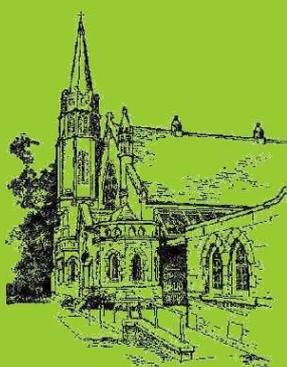




**Fulwood Methodist Church  
Crossroads Centre**



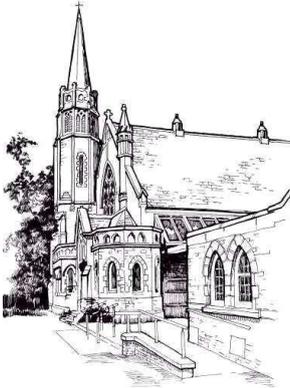
# **EASTER 2022**

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

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



**MINISTER**

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

**YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER**

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

**CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER**

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

**NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES**

**Check the notices for present arrangements**

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.....

## PRAY FOR THE UKRAINE



Holy and Gracious God.

We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia;  
for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid;  
that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death;  
that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war;  
that they will remember that you direct your people  
to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage;  
that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

Amen

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# PASTORAL LETTER

from Revd Jane Wild

Dear Friends,

You will be reading this letter at Eastertide when the whole Church acclaim **'He is risen! He is risen indeed!'** My prayer is that is a very real experience for each of you and your loved ones. And that through that acclamation you will experience the greatest gift of all, the Love of God.

I am writing though in early March. Right now, the world seems an even more uncertain place than in the recent past and I have no way of knowing what circumstances will prevail in April. They will, I pray, be better than now as I view the distressing images before me.

Many of you will have seen photographs of small groups of Christians continuing to meet for worship in Ukraine. You will have seen pictures of damaged buildings and of remarkable places of worship open to attack. The desperation of the people in Ukraine mirrors the anguish and hopelessness of too many people throughout the ages, not least the followers of Jesus in the days after his execution. The first disciples hid away seeking safety, just as many are doing now in Kyiv and elsewhere.



**Christians pray in the Ukraine**

Those who have been close witnesses of war and devastation sometimes make observations which stop us in our tracks. I recall a war correspondent, Christine Lamb, who wrote 'It is in the darkest skies that you find the brightest stars'. The people she met in the extremes of her work, she was reporting, restored her faith in humanity. It is that humanity and God's relationship with it which is at the heart of the Easter story. For whatever occurred that first Easter it was the restoration of the faith and confidence of the followers of Jesus which was the miraculous outcome of those events. And it is the restoration of the faith and confidence of disciples today which continues to tell the eternal truths.

Easter is about God's gift of new life to everyone. Of course, we use symbols to help us celebrate the mystery and will do so again this year, but Easter is about much, much more than those symbols. It is about an eternal Love which goes beyond anything we can imagine. A Love which restores our confidence and enables us to continue witnessing to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. A love which excels all other gifts from God and elsewhere. It is this love which is the source of new life.

In the last few months I have been thrilled and excited not just by the evidence of new life emerging in our gardens and countryside but by so much in our Church. We have missed many things during the period of the pandemic and, in so many conversations, I hear people rejoicing at what is being rediscovered between us as we meet again, not just what can be restored but what can be created anew. Our

prayer must be that what is true here in Fulwood is true throughout the whole of creation.

What will matter more than anything though, in our homes, in Church, in our communities and, yes, internationally, is if we experience once more that assurance of God's eternal love for women, men, children and the whole of creation which emboldened the first disciples and then the early Church. This Easter, we at Fulwood, are going to try to present the new potential they experienced in a different way so that our minds and hearts may be refreshed by the Love of God.

One of the most ancient symbols of Easter is the butterfly. They have been used as symbols of the resurrection for generations. Emerging from the darkness of the chrysalis, the caterpillar is transformed into a glorious butterfly. The challenge we face, as individuals, as Church, and in our communities is to transform ourselves into butterflies which reflect God's glory both now and into eternity.

It is we, the recipients of the greatest gift of all, God's love, who must continue our journey towards The Kingdom of God. Whatever our circumstances, whatever our means, it is our responsibility to respond to the Love of God in the same way as the first disciples as they learnt of the empty tomb and met the resurrected Christ for themselves.

May God be with you in your journeying at this time.

God bless,

*Jane*



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## EDITORIAL

Well, here we are again everyone.! We hope you'll each find something to interest and enjoy within the following pages.

You'll perhaps also work out that some of our regular themes have been pretty well exhausted and we're having to explore new avenues.

As ever, we're keen to hear from anyone with a tale to tell, a brief observation to make or simply a few words of information to pass on. Please give it some thought: without your contributions we're in a mess!

Prior to Christmas there was still a great deal of sadness and depression around and we felt it was the wrong time to inflict further suffering upon our readers. However, it should not be forgotten that 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, marked the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the 'Mexico'. Nor should it be forgotten that it occurred almost on our doorstep, that it involved good Christian folk and that it remains the worst catastrophe in the history of the R.N.L.I.

The copy date for our **Summer** issue will be **Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June**. Any material in advance of that date would, of course, be most welcome. Please do remember that articles may be subject to editing.

*Roy Smith (Editor)*

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# FAMILY NEWS

## Baptisms

Sunday 30 January - Ernest David Hoben and Sally-May Frances Martin.

Sunday 27 February - Kiara Benjamin

Sunday 3 April - Elenor Dean

## Birthday

Sunday 6th March -100th birthday of Allan Clarke (see pages 24 to 26)

## Funerals

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January - Thanksgiving service for Gwen Kirkham.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January - Muriel Crossley

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January - Jack Wild

Wednesday 2nd February - John Cosgrove



\* \* \* \* \*

## CHURCH STEWARDS

John Ferris, Wendy Bennett, Hilary Banks, Sue Rennie,  
Carly Miller, Sue Salisbury,

\* \* \* \* \*

## COMMUNION STEWARDS

Jacqueline Clarke, John Butterworth, Susan Hogarth,

We are very short of Communion Stewards. In the past we have had up to nine volunteers. The more we have, the less often you will be involved.

Stewards help in preparing the bread and the wine and setting up the Communion table, then guiding communicants to the rail, or taking round the elements to the pews.

Please contact Jane, Jacqueline or John if you are interested.



*Thank you*

## DIARY DATES

Sunday 1st May - General Church meeting after the service.

Sunday 5th June - Celebrate the Queen's Jubilee Party after morning service with a Bring and Share lunch

# MURIEL CROSSLEY

1932 - 2022

Mum was born on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1932, but unfortunately her mother died shortly afterwards and she was adopted by Daisy & Ernest Nield. They were then living at Ashton, but soon moved to Regent Drive, Fulwood, where Mum lived for the rest of her life.

She attended the school attached to the Harris Orphanage on Garstang Road, the first non-resident of the school to do so, and remained there until she began work at Platts the stationers in Fishergate. Soon realising that there was little chance of promotion there, she moved on to the stationery department of Boots the Chemists, where she eventually became supervisor.

An interest in photography was encouraged by her father (chief photographer at the Lancashire Evening Post); eventually she became a member of Preston Photographic Society in 1953 and she remained so for the rest of her life.

In the early 1960s Mum joined the Sharmaine Marriage Bureau of Blackpool, in hope of finding a suitable partner for a future life together. Following one or two unsuitable candidates, Mum met up with Dad – who also had a keen interest in photography, as well as walking and natural history. At that time he was due to leave the RAF after 10 years' service. They were married here at Fulwood Methodist Church on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1966, where Mum's parents had also been married in 1916.

Susan was born in 1969 and I arrived the following year to complete the family. We were both baptised here. When we went to school, Mum began work as a dinner lady at Queen's Drive School - later moving to a similar post at Fulwood & Cadley School, a little closer to home.

By this time Dad had also joined the Photographic Society and many holidays were spent both abroad and here in Britain photographing natural history subjects, churches and cathedrals.

Susan was married to Stephen here in this church in June 1994 and brought Olivia, Mum & Dad's first grandchild, into the world in July 2007. She too was baptised here. I married Nick in America in 2017 and we had our first child, Blake, in November 2019. Mum was avidly looking forward to welcoming our new baby into the world in March this year and we are all so sad that Mum will not be here to meet her.

This church has meant so much to Mum throughout her life. As a teenager she enjoyed table tennis and singing in the choir, then later being a member of the flower-arranging team and of the Women's Fellowship.

Worship has played a large part in her life; her love of hymns was ever present. She chose the hymns for today as she set out her wishes for the Order of Service, including the sung Lord's Prayer. As with many of her generation, Mum did not



like change – although, when changes were made, she grew to accept them, but let people know her views if they did not meet her expectations!

Mum proved to be a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, and judging by the amount of condolences the family has received, she was loved by all who knew her.

*David Crossley*

## **MURIEL CROSSLEY, AN APPRECIATION.**

One of the results of the Covid pandemic was that the Women’s Fellowship was disbanded without an opportunity to express our thanks to Muriel for all the work she did as our secretary over many years. She did not want to do the job alone, so it became a partnership, initially with Kay Speight and, more recently, with Mary Fox.

We are so grateful to Muriel for the conscientious and efficient way in which she guided all our planning and we shall miss her.

*From the Women’s Fellowship.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **PAULINE MARY KIRKHAM 1955 - 2021**

Pauline was born on 26 September 1955 to Harold and Mary Kirkham. She attended Kensington Road Primary School and Queen Mary School, Lytham before graduating in mathematics at The University of Sheffield.

After her grandmother, Milder Henthorn, died in 1958, the family moved from Highgate Avenue to the family home in Kings Drive, where she lived for the rest of her life.

About ten years ago, she retired from Lancashire County Council after thirty years’ service. She was a team leader in Computer Services for the County Engineering and Surveying Department.

Pauline had numerous interests, including rambling, dancing, gardening and travel, as well as social groups such as Outlook and UOA. She completed the final stage of The Lancaster Canal walk in July. Many of you will know Pauline for selling her marmalade and chrysanthemum plants, raising hundreds of pounds for Church and various charities. At Church she undertook many roles, including Senior Communion Steward, Pastoral Visitor and as Secretary for various committees.

Change and fashion were never words in Pauline’s vocabulary. She enjoyed her annual routines and traditions, but hated waste and was keen on recycling and conservation. If an item broke or wore out, she wanted the replacement to be like for like.

Aunt Pauline loved her nephew and niece and always put others before herself. She was a generous and kind-hearted lady, who will be sadly missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.



*John Kirkham*

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND FORUM

In winter last year I was asked if I would attend the ‘Churches Together in England Forum’ as a representative from ‘Churches Together in Lancashire’. I wasn’t



100% sure what I was signing up for, but I thought if nothing else it would be a great opportunity to gather together with Christians from all over the UK.

Forum was held at the Hayes conference centre in Swanwick, so after attending my morning lecture I headed over from York to Alfreton station, where I hitched a lift over to the conference centre. The theme of the conference was “Reconciling Hope - a broken Church for a broken World”.

Throughout the three days we had speakers including Archbishop Justin Welby, Anthony Reddie and Ruth Valerio, to speak on this theme and we then got to spend time in small groups discussing the topics in further detail. My small group had a wide range of delegates from the Church of England, Salvation Army, Friends of the Holy Land and other member Churches of the CTE. It was really great to be able to share in discussions with so many different people.

A particular push for this years Forum was to encourage young adults to attend, so on the Tuesday afternoon the young adults got together and spent some time getting to know each other. For my experience of Forum, one of the great things was that I wasn’t treated as a young person who was attending Forum, I was simply someone who was attending Forum who just happened to be under 30. One of my highlights of Forum was the workshop I attended on Tuesday afternoon about intergenerational reconciliation. It was really inspiring and interesting to talk about where we see people from all generations in Church and how we can best be an intergenerational Church.

It was an intense three days and by the time I got home on Wednesday evening I was exhausted, but being able to spend those three days with all the different people I got to meet was truly amazing. Even just the conversations that we had at midnight in the bar, allowed me to connect with people from other denominations and really sparked my enthusiasm for ecumenism.

*Verity Wild*

\* \* \* \* \*

Life is fragile: handle with care.

A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.

A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.

## CHILDREN'S & FAMILY WORK

Church life is really starting to take off once again and it's great seeing the smiles on the faces of past and new people of our church community. Well, all the existing groups I'm involved with are up and running well, we are seeing good growth in number and knowledge in Sunday Club and with that in mind we are reintroducing the breakfast church, which was going to start before lockdown in church, more to follow on this soon.

Messy Church had a good number of new faces join us to learn about Daniel's faithfulness and lions! We are still going into Fulwood Barracks to take 'Messy Church' on tour, but I am looking at changing the format to meet the time and needs of the group.

The older youth of the church took part in an Escape Room during the church service and really enjoyed it and they are now looking at how we move the group forward.

One of my main focuses now is the schools work I'm involved with, I am taking assemblies once a month at Banks Methodist Primary School for the circuit. We've also taken the



opportunity of going into Ribbleton Avenue to use their outdoor space, we are delivering a 'Walk-through Easter' over 5 weeks with Year 3 students, so far, we've looked at the 40 days in the wilderness – we painted Rocks. Then Palm Sunday we're we used the painted rocks to make a Labyrinth (showing a journey)

Jane is taking the next session about The Last Supper, then the final two, to look at Jesus in the garden and his death on the cross.

***Darren Arnold***

Youth, Children's & Family Worker

\*\*\*\*\*

Ask yourself: Have you been kind today? Make kindness your daily modus operandi and change your world.

***Annie Lennox***

\*\*\*\*\*

Follow the Christ – the King. Live pure! Speak true! Right wrong! Follow the King! Else wherefore be born?

***Tennyson***

# FROM OUR CIRCUIT PASTORAL LAYWORKER

**Denise Johnson**

I am now just over three and a half years into the role of Lay Pastoral Worker covering the Preston Ribble Circuit, but with differing focuses according to need. No day is the same and certainly the last eighteen months have been an interesting and challenging place to be a pastoral worker. I have been humbled and privileged to be a part of pastoral work during this time and want to encourage and support you as you seek to support each other.



The level of care that has been given by many of you to others has often been a lifeline, a light in the darkness and much appreciated. Pastoral care is not rocket science – it can be as simple as a phone call, a text or even just a smile. It is in the simplest acts of caring for each other that love really lives. Celtic theology talks of the “thin places” – the places where the distance between us and God is the thinnest. The thin places for me have been when I have grasped the hand of a person in need and brought comfort, when I have been brave enough to ask if someone is OK when clearly they are not, when I have sat in silence with someone when words were not necessary – where are the thin places for you?

Where has your life simply touched another with a profound effect? It is important in these uncertain times that we continue to care for each other, bear with each other and encourage each other. In Hebrews Chapter 10 it says these words - *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

These few verses have been influential to me throughout my life. For a number of years I worked in Education, often alongside those who displayed challenging behaviour and a disinterest in study. I saw a wide range of teaching skills at play trying to engage and educate these young people – some worked and some definitely didn't! There was one thing though that always worked – encouragement. A quiet word saying “you did that well” or “I thought what you said in there was great” achieved so much. It is important to spend more time encouraging than criticising, in building up rather than knocking down, in valuing the good in someone than pointing out the negatives,

I hope that you have a wonderful Easter and that you can spend it with those who encourage you and support you as you seek to do that to others.

God Bless

**Denise**

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## REFLECTIONS FROM THE STEWARDS TEAM 2021-2022

The team; John Ferris, Sue Rennie, Hilary Banks, Carly Miller, Sue Salisbury, Cheryl Arnold and Wendy Bennett.

Support stewards; Amanda Latham (financial), Sue Penrith (pastoral) and Ken Wales (strategy).

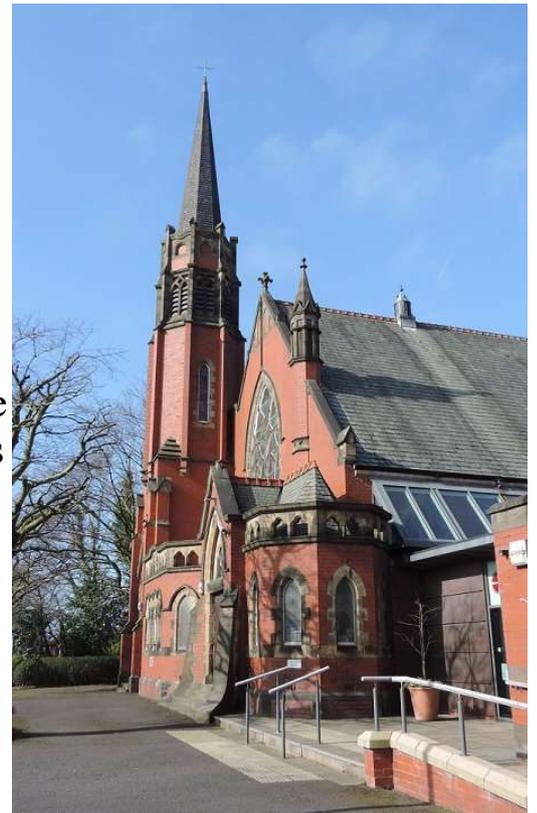
How do you start the inaugural report from the Stewards Team? As you know life at church has changed beyond what we could have imagined over the last 18 months with face masks, signing people in, hand gelling and social distancing. What we hope is that through these unprecedented times, the values of our church have been maintained with a sense of community, caring and showing the love we have for others due to the faith we share.

We have a fab stewards team. As Pastoral Secretary, Sue Penrith is also a key member of our team and is always there whenever we need her. During this last year we welcomed Carly, Cheryl, Ken and Sue to our team. We are also supported by the dedicated team of Worship Stewards who help to prepare the church for worship, so we have time to welcome the congregation, the preacher and ensure the technology is working. Thankfully with support from Jane, we now have a team of Technology Stewards to whom we are so grateful.

To stay with technology for a few moments, it's amazing how we have moved from a PowerPoint every Sunday to Zooming to people at home, which was paramount when we were in lockdown. We have had live-streamed services and linked with the Circuit to have meaningful services when we could not meet in person. It's only right to say that if it wasn't for Jane and her technical knowledge and determination, it would have been difficult to ensure all the congregation could feel a part of our church. We need to say a big "thank you" to Jane, as it hasn't been easy with all her other commitments as minister of a busy church and also being Superintendent for our circuit.

Thanks are also due to the whole of our committed congregation who, as soon as restrictions allowed, pulled together to restart our groups. Alphabites has been rebranded and now is the Fulwood Bible Fellowship, welcoming more people to join their lively discussions. You would be welcome too!

How have our young people coped? They have struggled having to have their school work on time, home schooling and not being able to socialise as children should. During lockdown Darren, Janet and a loyal team were up early every Sunday morning running Zoom Breakfast Church, which was well received by many of our young church families. Messy Church went online, which was a



challenge, but the team embraced it and it has continued. Not too sure what state the laptops are in. Most likely full of glue, glitter and food items!!

Our pastoral care continued and whilst we couldn't visit people in person, lots of 'phone calls were made and a dedicated team made cakes and delivered to many families which was a fantastic ministry. Thank you to you all.

Our services have been innovative, adapting to Covid restrictions with the rest of church life. In 2021, we had a Christingle Service where people could collect their DIY Christingle from church so they could make it at home during the virtual zoom service. This is an example of how Jane and her team thought of ways to ensure our services were meaningful. All our normal services took place either from church or from Jane's home.

There was a lot of work and preparation to help people consider the national report into relationships called 'God in Love Unites Us.' The church offered one-to-one and open sessions to allow opportunities to consider the questions, worries or concerns raised about this change in Methodist culture. The document asked the question whether churches will support same sex marriages. At a special Church Council in December it was unanimously voted that same sex marriages can be conducted at Fulwood Methodist Church. This was a wonderful moment and again proved what a welcoming and inclusive church Fulwood strives to be.

Looking forward, we have asked for your Hopes and Dreams to help the Circuit update our strategy for the next few years. Your hopes and dreams will also form the foundation to the vision Fulwood can develop for its next chapter; to ensure the church continues developing its mission to the church family and the community it supports.

So what could 2022 offer to God's people in Fulwood? Hopefully, we can meet more freely without restrictions. We continue to celebrate the faith of our two centenarians Cyril Leeke and Allan Clarke. We look to the future with our new vision, but more importantly, we look after our church family. It's not the easiest of times for us all and we are trying our best to make our church a place of love and safety.

*Wendy Bennett*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **ARE YOU A DRUMMER?**

Our Church band, aka 316, are looking for a drummer. We have a high-quality electric kit that is set up and ready to play. We try and rehearse once a week, usually a Tuesday evening. An easy-going, mixed age bunch, with keyboard, guitar, bass and vocals, we play music of all types and are keen to learn new tunes. We are happy to play in morning worship when asked, usually 1 or 2 Sundays each month. Ideally, someone who has some experience in playing, either on their own or with a group. If that sounds like you, or someone you know, contact Mike Cushing on 07866 476639 or email him [m.p.cushing@gmail.com](mailto:m.p.cushing@gmail.com)



## A FARRAGO

- To anyone attending the Carol Service last Christmas, and who was somewhat startled by the rendition of ‘While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night’ to the tune commonly associated with the Yorkshire National Anthem (‘On Ilkla Moor Baht ‘At’), we offer some information. The tune was a hymn tune known as ‘Cranbrook’ (or sometimes ‘Northampton’) long before the words of ‘On Ilkla Moor’ were put to it and first appeared in 1805 in Thomas Clark’s ‘A Sett of Psalm and Hymn Tunes’. (Clark was a cobbler living in Canterbury.) ‘O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing’ goes well with it too!

Apparently the words of ‘While Shepherds Watched’ have been found set to more than 150 different tunes. Maybe there will be another surprise next Christmas!

‘Onward Christian Soldiers’ was written by an Anglican curate : Sabine Baring-Gould. Although it first appeared in print in 1864 it really made its mark when sung by local children in 1865 during the annual Whitsun Procession from St John’s Church, Horbury Bridge near Wakefield, to St Peter’s Church in nearby Horbury. Later in life Baring-Gould moved to Devon and became well known for his work in collecting folk songs and carols.

- Does anyone recall taking part in Verse Speaking Competitions or in Scripture Knowledge Examinations? We’d love to hear from you.
- Last ‘back end’ several members of our congregation were invited to take part in the Northern Exposure research project being organised by the University of Leeds. Its purpose is to study the personal experiences of long-term residents regarding post-industrial change and diversity in the town. The same research was going to be carried out in a number of other northern towns. The mind boggles at what might be made of some of the information collected.
- Sadly the Lancashire Branch of the Wesley Historical Society has had to close. Difficulties in recruiting new members, in replacing serving officers wishing to retire and no meetings being held during the past two years due to the adverse effects of Covid are some of the reasons. The usual things! – and all too common in this day and age.



We’re always pleased to receive copies of magazines, newsheets and visitor guides from other churches.

***We also regularly receive*** a copy of the magazine from our twinned Evangelische- methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany. Copies translated to English are usually on the Church website from a link on the front page.

***Roy Smith (Editor)***



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## LOCAL MEMORIES: A SORT OF LOCAL HISTORY PAGE

*The editors are considering creating space for a regular local history page within the Church magazine. They are imagining that such a feature would be unusual in the following respects.*

- 1. It would be about certain events or occasions in the lives of ordinary folk like you and me, rather than upon buildings or grandees.*
- 2. Once underway, as you will see below, we would hope to include your contributions (named or anonymous as you prefer) so that it becomes a collection of local anecdotes about life in north Preston in our lifetimes.*

*So, in this magazine, we will start the series off and see what memories we can stimulate. The theme this time is **Moving on to Secondary School**. Below you will find some recollections from one of our regular contributors. In this case (and hopefully as a very distinct exception) it relates to life in a northern town other than Preston.*

I belonged to what would now be regarded as an aspiring lower middle-class family. My mother and father both had parents who were emerging from the working class in lifestyle and attitude. Both my grandfathers had been in reserved occupations in the years of the first world war but my father had served in the forces in the second world war and this had broadened his horizons. My mother too had held a clerical civil service, but war-related, post but when I came along she decided no longer to go to work. I attended the local primary school walking, I guess, at least four miles a day to do so for I returned home at lunchtime.

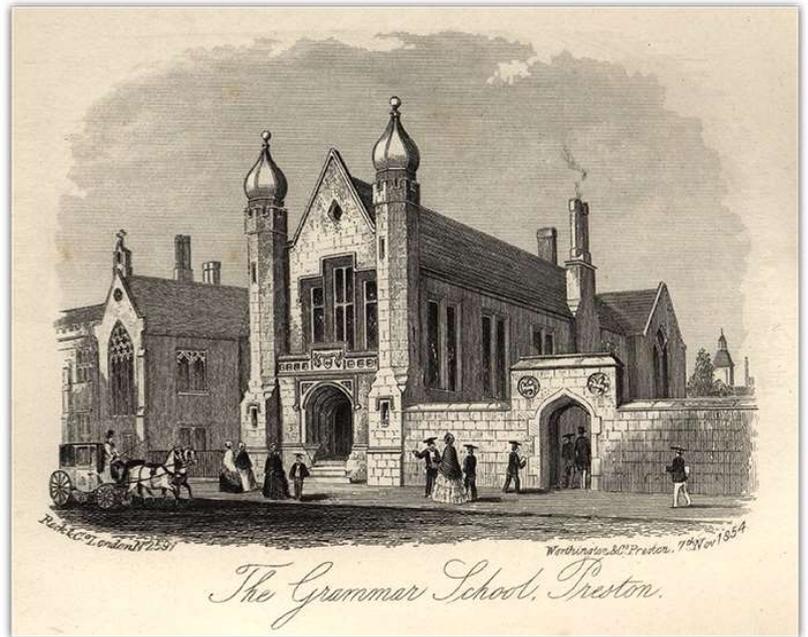
I was due to transfer to secondary school in 1957 and it was either early that year or late the previous year that I recall a conversation with my maternal grandfather. He was by then bedridden and nearing the end of his life I now realise. He had been a coal-miner and then a pit deputy. His skin, as with most miners, was marked by many small coal-marks. His breathing was laboured.

Speaking from below spotless bedclothes he asked “Do you want to go t’grammar school, lad?” I turned to the window of the sparse bedroom, a very small fire in the grate, embarrassed to look at him directly. I looked over the allotments behind the house and said “Yes, I think so”. In truth, I wasn’t sure, but what I did know was that as a sensitive child the thought of going to the alternative schools filled me with dread. I had heard the stories which moved easily between classmates and across families. So that was that.

I can’t recall now in which order it happened but I was presented with two opportunities. I know not how, but my grandfather clearly had it in mind that he

would provide the monies for me to attend the rather grand grammar school as a fee payer, if I did not obtain a place there via a scholarship (or was it by then an eleven-plus exam?). But to be a fee-payer I needed to pass an entrance exam.

I remember to this day sitting the exam one Saturday morning. Two tests – in arithmetic and writing - were involved. I remember clearly choosing to write about ‘Saturday’. I had much to say, for Saturday was usually the most exciting day of the week for me – attending the local picture house in the morning, then going to the rugby match in the afternoon and often a fish-and-chips tea. There might even be a church social in the evening. I am not sure the content would have impressed those who marked the papers (they probably had rather more refined Saturdays), but my eloquence obviously was sufficient for I learnt later I had passed.



Then there was the ‘eleven-plus’, if that is what it was. I remember little of the papers I had to complete beyond endless computation of how much carpet would be required to cover the floor of a rather odd-shaped room, or was it how many tiles were need to cover the kitchen wall. How agile and accurate was my mathematical mind? I do remember though the almost sacred atmosphere in the primary school hall as the select few sat the papers. An early encounter with the world of educational testing which still now can impact upon the minds of our young people.

I am sure my grandfather was relieved when he heard from my mother, shortly before the end of his life, that I had been awarded a free scholarship! Mother and father were delighted, but the occasion otherwise went unremarked. The rest is history.....and geography, and Latin and Scripture and English and so on.

**Anon**

*So, dear reader, what do you recall of this rite of transition in your own lives? Especially, we would like to hear from those who moved schools in the Preston area. Would you be willing to put something on the record and pass it to one of the editors? We will then reproduce some of the memories in the next magazine.*

*In the magazine after that, the Harvest magazine, our subject will be ‘How I Met My Partner’. Get thinking, reminiscing and writing!*

**Roy Smith and the editors**

## MEMORIES OF 70 YEARS AGO.

During morning service on February 6th, which I was watching on Zoom, Jane asked “Did anyone remember the day 70 years ago when it was the Queen’s



Accession”. I remember it well. I was in the sixth form at Balshaw’s Grammar School in Leyland. Mid morning, a message was sent to all the classes from the Headmaster to assemble in the School Hall. When we assembled, the Headmaster told us that the King had died and we now had a Queen - Queen

Elizabeth II. We then had to say “The King is dead. Long live the Queen.”

The next year, on June 2nd 1953, it was the Queen’s Coronation. Not many people had television in their homes in those days. My father bought a TV so we could watch the Coronation from Westminster Abbey - no colour TV in those days, just black & white. We invited some friends to come to our home to watch the Coronation and a few weeks later we went to the cinema to watch it in colour on The Pathe News.



In late Autumn 1953, the Queen and Prince Philip went on a six month tour of Commonwealth Countries. By then, I was at Southlands Methodist College in London. When the Queen and Prince Philip returned in May 1954 our College principal cancelled lectures so we could travel into London to watch her homecoming procession to welcome them home. My friends and I found a good vantage point on The Mall to watch them pass and wave our paper Union Jacks.

*Enid Singleton*

\* \* \* \* \*

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz.  
I wonder where the birdies is.  
They say the bird is on the wing, but that’s absurd.  
Because the wing is on the bird.

*Anon*

“You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep Spring from coming.”

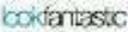
*Pablo Neruda*

“I suppose the best kind of spring morning is the best weather that God has to offer.”

*Dodie Smith*

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## NEWS FROM THE BROWNIES

In December, 25 Brownies and leaders (+5 Rainbows and one leader) went to the cinema to see a special screening of Encanto, the newest Disney film. There were several screens with girls from round the region (socially distanced as there were restrictions in place). Everyone had a great time. The year ended with us having a disco, again with the Rainbows, in the Oak Hall - lots of noise and plenty of dancing.

2022 started with the loss of two of our stalwarts to Guides - our loss but Guides' gain. At the same time, we gained four girls, two from Rainbows and two from outside Guiding. We have been working towards one of our six themes, "Take Action" and also working on the Disability Awareness badge to help with our aims of inclusivity. We had a country dancing session with Roy Smith and completed a craft activity for Valentine's Day with one of our leaders. All our leaders take turns at leading activities and this means we get lots of variety. One of our Young Leaders has just completed her award (Congratulations, Jeanie) and the other has almost completed her Adult Leader's Award (well done, Hope). The rest of us have been busy with Safe Space training and First Response.

In April we are having a sleepover at church, in May there is a Brownie/Rainbow Day at Guy's Farm with all the fun of the fair and in July two of our leaders are taking 12 girls to watch one of the women's Euro football matches in Leigh. Hopefully we can report on these more fully in the next magazine.

The Brownies are celebrating their 80th birthday at the 'All Together' church service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. There will be cake!

*Diane Bird (Wise Owl)*

*"I promise that I will do my best, to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the Brownie Guide Law."*

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## YOUTH FMC BOOK CLUB

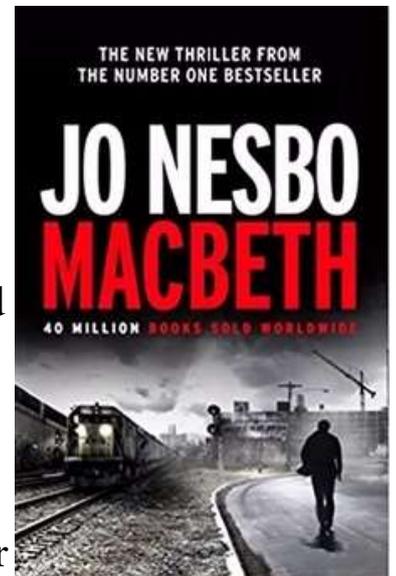
In the last edition of the Fulwood Methodist Church magazine, we gave a very full account of our intended activity in late 2021 and early 2022. So far, all is going well! In fact, so well that the editors of the magazine have asked Chris and Janet Porter to write a separate article based in part upon the wonderful evening they led for us on MacBeth. You will find that elsewhere in this magazine and it will be well worth a read.

So this article is a little shorter than usual, but once more it gives a very warm invitation to anyone who wants to be part of our group to come along to one of our meetings. You may be tired of reading that our emphases are upon tea, coffee and whatever goodies we can rustle up, having fun together, including occasionally quite meaningful discussion and widening or deepening our reading. You can find details of our activities on the Church website and in the notices.

The Christmas Quiz was, in the event, an enjoyable if hilarious occasion. The Quiz Master had designed a quiz based in the main upon our previous meetings and some seasonal material but he (guess who?) decided quite late in the day to pose an additional question each time based upon the original one. Well, it proved beyond most of our group to cope with Question 1, 1a, 2, 2a etc. Most much preferred to record their answers as 1,2,3,4 etc. This caused great confusion, some mirth, and eventually required some to retire to a dark corner. It led to some surprise answers – did you know that a surprise guest at the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party was James Bond? Neither did I. We will try again next year.

As I have already said our ‘Macbeth’ evening was hugely informative and entertaining. My only additional comment was that our decision to look at the revised telling of the Macbeth story by Jo Nesbo met with very mixed results. Nesbo is a very popular writer of crime fiction based in the modern Scandinavian tradition. Scandi – Noir is indeed called that for good reason and this novel had many darker moments. So it required rather a strong stomach to stay the course on this one. Those of us who did meet that challenge had a lively discussion on the merits of this book (and its shortcomings) and the extent to which, if at all, it gave further insight into the Shakespeare telling of the old story. The evening was Janet and Chris’s however and we extend our deep thanks into the new insights they gave to us.

As I write, next up in a couple of week’s time is our balloon debate referred to at length in the last magazine. Thereafter, we meet again on 17 May and it would be lovely to see you if you want to taste our delights!



*Ken Wales*

## ALLAN CLARKE – A LONG LIFE. CONTINUING TO BE WELL LIVED

James Allan Clarke was born 100 years ago on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1922, to a proud Scottish mother from Edinburgh and a fine, upstanding, self-made father from Gateshead. They had met in Manchester, married and also had another son, Sydney. It was a happy family, surrounded by love and brought up with good Christian values of kindness, respect for others and caring consideration for all.

Bethesda Church, Moss Side, was the centre of their lives. It was there too that Allan met and married Joyce. They often tell us of the life-long friendships they made, of the amazing fellowship they felt and of how it all helped to shape their lives.

In 1967 the family, which now included Philip, Barbara and myself, moved to Preston, to a house on Conway Drive, Fulwood, and more than 50 years on, with support, Mum & Dad are still able to enjoy that same family home and garden. They have always loved to have visits from friends and from family members, which now include four grandchildren: Helen, Andrew, Rachael & Robert, and four great grandchildren: Lydia, Noah, Joel & Jacob. Mum & Dad love them all and regularly keep in touch, for Dad is a great letter-writer.

In 1941, following in his father's footsteps, Dad had become a police officer and served for 25 years. When we moved to Preston he joined the Probation Service and served in that until retirement.

However, going back in Dad's story: he served in the Royal Navy during World War II, and for a time on HMS Charybdis, which was accompanying North Atlantic convoys from Nova Scotia. He left Charybdis at Plymouth for a week's leave and shortly after the ship was sunk in the English Channel, with the loss of 450 men. A lucky escape, but the tragedy had a huge impact on Dad. He still clearly remembers hearing the shocking news on the radio and becomes quite emotional when he talks about the sailors drowned that day.

My Dad has always been my hero!

He taught the three of us all the exciting things, such as how to ride a bike: running along holding the saddle until we were sufficiently confident to go solo; how to swim and to dive from a diving board. Fearless, that was me! He also taught



us how to throw and to catch a ball; how to play tennis and to enjoy sport in general.

Later he patiently taught each of us how to drive his car – and lent us the car once we'd passed our driving tests. He gave us all a love of the Lake District too, with fell walking and mountain climbing.

He was always there for us, supporting – but never interfering when times were hard; loving, caring, patient and kind. A wonderful man and a fantastic father, with strong faith and principles. His sense of fairness was demonstrated on many occasions, most notably in a story from 50 years ago, which has stayed with me all these years.

As children growing up we were allowed to build bonfires on Conway Drive field (before it became a park and before Health & Safety Regulations!) in readiness for 5<sup>th</sup> November. Rival gangs of kids tried their best to build the biggest one possible. On this occasion an angry scene developed, with two gangs each claiming that a large plank of wood was theirs. Before a fight could break out, I went to get my Dad. He would know what to do, I thought. Dad arrived at the field carrying a saw and cut the plank of wood in half, giving each an equal share. The problem was solved at once and everyone was happy. Brilliant! He should have been running the country!

Sunday has always been a day for Church, morning and evening services, and Fulwood Methodist Church has been central to the lives of Mum & Dad for more than 50 years. They have been involved in many aspects of Church life there over the years: teaching in Sunday School, as Church Stewards, as Welcomers on the doors, Dad as a Local Preacher etc. etc.

We are truly blessed as a family to have such outstanding rôle models as parents, grandparents and great grandparents; so thankful to them and to God for their long lives that have touched so many people. Generous yet humble. Arms open wide, full of love.

*Judith Lowe*

## **AND NOW THERE ARE TWO!**

In the last edition of our magazine we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Cyril Leeke. We had the chance to have them both together shortly after Allan's birthday so they could have their photos taken and do an interview for the local Lancashire Post newspaper.

Cyril joined Allan and family for the Sunday morning service, on Allan's birthday, which was led by Allan's son Philip, now a retired Methodist minister.



## LANCASHIRE POST ARTICLE ABOUT CYRIL AND ALLAN

Two friends and long-term members of Fulwood Methodist Church have celebrated their 100th birthdays within months of each other.

Born exactly three months apart, Alan Clarke joined his friend Cyril Leeke in the 100s club when he hit the milestone last Sunday, March 6.

On Allan's special day, the church on Watling Street Road held a party for him with 80 guests, including Cyril, joining for a celebratory lunch.

Cyril, who was born on November 6, 1921, had previously celebrated his birthday with a special box view for a Reading v PNE game, where he was a lucky charm for his away side team.

As is tradition, the two men also received a birthday card from the Queen, which they both say they cherish greatly.

When the Post asked what the secret to life was, Cyril, who moved to Fulwood 18 years ago, quipped: "Don't work too hard!"

Allan added: "I don't drink alcohol, that's one thing, and I'm happily married with a good family.

I've also been worshipping here for 60 years, which keeps me busy."

Before retiring aged 65, Allan was a police inspector in Manchester, then spent the final two decades of his career as a probation officer in Lancashire, where he was also a preacher for forty years.

The centenarians shared their tips to living a long healthy life.

Since retirement, Allan spends his time gardening, as well as doing church work with his wife Joyce, and the two are kept busy by their 'big family', having three children, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Cyril meanwhile, who has one daughter by his first wife Catherine, three stepsons from his second wife Nancy, and two grandchildren, was a school master at Reading School, which he also attended as a pupil.

Outside of work, animals have always been a big part of Cyril's life. Growing up with racing greyhound pets, he became a bird keeper later on, with pets including talking parrots.

"I had one tawny owl for 12 years, so I must've been doing something right", he added.

Cyril is also a lifelong crossworder and says it helps keeps his brain going even today.

When asked if they enjoyed being made a fuss of, both laughed, and Cyril said "I'm looking forward to the next one! I've not got any plans yet though, I've got plenty of time to do that."



*Amy Seddon (Lancashire Post)*

## U3A

'u3a', or 'University of the 3rd Age', is a UK wide cooperative movement of people no longer in full time work, who come together to continue their educational, social and creative interests in a friendly and informal environment.



Each of the 1000+ u3as across the UK host interest groups chosen and run by members, for members. Members help each other in their learning groups and form strong and meaningful relationships together with a sense of community, social wellbeing, fellowship and belonging. The subjects are wide-ranging - from Architecture and Biology to Yoga and Zoology with every topic you can think of in between. There are at least 10,000 + u3a interest groups taking place in the UK every week.

### **Benefits of joining u3a**

- Make a difference, stay active, keep learning and have fun.
- Get out to meet face to face? Learning together and making the most of life
- Access to online learning, training and resources to inspire you and attend learning events and talks for free.
- Meet other people with similar interests: learn new things and share your skills.

Joining a u3a is a great way to find and develop new interests and make great friends in a relaxed environment. It doesn't cost much to join - on average it costs less than £15 to join a u3a near where you live.

### **How to Join**

There are two ways to join a u3a: find a local u3a group near you and get in touch with them directly, or join our online-only group called Trust u3a.

Each of the 1000+ local u3as in the UK are run as individual charities and are responsible for managing membership and organising courses and meetings.

Joining a local u3a will let you meet up in person with others in your area to learn and make friends, while the Trust u3a is run online using software like Zoom to deliver engaging courses and a community accessible to anyone across the UK regardless of location.

### **Join your Local u3a**

The Preston 'u3a' group can be contacted by email at <https://u3asites.org.uk/preston>, or on the web at <https://u3asites.org.uk/preston/contact> where they will give you further information on how to join, or ring Tony Cheetham on 01772 759415. Each u3a manages their own membership and sign-up process.

*On the next page there is a story written by Barry Crossley, one of our congregation, who is in the Creative Writing group at Preston 'u3a'.*

# THE BLACK HORSE

A story written by our own Barry Crosley  
Published in the 'Lancashire Post' 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

In the small village of Great Grimstone there was a large pond. In it was a reflection of the church and the Black Horse Inn. As there was no wind blowing and the water surface was without a ripple, the pond acted as a mirror. As I was feeling rather thirsty, I decided the time was right to see what refreshment was on offer.

I have passed through this village on numerous occasions, but have not previously had the opportunity to enter the inn. Turning away from the pond, I walked towards the old inn and I was impressed with the sign. This depicted an impressive illustration of a black horse, along with gold leaf lettering. Pushing the door open, I went inside. Ordering a pint of ale, the landlord drew it from an impressive array of beer taps. Bill the landlord exclaimed, "You are not from around here, are you?" "No just passing through," I answered, as I made payment and turned to find a seat.

As I looked around for a suitable place to sit, I noticed an elderly gentleman, who gave the impression of having had a hard working life. He was wearing rather tattered clothing and sporting a long white beard. The man was seated on a large leather armchair



alongside a generous open fireplace situated at the far end of the room. I thought that the old gent may have had an interesting life to talk about. As I seated myself at a table close by, I introduced myself and he volunteered that his name was George, although everyone in the village knew him as 'Old George'.

He had lived in Great Grimstone throughout his long life, working as a farm hand. Some of these farms were now long gone, having been sold to developers who built houses as second homes, which were killing the village community. Life in the village is not like it once was. There used to be plenty going on. The Annual Village Show where people sold their crafts, cakes and local produce. Visitors came from everywhere to find a bargain. There used to be ploughing matches, which George was involved in. The highlight of the year was the County Show, when exhibitors came from miles around to show off their best cattle, sheep and other animals. All this ended, due to rising costs and lack of interest as people found new things to pass the time of day.

George went on to explain that his daughter Brenda and his granddaughter Mary used to run the village post office and general store. Brenda and Mary used to know everyone in the area, including their likes and dislikes. Brenda knew their families

and remembered their children growing up. Eventually, these young people also had to leave Great Grimstone due to the high cost of local homes.

As time went on, and the years went by, more of the local villagers left Great Grimstone to find work in the larger towns nearby. Following the exodus of the locals, the village was being taken over by more people purchasing second homes. This was not a problem during the summer, but in winter the place became like a ghost town. By this time the village store was finding fewer customers were coming in to the shop. Brenda was concerned that her income from the store was falling, and she was finding it difficult to cover the bills.

Eventually she had no option but to ask her daughter to try and obtain alternative employment. Mary was disappointed by this decision, but she realised that there was no other option available to her. On hearing of her predicament, the landlord of the Black Horse offered Mary some work behind the bar. It was during this time at the Black Horse that Mary met up with a handsome young man named John. They went on a series of dates, until eventually John asked Mary to live with him in a nearby town. At first Mary was reluctant, as she was concerned about leaving her mother on her own. Following much thought, she decided that it was her life and did not want to be tied at home forever.

Now Betty realised that she had to be prepared to accept that she was living on her own. A few days later Betty was subjected to another blow. She heard of a planning application for a supermarket to be built on the outskirts of a town close to Great Grimstone. Betty was not happy at this news, and was prepared to oppose it in any way that she could. Despite many objections, the application was accepted, and work commenced.

The time came that Betty was least looking forward to. The supermarket opening date was announced, after which the village store had a decreasing number of people making use of its facilities, preferring the lower prices and offers at the new venue, and Betty was forced to close.

She became ever more lonely, especially since her daughter had left home. One day as she was feeling really low, her mind turned to start thinking of how she could put an end to it all. Betty locked herself in the garage, sat in the car and started the engine. Soon she was overcome by the exhaust gases and collapsed in the seat. Old George was passing and his attention was drawn to the sound of the engine running behind the locked door. He called the emergency services and Betty was rushed to hospital having been rescued just in time. I asked what had become of her. George replied that Betty was given employment at the supermarket which had destroyed her business. I then bade him farewell as I left the Black Horse...

A few years later, I was again in Great Grimstone. I entered the Black Horse just as it began to rain. Inside I looked around for 'Old George'. Bill told me that he had sadly passed away. Suddenly a thunderstorm broke the silence and the lights went out as a flash of lightning lit up the darkened room to reveal a ghostly figure of George still in his favourite chair.

# BLUE PLAQUES

A popular pastime of mine, when pottering around strange towns and cities studying the architecture etc, is 'Blue Plaque spotting' and thus discovering which notable folk from the past had lived behind the walls on which the plaques were displayed. They are sometimes attached rather high for someone of small stature to read, but usually I can make out the name if not the information accompanying it. Blue plaques began in London in 1866 and were organised by the Royal Society of Arts who had appointed a committee to "consider how they might promote the erection of memorials of persons eminent in Arts, Manufacture and Commerce". The idea was the brainchild of William Gladstone MP in 1863. Originally they were referred to as 'memorials', the first one erected in London was to Lord Byron. English Heritage has now taken on the scheme. Preston is, of course, the home of several blue plaques and over the next few issues of the church magazine I shall try to cover them all. I am sure readers will supply me with names if any are omitted.



There is a Blue Plaque Trail in the city centre which is just under two miles and takes about 40 minutes. It begins on Fylde Road at The Ferret Pub. In 1796 John Horrocks built Preston's first steam-powered cotton mill here. Horrocks was a well known cotton manufacturer and MP for Preston. His reputation for producing high quality cottons and muslins was second to none.

Leaving The Ferret, the trail moves on past Stocks Street and Maudland Road, up Corporation Street, passing Kendal Street, St Edwards Street and Marsh Lane. It crosses the Ringway then passes the Premier Inn and on into Fox Street, to a building that was once St Wilfrid's Catholic School. Here is a plaque commemorating the



PRESTON BLUE PLAQUE TRAIL

Reverend Joseph 'Daddy' Dunn. He led the Catholic Mission for 51 years and was a founder member of the Preston Library and Philosophical Society. His perhaps main claim to fame is that he founded the Preston Gaslighting Company leading to Preston being the first town outside the capital to have gas street lighting.

For blue plaque number three, return down Fox Street onto Lune Street and continue towards Friargate and on the corner of Orchard Street is the house where Benjamin Franklin, one of the founders of the United States of America, stayed when visiting his son-in-law Richard Bache.

For the last of the first four plaques on the trail, one must walk to Church Street and seek out a plaque which is not on a building but on a gate. This is on Stoneygate and it is near the site of a building once used for the unsavoury pastime of cock fighting - The Old Cockpit. It closed as a cockfighting venue in about 1830 and it was here the social reformer Joseph Livesey, the great temperance campaigner, drew up the first public pledge of total abstinence.

There is further to travel and more plaques to see, so I hope you will join me next time.

*Barbara Hothersall*

## PRESTON GUILD MEMORIES

Ten years ago, many of us were busy preparing for the 2012 Preston Guild. Yes, it is now ten years ago! Yes, we were involved as individuals and groups in several ways (remember the Lenten Play filmed at the Bus station?) and, for us at Fulwood Methodist Church, along with others from the Circuit and elsewhere, in preparing for the showing of the Methodist Collection of Modern Christian Art at St. Peter's Arts Centre at the University of Central Lancashire.

Our summer edition will contain some articles about the exhibition, the effect it had on people, and the inheritance it provided. If you have any memories of 2012, of any aspect of the Guild year, we would love to hear from you. Please send any memories to Ken Wales ([kenwales9421@gmail.com](mailto:kenwales9421@gmail.com)) or leave them in the pigeon hole at Church.

Get remembering!

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't stop doing things because you are growing old, because you'll only grow old if you stop doing things.

*(Thora Hird)*



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## THE REAL TRAGEDY OF MACBETH

Janet and I both enjoy history, and our holidays are mostly taken up with visiting historical sites, museums, stately homes, etc. We are definitely NOT beach holiday people! It is no great surprise therefore that we have taken to using a tour company that specialises in archaeologically themed holidays. The one we use limits its guests to about 24 per tour, with two guides: one to organise you to be at the right place at the right time and to provide you with the appropriate entrance tickets, the other (usually a working archaeologist) to explain in detail what it is you are looking at. Over the twenty odd years we have used this company we have had some wonderful experiences.

And then came Covid and foreign travel was off the agenda!

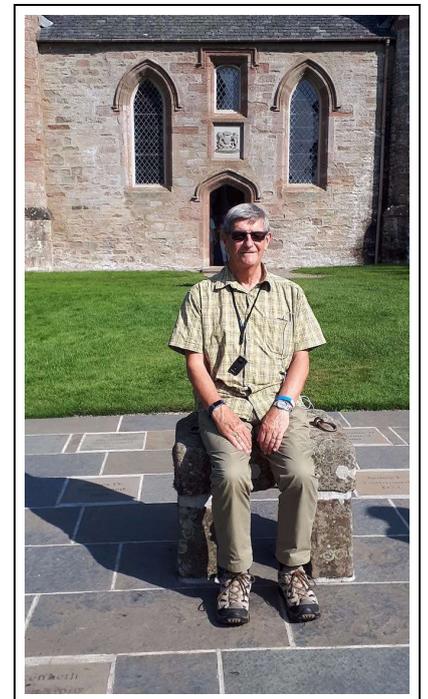
Last year it was clear that travel abroad was still not advisable, but that a holiday at home was possible with suitable precautions, and, joy of joys, our tour company had a new tour called 'The Archaeology of Macbeth', and we could be on the first tour. Us, and six others as it turned out. Everyone was still being very cautious!

It was an excellent tour. Starting in Edinburgh, where we concentrated on James I/VI, his belief in witchcraft, and his patronage of Shakespeare, we then moved north to Elgin in the heart of Macbeth territory in modern day Moray. On the way we visited Scone, where Macbeth was proclaimed King in 1040, the start of a successful and benevolent reign of 17 years. (See picture of Chris sitting on the replica Stone of Destiny. He now claims to be the rightful king of Scotland!)

We visited the tiny 12<sup>th</sup> century church at Birnie, believed to be on the site where Macbeth and Gruoch (aka Lady Macbeth) were married in 1032. We toured Cawdor Castle and Glamis Castle, both of which feature in the play; however, it is unlikely that Macbeth was Thane of either of these places: he was the Mormaer (Google it) of Moray, and therefore ate mere Thaners for breakfast!

Shakespeare's play centres around the death of King Duncan, murdered in his sleep by Macbeth. In reality, Duncan died in battle just outside Elgin, possibly/probably against Macbeth, his cousin. The remaining historical documents are gloriously confused, but on one thing they are clear, nobody liked Duncan, and Macbeth was proclaimed King very quickly.

We saw Dunsinane, where Macbeth fought a major battle against a combined army of Northumbrians and supporters of Malcolm, Duncan's son. The real Macbeth was not killed here as in Shakespeare's play, but at Lumphanon, three



years later, when supporters of Malcolm finally managed to ambush him. Of course, we visited Lumphanon, where a small outpost would have guarded the back-route into Macbeth's Moray territory.

There was much more, but word-count rules!



Like his contemporaries, Shakespeare took his historical stories from Holinshed's Chronicles published in 1577, which purport to be the history of England, Scotland and Ireland. We now know that large parts of them are simply fiction. Macbeth's encounters with the witches (see woodcut picture); the murder of Duncan in his sleep; Banquo (believed wrongly to be James I/VI's ancestor); Burnham Wood and Dunsinane; the death of Macbeth at the hand of Macduff (not of woman born), are all taken directly from Holinshed: but what a wonderful tragedy Shakespeare wove from it all! As a result of this though, the real Macbeth is wrongly seen as a monster figure across the world.

In truth, as Shakespeare himself could have put it, Macbeth is "more sinned against than sinning". Perhaps this is the real tragedy of Macbeth.

**Janet and Chris Porter**

\* \* \* \* \*

## PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS

**live** without pretending

**love** without depending

**listen** without defending

**speak** without offending

*Twitter*

\* \* \* \* \*

The sun shines somewhere every day,  
This we know is true.  
But if clouds sometimes hide it,  
Let it shine through you.



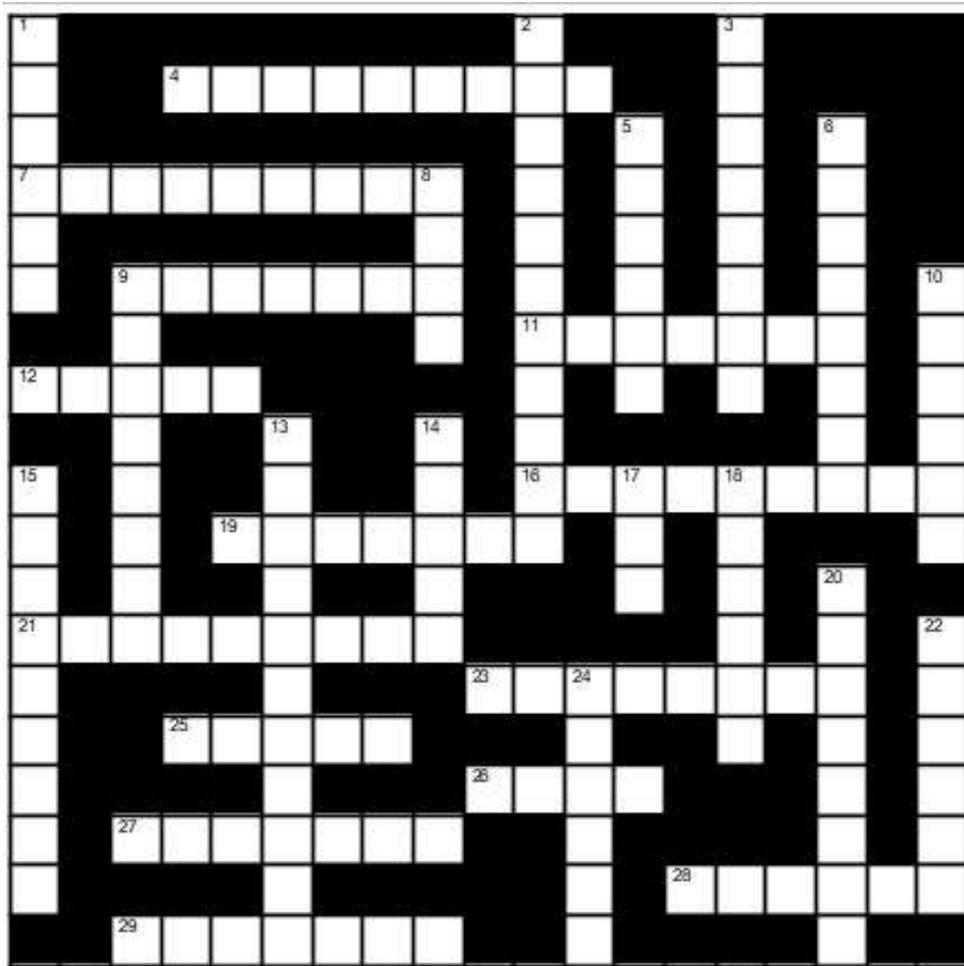
# ADULT CROSSWORD

## Thoroughfares of Preston.

The word puzzle in this edition needs a little introduction. Each answer is the name given to 'a thoroughfare' in Preston. The clue in every case is in two parts - first a letter which denotes the type of thoroughfare (e.g. **A** would indicate **Avenue**) and then a clue in one or two parts, sometimes cryptic, sometimes general knowledge and sometimes both. In the grid only insert the name of the thoroughfare and not, for example, 'Avenue'.

In compiling it I have found 'A History of Preston' by David Hunt to be really informative. No doubt other history books will help, but any errors you find in the puzzle are mine alone. Remember I am not a Prestonian, although the City is growing on me!

*Ken Wales*



### Across

- 4 **R.** Religious believer collects parcels there. (9)
- 7 **W.** Long-distance walker extends around the north-west of the City. (3,6)
- 9 **L.** Bird consumed a mushy mess for starters. (7)
- 11 **S.** Fruitful area once site of a famous umbrella shop. (7)
- 12 **L.** A soggy place - nearby was the site of the old Friary (5)
- 16 **A.** Site of a Methodist Junior School. River has a weight on its back. (9)
- 19 **L.** Two 18th century brothers - prominent tradesmen and townspeople. (7)

- 21 **L.** This leaves only a faint trace on the way to the Free Methodist Church (9)
- 23 **S.** The location of old ducking stool in Deepdale. Reminder of an old German question. (8)
- 25 **S.** No water there now but once a busy industrial area in the middle of Preston. (5)
- 26 **S.** Old thoroughfare off Fishergate. Bears the name of a Prime Minister and an American actor. (4)
- 27 **S.** Hey, late (anagram). Site of dense development of weavers' cottages long demolished. (7)
- 28 **L.** New dock offices built there in the 1930s. Named after Preston's traditional climate? (6)
- 29 **S.** Knock on the door at No.10 and Boris may appear! (7)

### **Down**

- 1 **S.** Site of unruly sectarian behaviour in 1868 during the Whit Walks. Shares name with a famous poet. (6)
- 2 **W.** WW1 hero avoids the bottleneck at Broughton. (5,6)
- 3 **S.** A lecture in the Independent Chapel here gave rise to the Temperance Movement. Site of Patten House, a centre of the Earl of Derby's interests in the town. (8)
- 5 **S.** One of the City's oldest thoroughfares. Originally termed 'gate', you will find there. Now a Minster there. (6)
- 6 **S.** Was intended to be the site of an important water passage connecting canal and river (8)
- 8 **S.** River which witnessed one of Agatha's murders. Site of intense Industrial Revolution housing. (4)
- 9 **R.** As you travel north along it, give a wave to Fulwood Methodist Church to the east. (8)
- 10 **R.** Shares name with a grander thoroughfare in London, but one of routes. (6)
- 13 **R.** Stiff nog Ken prepared near PNE (11)
- 14 **S.** Name traditionally associated with the press in London, but the site of industrial unrest in Preston in 1842, (which threatened for a while what is now Central Methodist Church). (5)
- 15 **S.** Another place in Germany associated with the 23 across question (9)
- 17 **S.** What you do on meeting royalty. Or what you need if you have an arrow? (3)
- 18 **W.** Was this elegant thoroughfare near Avenham limited to one gender? (6)
- 20 **Sq.** Roughly south of Fishergate but north of the River. A green space much restored in recent times (8)
- 22 **C.** Major thoroughfare which assisted in giving shape and identity to Fulwood in the last century... (6)
- 24 **R.** ....along with this one which holds out a promise of a day near the sea. (6)

## THE MEXICO DISASTER OF 1886

Nowadays when we hear mention of disaster at sea, we might think first of the loss of the Titanic or of environmentally damaging spillages from huge oil tankers. Storm warnings mean falling trees, roads blocked, flooding, power lines down. We probably don't think too much about ships at risk. Enormous container ships can cope with the weather and there aren't as many fishing boats as there once were. But it wasn't always like that.

In the days before HGVs and container ships goods were transported internationally and round our coasts in smaller cargo ships which were very vulnerable in bad weather. Over the centuries there were countless wrecks and countless rescue attempts, with much loss of life. The first purpose built lifeboat was launched in 1785, in the first half of the nineteenth century the organisation which was to become the RNLi was established to provide a search and rescue service twenty four hours a day and seven days a week, manned by volunteers who were usually fisherman or former seamen. Over the following two centuries more than 600 of these volunteers have lost their lives but never as many at one time as in the Mexico disaster off Southport in 1886.

The Mexico was a German ship bound for Ecuador which had set out from Liverpool on the 5th of December. A violent storm blew up as she was passing Great Orme Head. She was badly damaged and blown off course towards St Annes, then driven aground by heavy seas on to a sandbank in the Ribble estuary.

On the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> of December distress signals were seen on shore and the Southport lifeboat, the Eliza Fearnley, was launched with a crew of sixteen. She managed to reach the Mexico, but overturned in the heavy seas before she could



Wreck of the Mexico, painted by Emil Axel Krause

attempt a rescue. Two of the crew were trapped under the boat but succeeded in freeing themselves and swimming to the shore to raise the alarm. All of the others drowned. Not long after the Eliza Fearnley, the St Annes lifeboat, the Laura Janet had also set out with thirteen men on board. They rowed out for 500 yards before hoisting their sails, the only driving force until the first steam powered lifeboat in 1890. Boats had no motors until 1905. Despite the weather, the Laura Janet is known to have reached two miles off Southport, but nothing is known of her after that. The boat was found upturned the next morning and all the crew were lost. Finally the new Lytham lifeboat, the Charles Biggs, put to sea for the very first time. The crew rowed one and a half miles to the Mexico where they found that the men had lashed themselves to the rigging for safety. They got them off and brought

them to the shore before the Mexico sank. All her sailors survived. Twenty seven lifeboat men perished.

The loss of so many men aroused enormous public sympathy, with a fund being opened to help the sixteen widows and fifty children left without support. Donors included Queen Victoria and the German emperor and a large sum of money was raised, some of it used to build memorials, the most striking being the statue in St Annes of a lifeboatman looking out to sea. The disaster also raised awareness throughout the country of the vital work of the lifeboat service and the public began to recognise the need to support these volunteers. In 1891 a Manchester man, Sir Charles Macara, organised Lifeboat Saturday, a parade of bands, floats and lifeboats through the city, and the first recorded street collection for charity took place. His wife went on to form a Ladies Guild to organise further street collections and other fund raising activities. Within ten years, there were forty Ladies Guilds all over the country, doubling the income of the RNLI. Their work continues today to raise the funds needed to support the work of the lifeboat service, which receives no government funding and which is still almost entirely staffed by volunteers who risk their lives every time they put to sea.



**The Mexico Memorial**



While the tragic loss of the crews of the Southport and St Annes lifeboats remains to this day the worst disaster in the history of the RNLI, it also had a positive consequence in raising awareness of the work of this vital service.

*Libby Stone*

\* \* \* \* \*

## COMMUNITY CHOIR

As things begin to return to some sort of normality, we have been able to start singing again. Although some of our members have still not returned, we have gained 3 new people and now have an average attendance of 12. We have been approached by Sue Ryder Home to sing for them as soon as it is safe within their environment.



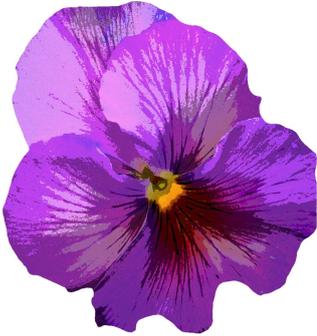
Newcomers are, as always, welcome; with a sense of enjoyment more important than a singing ability. If you have been before, consider returning. We concentrate on popular music, songs from the Musicals and an occasional song incorporating melodies.

We meet at 7.00pm on a Wednesday (excepting School holidays) and finish about 8.15pm.

*Dave Topping*

## THE VIOLET

Down in a green and shady bed  
A modest violet grew,  
Its stalk was bent, it hung its head,  
As if to hide from view.



And yet it was a lovely flower,  
Its colour bright and fair,  
It might have graced a rosy bower  
Instead of hiding there.

Yet there it was content to bloom,  
In modest tints arrayed;  
And there diffused its sweet perfume  
Within its silent shade.

Then let me to the village go  
This pretty flower to see,  
That I may also learn to grow  
In sweet humility.

*Jane Taylor (1783 – 1824)*

*who also wrote 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' with her sister Ann*

\* \* \* \* \*

## SNOWDROPS

“Where are the snowdrops?” said the sun.  
“Dead”, said the frost, “buried and lost, every one.”  
“A foolish answer”, said the sun,  
“they did not die, asleep they lie, every one”.  
“And I will awake them”, said the sun,  
“into the light, all clad in white, every one”.

“It’s rather dark in the earth today”,  
said one little bulb to its brother,  
“but I thought that I felt a sunbeam’s ray.  
We must strive and grow ‘till we find our way”,  
And they nestled close to each other.

They struggled and strived by day and by night,  
‘Til two little snowdrops, in green and white,  
rose out of the darkness and into the light,  
And softly kissed each other.



*Annie Matheson (1853 – 1924)*

## RAMJS

This term our children at Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School have been busy with some very exciting undertakings, including exciting trips and making Robots to contend in our Numeracy Ninjas competition.

Let's start with our Year 3 trip to Cobble Hey Farm; not only did we have an amazing time, we were also a twitter sensation - 804 likes, 136 retweets and 15 Quoted Tweets!

Using a grant obtained by the Country Trust, we were able to take our Year 3 pupils to a working farm near Bleasdale, where first and foremost, we were able to enjoy the great outdoors. We made pizza and cooked them over open flames, learnt all about cows, the importance of forests and nature before we climbed to the top of a hill with Farmer Dave and ran all the way back down. The shrieks of pure joy made the entire experience all the sweeter but with this came the stark reality that none of these children has ever done anything quite like it. The staff and Farmers Edwina and Dave were not only humbled, but teary-eyed when describing this most basic act of enjoyment. This trip only goes to highlight the significance of the work we are undertaking with the development of our Outdoor Education and Mr Moran and Mrs Langfield are planning their next trip for Year 5, who will go to Martin Mere to learn about the importance of wetlands and the habitat they provide to birds, wild fowl and animals.

We have also been promoting our children taking the lead in school and our Numeracy Ninjas have set the bar incredibly high with their Battle of the Robots competition. Children across school were encouraged to make a robot; the design brief was to ensure that the robots were able to launch an object, the robot with the greatest launching capacity winning the competition. It was fascinating to see the differing designs which had clearly taken a significant amount of time and effort from both children and their family.

By providing learning opportunities like these, we are hoping to 'spark' an interest in new hobbies that may go on to transform the lives of our pupils and their families.

We like to keep our school Facebook page topped up with all the information about our weekly activities so feel free to give our page a 'like'; alternatively, there are regular updates added to our school website which can be found here:

***[www.facebook.com/Ribbleton-Avenue-Methodist-Junior-School-1632187003765304](https://www.facebook.com/Ribbleton-Avenue-Methodist-Junior-School-1632187003765304)***, alternatively, there are regular updates added to our school website which can be found here: ***[www.ramjs.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.ramjs.lancs.sch.uk)***



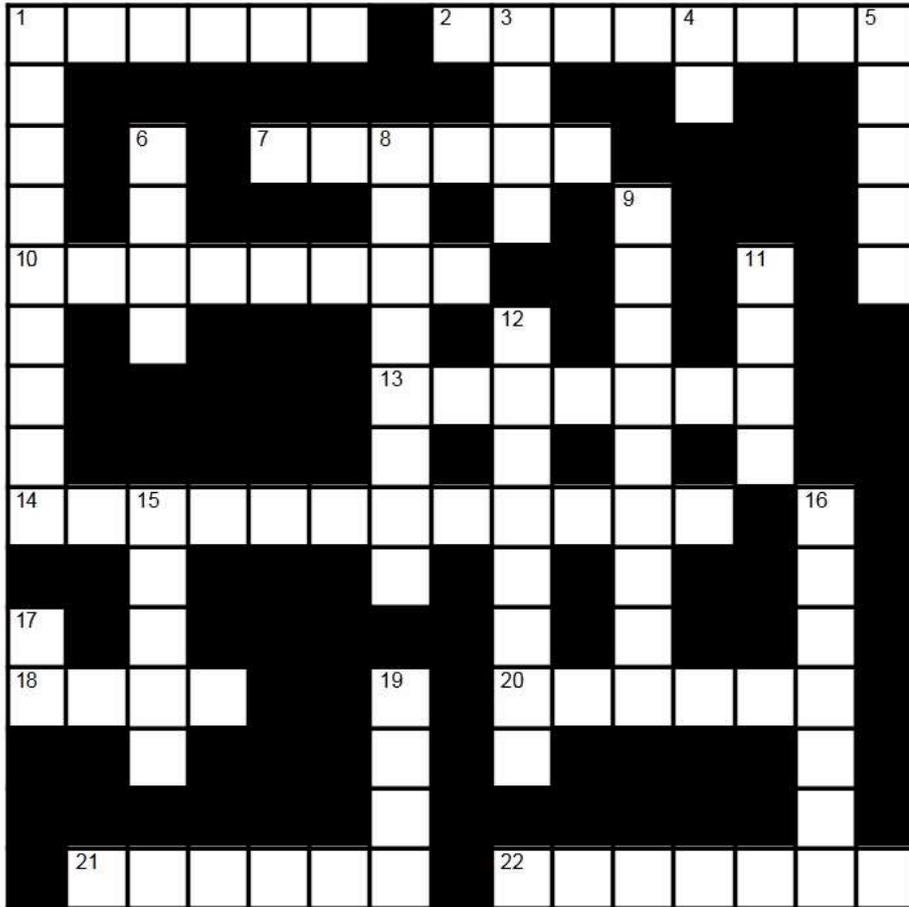
***Fran Nickson*** Headteacher RAMJS

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

First of all, *many congratulations to Isabel* for her lovely telling of the story of the imaginative story of the Sheep's visit to Jesus that first Christmas. You can read Isabel's story on page 42 and on the Church website. There will be another book token prize for this month's competition (see below).

This time we have a crossword based on the life of Jesus. You will know many of the answers from recent Sunday Club sessions but if you are stuck ask for help at home or in Sunday Club! Here is the crossword.

### CHILDREN'S CROSSWORD



#### Across

- 1 The name of the river where John baptised Jesus (6)
- 2 Special name given to stories which Jesus told to teach us how to live (8)
- 7 When Jesus cured people he acted as one of these. (6)
- 10 A title given to Jesus to show how very special He was. (3,2,3)
- 13 Jesus acted as a .....when he explained what God was really like (7)
- 14 Sometimes Jesus did extraordinary things that no one could explain.  
The people regarded him as a ..... (7,5)
- 18 Sadly, on what we now call Good Friday, Jesus was crucified and.... (4)
- 20 The main place of worship in Jerusalem (6)
- 21 The number of disciples first chosen by Jesus (6)
- 22 It was John the ....., who baptised Jesus in the river Jordan (7)

## Down

- 1 The main town in Israel, where Jesus visited the temple (9)
- 3 A word we use now at the end of our prayers. It means ‘so be it’ (4)
- 4 Two letters given to the years before Jesus was born. Short for Before Christ. (2)
- 5 One of the fisherman who became a follower of Jesus. Later he became known as Peter (5)
- 6 Jesus came to be thought of as one of these. But not like Henry or Charles or George .... (4)
- 8 A special name given by Jesus to His followers when he sent them out to spread the good news about Him (8)
- 9 The place where Jesus was born (9)
- 11 Jesus’ mother (4)
- 12 Jesus lived here during his childhood (8)
- 15 On Easter Sunday Jesus’ friends heard the amazing news that Jesus had.....
- 16 Simon, Peter, Mary, Andrew and lots more were ..... of Jesus (7)
- 17 Two letters given to each year after Jesus was born - short for Anno Domini (2)
- 19 What Zaccheus climbed to get a better view of Jesus (4)

## ***NOW FOR THE COMPETITION.***

We invite you to write a sentence where the first letter of each word is the first letter of one of the answers to the clues in the crossword. Got it?? You will need to use at least 3 of these letters from the crossword but in addition you can have up to five other words which start with any one of the vowels in the alphabet (even if they are not first or last letters in the crossword answer) . An example is below:

Each day say ‘please’ and ‘thanks’ - smiles help also.

Please pass your sentence to one of the Sunday Club staff or to Darren or Jane – or email to [\*kenwales9421@gmail.com\*](mailto:kenwales9421@gmail.com). Entries needed by end of May. Once more, a £10 book token to the winning entry.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.”

***Laura Bush***

\* \* \* \* \*

“If you young fellows were wise, the devil couldn’t do anything to you, but since you aren’t wise, you need us who are old.”

***Martin Luther***

\* \* \* \* \*

“Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood.” ***Helen Keller***

# SHEEP'S DIARY

By Disable

*WARNING: Contains a tragic journey (not really, but there are a few ups and downs!)*

We all know the Christmas story (or should anyway), but not much is heard from the shepherds, especially not us sheep! So, I decided to write a journal for you to see what actually happened.

## DAY 1

What a strange evening!

It started when the sky suddenly flashed up with lights and these weirdly figure angel things appeared! They suddenly started talking to us, but halfway through that, according to Fred, I fainted. Not sure how sheep can faint, but never mind. When I woke up, the sky was back to normal but all I could hear was the shepherds shouting "Aaaaaaah. We must be dead! Angels only appear to the dead. Following a star, what nonsense! Mad, I tell you, mad".

Write tomorrow! Well, maybe in a few days.

## DAY 3

It's been the most tiring day ever!

We set off on this really long journey to Bethlehem at 5.00am so I literally got no sleep The road is dust, dirty and full of sharp rocks! My hooves are aching, and guess what?

This whole journey is just to see a baby! Not fair! At least we got to stop for 30 minutes halfway through when Bartholomew was daydreaming and fell in a ditch.

Write when something exciting happens!

## DAY 6

Nothing exciting has really happened but we did have to take multiple detours. One was because it rained and a huge tree blocked the path and because there was a hill too steep for us to go up. I'm soooooo tired. Shepherds say that we have only another day of travelling then we can rest. Thank goodness.

Write when we get there.

## DAY 8

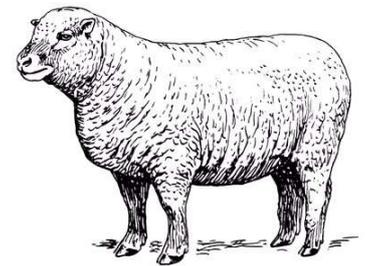
The shepherds lied! They said it would only be one day, but it has been two.! I mean at least we can see the city on the horizon.

Update! We finally arrived at the stable, tired as ever, but it was worth it! The baby actually turns out to be the son of God! How cool! I did get told off though when I tried to eat the hay that Jesus was lying on in the manger. Hey, I can't help it! I'm only a sheep! Apart from that incident, the atmosphere was full of JOY!

Everyone was marvelling at this gorgeous baby, and his amazing parents Mary and Joseph. A true miracle happened and I, Bob the Sheep, was there.

By **Bob the Sheep**  
aka **Disable**

*This was the winning entry in the task set in the Christmas 2021 issue to write a story using at least 12 words from the Wordsearch, including JOY.*



# PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS 2021 MAGAZINE

## ADULT CROSSWORD



## CHILDREN'S WORDSEARCH



## SEASONAL CUSTOMS

### Pace Egging at Easter

Of the many quaint ceremonies which characterise Easter Day, the practice of giving presents of eggs is doubtless the most ancient. Eggs have been associated with Easter always. The Jews believed them to be emblematic of the Passover; the Egyptians held them to be emblematic of the renewal of the human race after the deluge; the Christians, the symbol of the Resurrection. Similarly, Easter eggs have been regarded as typical of the creation or re-creation of spring, while the custom of sending Easter eggs to friends is a relic from the Persians and Hindus. For the purpose of symbolising the rising of Christ, the early Christians were in the habit of colouring the eggs in allusion to their redemption by the blood of Jesus Christ.



Pace egging in Avenham Park, Preston

'Pask' 'Pasche' or 'Pace-egg' as it has been variously called in different localities, are all corruptions of Paschal, from the old custom of presenting eggs as Easter tokens.

*NB. In Preston, it now often called 'Egg Rolling'.*

*Extract from an article by Rev. James Johnstone  
in the Blackburn Times 22/4/1905*

### May-Dewing

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 late-comers were drenched with rain before they got back. For a similar purpose many went into the parks.

*Extract from the Blackburn Times 13/5/1905*

\* \* \* \* \*

Be patient. In time an egg will walk. *(African proverb)*

The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future.  
*(Wendell Phillips)*

Kindness in ourselves is the honey that blunts the sting of unkindness in another.  
*(Walter Savage Landor)*

The days that make us happy make us wise. *(John Masefield)*

## SOME QUOTATIONS FROM ACTUAL EXAM PAPERS

- Ancient Egypt was old. It was inhabited by gypsies and mummies who all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Desseret. The climate of the Sarah is such that all the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.
- Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up to Mount cyanide to get the ten commandos. He died before he ever reached Canada but the commandos made it.
- Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines. He was a actual hysterical figure as well as being in the bible. It sounds like he was sort of busy too.
- The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a young female moth.
- Socrates was a famous old Greek teacher who sent around giving people advice. They killed him. He later died from an overdose of wedlock which is apparently poisonous. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.
- During the first Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled biscuits and threw the java. The games were messier than they show on TV now.
- Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped: "Same to you, Brutus".
- Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was canonised by Bernard Shaw for reasons I don't really understand. The English and French still have problems.
- It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood.
- Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking.
- Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100 foot clipper which was very dangerous to all his men.



# **HOGHTON FOLK DANCE CLUB**



## **Summer Dances at Hoghton Village Hall**



**Hoghton Folk Dance Club will  
resume dancing on Tuesday 3rd May 2022  
7-30pm till 9-30pm  
At Hoghton Village Hall  
Ample carparking space**

**Everyone welcome,  
no need to bring a partner  
Tea & biscuits provided  
(bring your own cup if you prefer)  
Admission free on May 3rd  
thereafter £3 per session**

**For directions to the hall or for any other  
Information please contact Eve Calderbank**



**on 01772 731483 or  
*thomaseve@virginmedia.com***



## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES** (Under normal circumstances)

### **Sunday**

9.45 am Singing Practice (Cedar Room)

### **Tuesday**

10.00 am	Men's AM Club (fortnightly)	Dave Topping
2.15 pm	Ladies Fellowship (fortnightly)	Barbara Hothersall
7.00 pm	Messy Church (half-termly) for families	Delma Whitman
7.00 pm	Fulwood Bible Fellowship (monthly)	Margaret Holmes
7.00 pm	Book Club (monthly)	Janet and 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

### **Thursday**

2.30 pm Knitting Group Veronica Frost

### **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)	“ “ Not yet resumed

### **Sunday**

10.45 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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