FARRAGO

- It has been announced that the Diocese of Blackburn has decided to cease publication of 'The See' due to increasing publication costs and diminishing uptake. That's a pity because there were always interesting snippets of information to be found. ('The See' was a separate publication usually incorporated into the magazines of local Anglican churches.)
- We've been contacted by someone researching the history of his own church in the London suburbs, asking about the availability of older issues of The Fulwood Methodist. Apparently he looked up Fulwood, Sheffield, from where he had some parish magazines, and his computer then put him onto Fulwood, Preston. The magic of modern technology!!
- Did you see our neighbouring St. Cuthbert's church on BBC1 on 21st February?

* * * * *

QUESTIONS THAT PUZZLE

- Why do we press harder and harder on the remote control when the batteries are going dead?
- Why does someone believe you when you say that there are 4 billion stars in the sky but check when you say that the paint is wet?
- Why do people say that they 'slept like a baby' as babies wake approximately every 2 hours?
- How was it that we managed to put a man on the moon before we found out that it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- If corn oil is made from corn and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?!
- Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?
- Why do banks charge a fee due to insufficient funds when they already know you're broke?
- Do you ever wonder why the word funeral starts with FUN?
- If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
- If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
- Why do we put cups in a dishwasher and put the dishes in a cupboard?
- Why is it that, no matter what colour bubble-bath you use, the bubbles are always white?
- How do those dead bugs get into the enclosed light fixtures?
- Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?



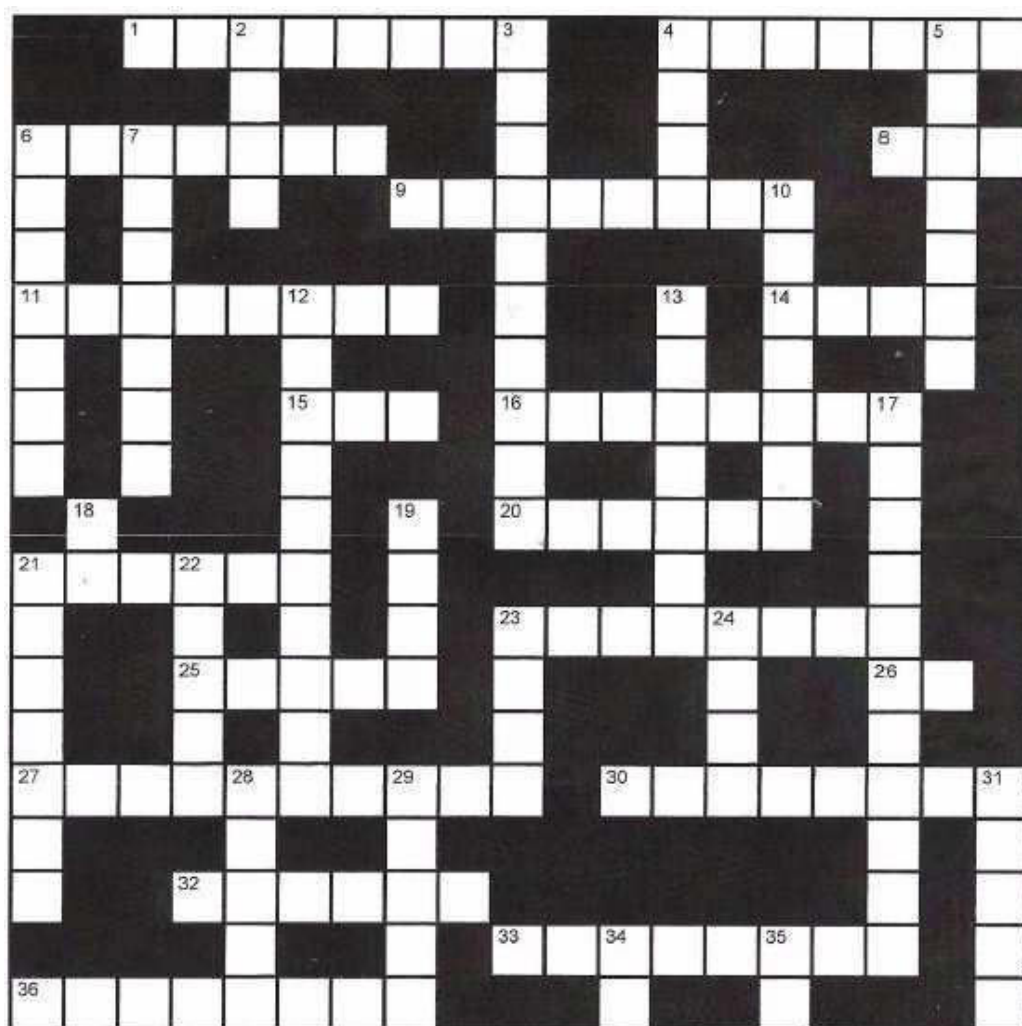
LOCKDOWN CROSSWORD

Thanks to those who have suggested words for insertion into this grid. The theme of the puzzle is '**Return to Church**' although we are still not sure when that will be. Not all the suggestions could be included this time. There will be another puzzle soon, perhaps, if this one is enjoyed. A Mr BC of Fulwood suggested '**Quinquagesima**' but this proved to be beyond the capacity of a novice crossword setter.

The clues are a mixture of straight and semi-cryptic. The aim is to anticipate and to have fun - it is not a competition. No prizes, but a big tin of chocolates will be open on of our first Sunday(s) back for everyone to enjoy. Solutions on display eventually - if I can remember them!

Comments, suggestions and encouragement would be welcome.

Ken Wales



ACROSS

- 1 Worn by certain youth organisations but they really aren't all the same. (8)
- 4 It will be good to say this to newcomers in person. (7)
- 6 This year, prayers are to be attached to them and placed on the Easter cross. (7)
- 8 A temporary refuge built by Noah's family (3)
- 9 Friday morning chaos - but fun. (8)
- 11 In our own ways we can all be involved in this essential church activity when we touch the lives of others. (8)

- 14 Most hope the morning service is over by then! (4)
- 15 Sounds like what the golfer uses, but it is more refreshing. (3)
- 16 Many regard this as a lifelong pursuit, not just one at school. (8)
- 20 Leads to lovely smells from the kitchen. Are they scones? (6)
- 21 An alternative to tea or a cold drink. (6)
- 23 Gales of? It will be great to hear it again in the Willow Grove. (8)
- 25 Liver? Kidney? Brain? None of those, but it makes a great sound. (5)
- 26 When the men's group meets. (2)
- 27 Where we meet to celebrate Holy Communion. (5,5)
- 30 Not too many of these! Watch your waistline. (8)
- 32 This we can offer at home or anywhere. But it is an essential part of our worship together. (6)
- 33 Screens for us to see what is going on. Not to watch us to make sure we behave. (8)
- 36 Is she? No, our minister stays very calm. (4,4)

DOWN

- 2 A religious symbol but more frequently seen in an Orthodox Church. (4)
- 3 The place for children and young people for part of most Sunday mornings.
All welcome! (6,4)
- 4 One of the elements freely given at 27 across. (4)
- 5 No, Mr Burt. One cannot be served in celebration on the premises. (7)
- 6 the Lord is King. A traditional 19 down. (7)
- 7 I wonder whether the first one after we return will be of a boy or girl. (7)
- 10 Not in the rain. Unless the roof needs repairing. (7)
- 12 When the ladies meet. (5,5)
- 13 No, not the tennis shot! There are so many ways for doing this. And so many people to be helped. (7)
- 17 They have met in church before us and will meet there long after us,
we trust. (11)
- 18 Clouds descending? The first word of this seasonal hymn. (2)
- 19 When said, male. But both men and women can sing it. (4)
- 21 A bit High Church? No, their lovely warm glow aids our worship in symbol,
light and smell. (7)
- 22 When the 8 across came in useful. Let's us hope we don't have one or we
might be singing in the rain. (5)
- 23 Not another poor tennis clue! No, Paul said it was 'the greatest'. (4)
- 24 Many of us have missed these. For many it will be touching to receive them
again and good to give them to those want them. (4)
- 28 Has Blackburn's ex-MP made an appearance for the nativity play. (5)
- 29 The other element available at 27 across. (5)
- 31 It will be upbeat to hear these again from the Worship Band. (5)
- 34 Short for the second part of the Bible.... (2)
- 35 and for the first. (2)

BOOK CLUB

Members of the Book Club seem to have taken advantage of the present restrictions on what we can do by curling up with a good book! Maybe you have done the same.

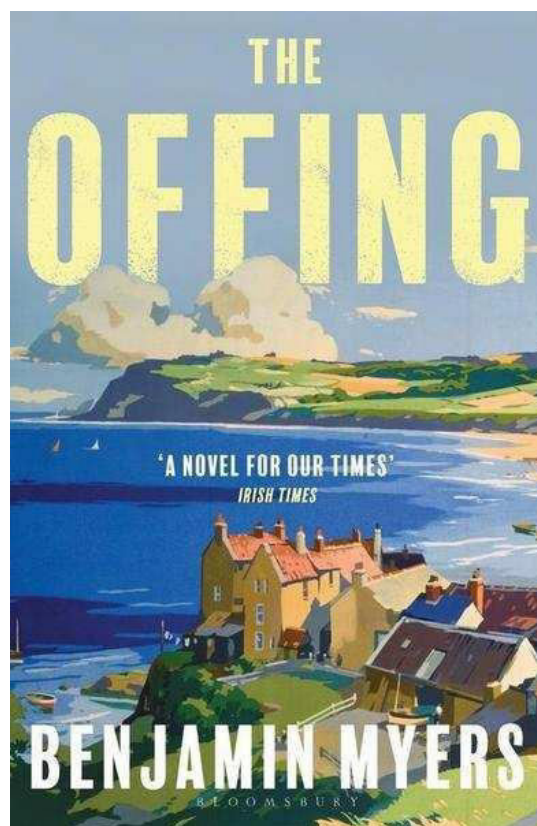
Certainly, that has helped our discussions on the two or three occasions we have met, virtually, over the winter. A really good turn out of people each time and some excellent discussion – sometimes serious, often with more than a touch of humour. Just as in normal times when we meet together with tea, coffee and cakes so the shots on our screens show most of us with cups, cafetieres or, in some unnamed cases, glasses containing who knows what!

At our meeting in mid-January (on that horrible wet Tuesday) we swapped information about what we were reading and about the books we had given and received as Christmas gifts. As a result each now has a list of recommendations for books we might wish to read and, it has to be said, some we will avoid like the.....(better not said).

Our main efforts though were given to discussing a book called *'The Offing'* by Benjamin Myers, a youngish (compared to some of us) north-country writer who has written a variety of books, usually set in our part of the world. *'The Offing'* tells the story of Robert Appleyard who, after finishing school immediately after the second world war and leaves his home in Durham to wander the north east coast, before he returns to a job in the coal pit office. It is only towards the end of the book that we realise the story of that time is been told by Robert as he nears the end of his life. The story then is perhaps warped (as all our stories are) by his fading and sometimes mistaken memories but it reveals how critical a time those few weeks were to be in shaping the rest of his life.

The majority of the novel is set in an area of the Yorkshire coast which several members of the group know well. It is set in that most wonderful bay with Robin Hood's Bay to the north and Ravenscar to the south. On nearly every page we were reminded of the beauty to be found there. If you don't know that area, do consider a visit when we are able to travel again.

Living rough, doing odd jobs on the way for food and comfort, Robert comes upon an old farm overlooking the bay. Here he meets the sole resident, Dulcie Piper and her German shepherd dog, Butler or Butters for short (yes, really). Dulcie



proves to be the character who brings change to many new horizons – The Offing is the name of the point where the sea nears the sky, literally and metaphorically. But the remarkable thing is, as in so many deep relationships, what Dulcie gave to Robert in terms of enriching his life was matched by way Dulcie grew as a result of discoveries made by Robert.

I shall not unfold the story any more in the event that you are tempted to read the book. Remarkably, a shaft of pure history is revealed pointing to someone whose own artistic work was of a very high standard. Spoilers are not good form so I will not say more but I must also add that a couple of our members felt the book would have benefited from greater narrative drive. But not me. In fact, I think it is one of the finest books I have read in recent years.

Not only was it a deeply insightful and sensitive book in my eyes, it also reminded me (and others in the group) how we had met our ‘Dulcie’ at a formative period of our own lives. Just like Robert, in the latter part of our lives, we look back thankfully. Not everyone has this experience, but those who do are grateful and I think this added to our pleasure in reading this book.

Ken Wales



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Stuart Black

A COUPLE OF STORIES

Sent to Mavis Fletcher from friends

1 An Englishman moved to a small Welsh village and decided it would be important to immerse himself in the community.

The first place he went to was the rugby club, hoping to buy a season ticket and become a social member. The steward handed him a form to fill in. After a while he took the form back and said: "I don't understand this last question."

"Oh," said the steward. "What's the problem?"

"Well it asks me to list the shellfish I have."

"Yes sir. It's a condition of membership that you tell us about your shellfish."

"But I haven't got any," protested the new resident.

"Then I'm afraid you can't join the club," said the steward, grabbing back the application form.

Bemused, the man left and decided to try the workingmen's club instead. He got the same question there.

The Amateur Dramatics Society was the same. So was the Bingo hall and even the angling society.

In the end he thought: "I know there are a number of religious people in Wales. I'll try the chapel."

He knocked on the minister's door and explained his dilemma. The preacher sighed and said: "I sympathise, but it's a requirement for any organisation here."

At this point the newcomer exploded in anger. "What on earth has this got to do with being part of the community? It's ridiculous!"

The minister looked at him and said: "Haven't you heard. We keep a welk home in the hillsides."



* * * * *

2 An elderly man living alone in Milton Keynes wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, since the ground was hard. His only son, Paul, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Paul,

I am feeling pretty sad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if

you were here my troubles would be over.. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days.

Love, Dad

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Dad,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.

Love,

Paul.



At 4.00a.m. the next morning, CID officers and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologised to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Dad,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

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

Please remember - rooms are available for whenever we reopen!

OLD AGE IS GOLDEN

Old age is golden, or so I've heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder, as I crawl into bed,
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My glasses on the table until I get up.
As sleep dims my vision, I say to myself:
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?
The reason I know my youth is all spent
Is my get-up-and-go has got up and went!
But, in spite of it all, I'm able to grin
And think of the places my get-up has been.



* * * * *

TRADITIONAL JEWISH PENTECOST HYMN

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
Were every blade of grass a quill,
Were the world of parchment made,
And every man a scribe by trade?
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor would the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

* * * * *

CONCERNING SELF KNOWLEDGE

Do not lament the smallness of your capacities. Such complaints come either of laziness or of affectation or of ambition. God only requires of you what He knows you can do in co-operation with Him.

You are strong enough for what you are set to do, if not for what you would like to be.

We fail less often in knowledge than in humility, and more often in determination than in strength.

Blackburn Cathedral Chapter Principles

* * * * *

The Gospels do not explain the Resurrection: the Resurrection explains the Gospels.

God makes a promise: Faith believes it, Hope anticipates it and Patience quietly waits for it.

AN EASTER PASSION

A short story for Easter by Barry Crossley

Peter, who had recently moved into the village of Great Frizington, was keen to introduce a Passion Play to the village. Every time he brought the subject up, he was met by a deathly silence. Everyone was reluctant to discuss it. Peter wondered why. A local farmer admitted that the villagers used to perform the event every five years. People came from far and wide to see the performance. However the last time it was performed was forty years ago. Peter was anxious to find out why no one would talk about it, or why it ended so abruptly.

Peter decided to visit the record office to find out more. He noticed on the wall was a photograph taken in 1979, the last time it was performed. It showed local school children and many villagers dressed in colourful costumes and walking behind a donkey carrying a man dressed in white robes. Peter asked if there were any newspaper accounts of the final passion play of 1979. Judy the records librarian pointed to an empty table, while she brought the relevant newspaper ledger to him. As he studied the report of the Easter event, it became clear why the play was discontinued.



The Passion Play

The following week, Peter decided to see if there was any interest in reviving the event, as many of the inhabitants were new to the area over the past forty years. He visited the local school. The head, who was new to the village, was interested. Peter also needed the villagers to be interested in taking part. Farmer Briggs, who had a milk round, agreed to talk to his customers about it. The school, villagers and the vicar were interested in taking part. The scripts were copied from an original that still existed, so rehearsals could now commence. Some of the costumes were in the possession of the drama group, and others could be made. Farmer Briggs offered the use of his donkey.

Some men of the village agreed to be Roman soldiers, and other inhabitants played the crowds. Mary Magdalen was chosen from the drama group, whilst Joe the local carpenter would play Jesus. The blacksmith agreed to be the narrator because of his loud voice.

The day of the performance arrived. Everyone was excited that the event had been revived. The performance was a great success. Everyone played their parts well. Jesus carried the cross up a nearby hill as the Roman soldiers flogged him, prior to being crucified on the cross. He was then placed in a cave. The play concluded with Joe being hoisted by crane to represent the resurrection. Everyone gasped at that point, as they recalled that forty years ago, the rope supporting the actor snapped, sending him falling to his death. Hence the reason for the play being discontinued all those years ago!

In this story, the villagers were reminded of an event that had been deeply traumatic for them. So traumatic, that they had ceased to follow the tradition of a regular passion play, with its damaging memories. At Easter, the death of Jesus is not the end. The Good News is not a passion play, it is a life-changing and eternal event. So when we remember Jesus's death at Easter we look forward too to sharing in new life and resurrection, no matter what life sets before us.

Thank you Barry for your dramatic story which reminds us of the true meaning of Easter.

Jane

SOME THOUGHTS



God gave you a fingerprint that no one else has, so you can leave an imprint that no one else can.

10 Things to Remember

1. Love is the answer. Always.
2. Vulnerability is not a weakness. It's a strength.
3. Your body is sacred. Cherish it.
4. Gratitude shifts everything. Be thankful.
5. Forgiveness sets you free. It really does.
6. You cannot change others. Only yourself.
7. Little acts of kindness are never little. Ever.
8. Fun is underrated. Enjoy yourself.
9. Age is just a number. It's never too late.
10. Life is precious. Live it now.

Anna Grace Taylor

Anna Grace Taylor

The two above were sent from America by Diane Schmuck, wife of Revd. Keith, who many years ago exchanged pulpits with Stephen Poxon and made friends at Fulwood Methodist Church.



All sent to *Mavis Fletcher*

ANSWERS TO 'FIND THE CHRISTMAS CAROLS' QUIZ

From the Christmas 2020 issue

In each carol the vowels (a e i o u) have been left out
e.g. WYNMNGR - Away in a Manger

- | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | NCNRYLDVDSCTY | Once in Royal David's City |
| 2 | CMLLYFTHFLL | O Come all ye faithful |
| 3 | HRKTHHRLDNGLSSNG | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing |
| 4 | SWTHGLDNSSMNFLD | As With Gladness men of Old |
| 5 | SMDTHWNTRSSNW | See Amid The Winter Snow |
| 6 | CRDLDNMNGRMNLY | Cradled in a Manger Meanly |
| 7 | LVCMDWNTCHRSTMS | Love Came Down at Christmas |
| 8 | NTSBYSBRN | Unto Us a Child is Born |

Martin's

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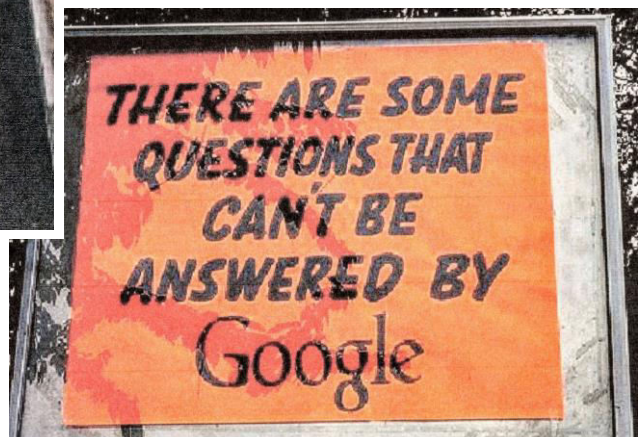
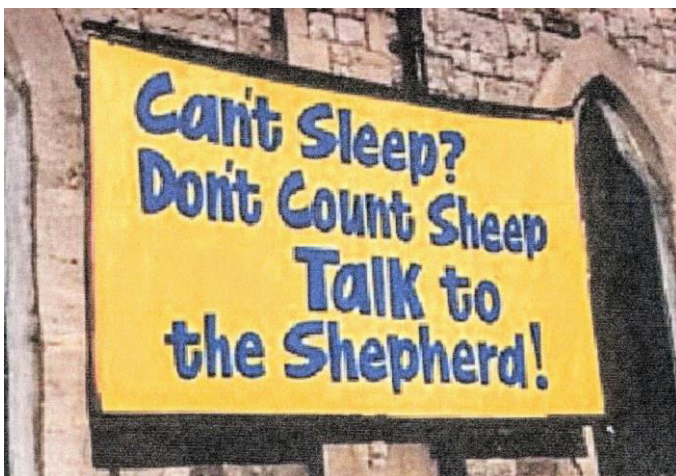
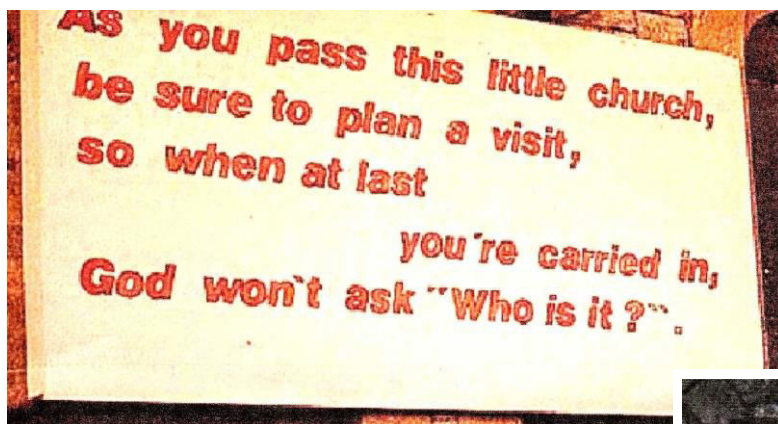
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CHURCH ACTIVITIES

(Under normal circumstances)

Sunday

9.45 am Singing Practice (Cedar Room)

Tuesday

10.00 am	Men's AM Club (fortnightly)	Graham Johnson
2.15 pm	Women's Fellowship (weekly)	Muriel Crossley
5-7.00 pm	Messy Church (half-termly) for families	Delma Whitman
7.00 pm	Alphabites (monthly fellowship)	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

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

7.00 pm	Knitting Group (Copper Beech Room)	Veronica Frost
8.01 pm	Ladies After 8 group (fortnightly)	Barbara Hothersall

Friday

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

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Monday

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

Tuesday

7.00 pm	Scouts (10½ - 14 yr)	Chris Thomas
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
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)	“ “

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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