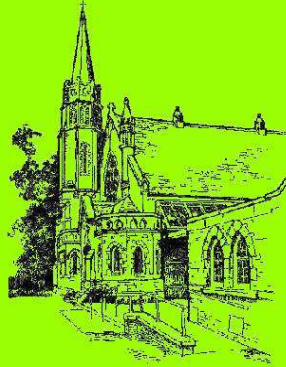


**Fulwood Methodist Church
Crossroads Centre**



He is Risen
JESUS

Easter

2023

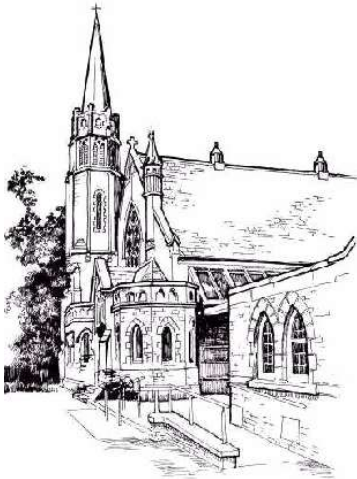
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THE FULWOOD METHODIST

FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8EA
Tel. Preston (01772) 718741



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

Registered Charity No. 1133929

SUNDAY SERVICES

9.45 am SINGING PRACTICE (occasional)

10.30 am MORNING WORSHIP & SUNDAY CLUB

6.00 pm. EVENING WORSHIP. Usually 3rd Sunday of the month

We offer a welcome to all ages on Sunday mornings, there is a CRÈCHE for babies and toddlers while parents are in worship. The first 15 minutes of worship are for all ages and then on most Sundays the children leave for their own time in SUNDAY CLUB, where there are groups for different ages. Parents can go out with the younger ones to see them settle, and then come back into Church for worship. Sunday Club and worship finish at the same time and an invitation is extended to everyone to stay and share in fellowship in the Willow Grove, where tea, coffee and orange juice are served.

The CHURCH MINIBUS provides free transport to and from Church on Sunday mornings. The timetable and route information are available at Church. Should you wish to make use of it please complete one of the request cards in Willow Grove.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated monthly (morning and evening) and once a month there is ALL-AGE WORSHIP involving children from the youth groups.

For BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS contact Revd Jane Wild

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

PASTORAL LETTER

From Revd Jane Wild

Dear Friends

Luke 24: 5b says “Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

What make you feel alive? When can you say this is really Living?

Is it through music? Is it through silence?

Is it through solitude? Is it through companionship?

Is it in the countryside? Is it in the city centre?

What make you feel alive? When can you say this is really Living?

Some time ago there was been great controversy about posters on buses which read “There is probably no God - so stop worrying”. It puzzles me. Is it a misprint? Should it read “There is probably no God - so start worrying”. That would make more sense to me.

However as it stands, it represents a misconception which we as Christians perhaps ought to be correcting. Why should God cause us to worry? We worry about things that are distressing, that we don't want to happen.

Why should God be a cause of worry. God offers guidance, protection and support. Perhaps God is presented as a cause of worry; perhaps God is depicted as being with the dead rather than the living.

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

Think back to the things that bring you life and reflect on where the living God is in them- and give thanks,

For life and living,

For your presence and encouragement

For the promise of life forever

We thank you, Loving God. Amen.

May you know the wonder and glory of Easter.

God Bless.

Jane.

Holy week prayer opportunities.

During holy week there will be opportunities in church to pray though the Easter story and engage in prayer. The church will be open daily (times will be in the notices) for you to use the resources and follow the path of the Easter story. This activity will be intergenerational with materials for all ages. Please come and give it a go.



EASTER MORNING SERVICE ON BEACON FELL

We are meeting and worshipping ecumenically this year. Meet in the car park at 6.00am. We will walk together to the top for the service at 6.15am. Coffee, tea and hot cross buns will be available in the car park afterwards. Please bring a mug.

* * * * *

FAMILY NEWS

Baptisms

5th February Louise Slater
12th March Keanu Clark



Funerals

11th January Yvonne Howarth
3rd February Jean Taylor
1st March Joan Hardman
8th March Mary Fox



* * * * *

EDITORIAL

Getting back into the swing of things isn't always easy. Responses to the appeal for magazine material were slow, initially, but – thank goodness – you responded well and we thank you sincerely .

The copy date for our **Summer** issue will be **Sunday, 25th June**, but 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)

* * * * *

CHURCH STEWARDS

Hilary Banks, Judith Lowe, Sue Rennie, Sue Salisbury.

* * * * *

COMMUNION STEWARDS

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

* * * * *

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR Roy Smith 7 Southgate, Fulwood Preston PR2 3HX
Assisted by Barbara Hothersall
Libby Stone
Computer layout John Butterworth
e-mail fmcmagazine@yahoo.co.uk

A LITURGY FOR LENT

A liturgy for Lent that links the journey of Lent with the rhythm of the seasons. Just as spring is a time of intense agricultural activity after the barrenness and apparent death of winter, so Lent is a time of transition for the land of our hearts, when God is bringing out of bitter coldness a ripe and fruitful harvest.

The starkness and sometimes painful experience of winter is a necessary preparation to allow us to step forth courageously into the new life that spring invites and that Jesus offers to us in Easter.

As you will already know we have been reflecting in worship on the messages the prophets have brought us as we prepare for Easter and creating a Lent Garden that will become an Easter Garden on Easter Sunday. Over the next few weeks we will be adding plants from round the church building and are asking that if you have any small flowering plants in pots you might like to bring them for Easter Sunday to help make our garden flower. As well as any flowers that we normally bring which this year we will place at the foot of the cross and in the empty tomb to celebrate the resurrection.

We have many reactions to the plight of refugees around the world as a community. With our Christian community the greatest of these should be love for the human lives that the term represents. I think this poem by Revd Leslie Griffiths' grandson, Thomas reflects that.

Jane Wild

A REFUGEE SPEAKS

The sadness and tears
Before moving on
Weighs like nothing else on the heart.

The hopes and the dreams
On the other side
Are what keeps us moving still.

The joy and the pleasure
Of arriving there
Lightens our hearts

Before the coldness of reality
Sinks them back down to our boots.

For after all our journeys, mishaps, adventures
These people turn us away.

Ban us from ever coming back
As if we were wrong, not wronged.

Thomas Griffiths

LEADERSHIP OF FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Decision of the Church Council

In late February, the Church Council made important decisions about the future leadership of the Church. They asked the Leadership Working Group to begin to implement the processes they had approved, including keeping the whole Church community informed. This article is intended to do just that and reinforces the messages given to the General Church Meeting on 4th March.

In recent times there have been important changes to the life of many organisations, including that of Fulwood Methodist Church - not least because of the COVID pandemic. The Church Council has decided to consider how we organise all our activities in light of the changed circumstances we are experiencing. Fulwood Methodist Church remains active and healthy, and provides a valuable witness to our community. However, it is a different Church from that of ten or more years ago.

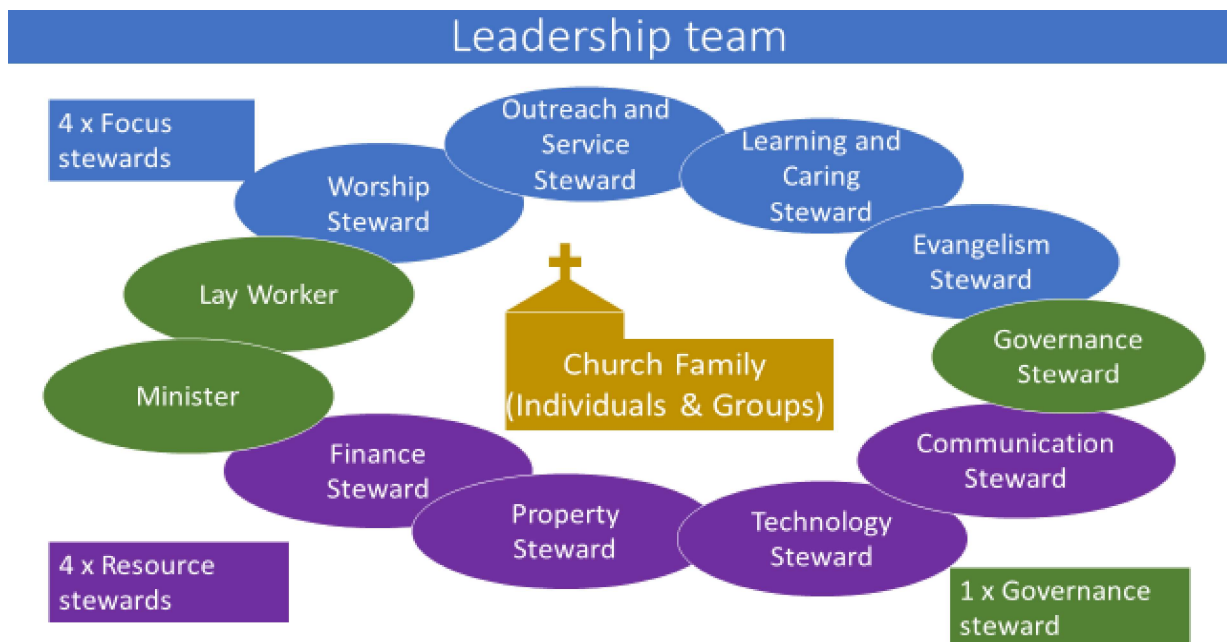
So, we have been thinking about Leadership. What is it in a Church context? How is it best provided? How can our practices be adapted to meet the challenges and opportunities we face? To help do this - the Church Council appointed the Leadership Working Group in 2022 to identify proposals for change. The Working Group presented their proposals to the Church Council in February.

Before they moved on to consider the proposed changes - the Church Council gratefully said a huge THANK YOU to those who have led and contributed to Church life in so many ways and over so many years.

At the meeting in February, the Church Council approved several recommendations made by the Leadership Working Group. In summary:-

- The Church Council, as Trustees, will continue to have full responsibility for the Vision, Mission and Ministry of Fulwood Methodist Church;
- A new Leadership team will be created to support, encourage, co-ordinate and provide shape for all our activities – and to ensure that decisions made by the Church Council are delivered in practice.

The new model is illustrated alongside. It is depicted to show that the team is there to support the whole of our Church family – each one of us: you, me and all of our groups and activities. It not a hierarchical model.



The 11 people in the new Leadership Team will work collectively to deliver the requirements of the Church Council. They will work as a team to support each other and the rest of the Church at all times. Whilst individual Stewards will have areas of focus, responsibilities will be shared as many challenges and tasks will need to be faced jointly.

The new arrangements will be phased in from September this year. The Leadership Working Group will maintain an ongoing review of their effectiveness, recommending any adjustments which may be advisable to the Church Council. The aim is for the final arrangements to be fully operational by September 2024, when the Leadership Working Group can be disbanded. We will provide regular updates to you all on how it is going!

Up to now, Stewards in our Church have been primarily concerned with arrangements for Worship – services, special occasions, seasonal activities and so on. They have done a great job – so there was another THANK YOU to them from the Church Council. In future, Worship arrangements will be undertaken by a team of Worship Assistants – using the systems and rotas which have served us well to date.

None of the other Church groups or committees will change directly as a result of the Church Council decision. They already align nicely with the new model! Of course, over time, there may be some adjustments - but for now, everyone can carry on doing the great job you have been doing.

The Church Council do have several requests to make of you. Please will you:

- Consider how you might help – whilst we would look to appoint new Stewards for up to 6 years we can be flexible. Even if you can only commit to a year that would be of great assistance;

- Encourage anyone in the Church who you think could contribute to these new arrangements - please ask them to put their name forward or mention them yourselves to one of the people in the Working Group (see below);
- Pray for this work as regularly as you are able.

If you want to find out more – please look out for our handout which will be available in the Willow Grove. Meanwhile the Website includes the detailed papers presented to Church Council. Also – please feel free to discuss the changes which are being introduced with any members of the Leadership Working Group.

They are:

- Rev. Jane Wild
- Darren Arnold
- Margaret Squire
- Amanda Latham
- Sue Penrith
- Mike Ellis
- Ken Wales.

Leadership Working Group, on behalf of the Church Council.

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FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

This event really was a **SPRING SPECTACULAR**

The *Spring Spectacular* night on March 4th was a fund-raising event to raise money towards the running of Fulwood Methodist Church and the many activities it provides to support the local community. Certainly, an evening not to be forgotten, and it was wonderful to see so many of the congregation and wider



community finally together once again after the long break that Covid forced upon us all. The money raised was spectacular too, **£2300**, 10 % of which will be donated to the next church project, 'The Smile Train'.

The evening started with an orchestral concert given by the Wyre Music Group Orchestra, who performed to a packed church with a very enthusiastic audience. The programme of easy listening music, film and show music included something for everyone and delighted the audience who received it with enormous appreciation. There was much foot tapping and some fervent singing of Abba 'Thank You for the Music'.

After the concert everyone moved into the Willow Grove. There were gasps of amazement when people saw all the tables so beautifully laid out and presented in such an attractive and homely way with flowers on each table - evocative of spring to come. The hot two course meal that followed was enjoyed by 130 people - what an extraordinary feat of culinary logistics! There was a choice of three main courses, followed by delicious crumbles and pies. After the meal everyone was entertained by an after dinner speech given in a most entertaining way by Malcolm Rae.



The raffle was drawn at the end and winners were rewarded with some fantastic prizes. Finally, the quiz and puzzle answers were given and the photos of the babies were identified - all of which was great fun.

The atmosphere of the whole evening was one of joy, happiness, and thanksgiving. Thanks were given to the many people who all pulled together to make a fantastic team, all who contributed in so many ways to put on such a successful, enjoyable and rewarding fund-raising event.

Mavis Fletcher, Keith & Jane Brooks (WMGO)

WITHOUT EASTER

Without Easter,
there would be no hope of heaven.
Without the hope of heaven,
there would be no repentance,
no personal transformation,
no attempt to follow biblical principles.
Without Easter,
the world would be in chaos and darkness.
Jesus' death and resurrection
means we can be reborn,
to live better, to do better,
to shine light into the shadows.
Hallelujah!
Happy, Happy Easter.

*By Joanna Fuchs
from - quotesrhymesandpoems.com*

* * * * *

A TONGUE TWISTER

A baby and a box of pills,
A puppy and a rat,
A roly-poly pudding
And an old tom cat.
A pound of tallow candles,
And a round of buttered
toast,
All came to me this
morning
By the parcel post



Try saying this as fast as ever you can!

* * * * *

LIFE IS AN ECHO

Life is an echo that all comes back:
The good, the false and the true.
So give to the world the best you possess,
And the best will come back to you.

Author unknown



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TRAIDCRAFT

Traidcraft, the Fair Trade pioneer is no more.

After an exceptionally difficult few years, the founder of the trade justice movement has closed its doors. Many of you will have supported Traidcraft for years and this marks a huge loss for us all.



Traidcraft

Fighting poverty through trade

Since 1979 Traidcraft has reimagined the relationships between producers and consumers, putting justice at the heart of trade. The Fair Trade movement as we know it would not exist without Traidcraft.

Trading ethically within a system that is unjust was always going to be difficult. From the start, the odds were stacked against Traidcraft. But over the years, Traidcraft did incredible work with smaller producer groups - helping them find a route to market where no one else could.

But what now?

The good work that Traidcraft has done over the years will not disappear. Instead it must be built upon. The mission continues to be to transform trade so that everybody benefits. We must press on with renewed energy and support those other Fairtrade companies that have sprung up in recent years to carry on Traidcraft's work – Divine, Cafedirect, Liberation Nuts, Clipper, Namaste, Meaningful Chocolate Company and many others.



Guarantees
a **better deal**
for Third World
Producers

Traidcraft Fairtraders will be continuing to source Fairtrade products to sell on stalls – please bear with them as they seek new links and continue to support them. (Anne will still be supplying Fairtrade goods– do contact on 07813 870641)

At the same time the campaigning arm of Traidcraft - now known as Transform Trade – continues to campaign for trade that values people over profit, and would value our support. (www.transform-trade.org)

What is Transform trade?

Transform Trade works alongside communities experiencing injustice, and fight for trade that values people over profit. Their roots are in the alternative trade movement in the north east of England and draw support from across the UK and beyond.

Finally let us give thanks for the work of Traidcraft over the years. **The good work that Traidcraft pioneered cannot and will not be undone.**

Anne Garsed

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is with tremendous sadness that we announce that Traidcraft PLC has gone into administration.

The business has been in a weak financial position for some years and the Covid-19 pandemic presented a significant new set of challenges. Just as we were emerging from the pandemic, like many other retailers, we faced the combined effects of the war in Ukraine, rising energy prices, and increased transport costs.

Sadly, despite the heroic efforts of our team at Gateshead, low consumer confidence during the critical autumn trading period led to a sales result significantly short of what was required to sustain the operation. December sales were also negatively impacted by the uncertainty created by Royal Mail strikes.

After much deliberation and following advice from external advisors, we have come to the conclusion that the only honourable course of action is to appoint administrators. Our hope is that by doing this in a timely manner, we can minimise the impact on our suppliers and creditors.

It is heartbreaking to bring the Traidcraft plc story to an end in this manner but we can at least take some consolation from the knowledge that we have been a major force for good in the ethical retail sector for over forty years. We have championed the cause of trade justice to the point where we now have better standards and procedures in place to protect the rights and dignity of growers and producers all over the world.

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who have journeyed with us as employees, board members, shareholders and suppliers. We would particularly like to thank our loyal band of 'Fairtraders', many of whom have been with us since the very beginning.

The mission to combat trade injustice and poverty is far from complete.

It is important to recognise that Transform Trade (previously Traidcraft Exchange, the charity arm of Traidcraft) will continue its vital work supporting producers and fighting for trade justice and people centred trade.

Our hope and prayer is that others will also emerge to pick up the torch that we have carried for four decades.



*Board of Directors
Traidcraft plc
January 2023*

YOUTH, CHILDREN'S & FAMILY WORKER

Darren Arnold

There is lots of good things happening at Fulwood and in the other circuit work I'm doing. Sunday club is growing in number and looking at different subjects like heroes and heroines and the Prophets, these are usually launched by Breakfast Church which is open to everyone to join us with food, fellowship, songs, stories and craft.



The older Youth now meet twice a month, once during a service where they look at the reading for the day and the current issues in the world and they also meet one evening where they are currently looking at the Methodist Way. Both Parent & Toddler and Escape groups are really busy. We have recently acquired eight new puppets which are already being put to use. They made their debut at 'Messy Church' at the talent themed session, which included to some great talent from our youngsters and parents. The puppets are currently being used at Ribbleton Avenue School for a lunchtime group, which hopefully will see them take an assembly in school.



The uniformed organisations are all going very well and are all running to near compacity and doing some great work, the Scouts are celebrating their 80th Anniversary this year and are organising events to celebrate, they are also opening up a new Squirrels section (4 - 6 years) starting in June. Have a look at tinyurl.com/2jvz66hk for more information.



The Brownies & Rainbows had a joint disco and are attending a fun day in May. The Guides have had a sleepover at church which included a packed evening programme.

The Lent celebrations got off to a great start with a Pancake Party which was attended by members of our church family and families from groups from the church like the Parent & Toddler, I'm hoping that during the holiday period I will be able to deliver some family activities for everyone to attend. Please do note that the majority of events we hold are for everyone not just children and families, so do please visit our next Breakfast Church etc.

Finally I had the pleasure of leading prayers at a recent staff meeting and showed them this picture of a lonely daffodil!

My question/reflection was – What does this make you think of? Is it strength? Weakness? Loneliness? Keeping watch? Abandonment? Waiting?



My thoughts were about strength and waiting – In Isaiah 40 v31 it says “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to a high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift up above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm; it simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm. When the storms of life come upon us, we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God. The storms do not have to overcome us; God will strengthen us during our time of waiting. His power will lift us up above the dark clouds so we can ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment into our lives. So what does this picture say to you?

Wishing you all a lovely Easter.

Darren

* * * * *

Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
And back of the flour – the mill;
And back of the mill is the wheat and the shower
And the sun – and the Father's will.

Maltbie Davenport Babcock

The first to apologize is the bravest.
The first to forgive is the strongest.
The first to forget is the happiest.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

Denise Johnson

Easter brings with it all the hopeful feelings we associate with Spring. The new life is obvious all around us. My son works in a garden centre and at this time of year it bustles with life - customers searching for plants to put into their dormant gardens to give them a sense of life and colour. Trellises, bags of compost, seeds and plants are the major sellers of the Easter Season long after the chocolate eggs have been eaten. I don't have a large garden with extensive beds and borders, but I try to cram as much in there as possible and just love to sit and look at it change and develop through the months ahead. I am an outdoor girl at heart, I grew up in rural Lincolnshire where growing crops was the major thrust of village life.

Easter is brimming with hope and growth. It is a story of love overcoming all the hostilities of life. It is about love bursting through the darkness of discouragement and doubt. The world continues to be as it was in the days of the first Easter— there is still greed, the desire to own land, non-equal distribution of resources, there is still hunger and hatred. The challenge Jesus remains and the challenge to make a difference or even be the difference remains. The world craves for love more than anything else. Sir David Attenborough in his new series 'Wild Isles', as with all his recent series, challenges us to love our world more. To care for how what we do impacts on the world. In our small way we can make a difference We can show love to the world and its people – by making small changes. Perhaps we could recycle more or show more kindness to those around us. Jesus often sought out the individuals in his ministry, he had one-to-one conversations – the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, Mary and Martha; the list goes on. That voice of Jesus reaches out to us still as individuals - you are called to show love.

Love much this Easter and beyond and may you sense God's love with you in all your days ahead.

Denise

Brian Mengella

Builder & Pointing Specialist Est 1988

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A SPECIAL CAKE

Sitting in my chair the other day I suddenly realised Mothering Sunday was fast approaching. My Grandmother used to call it Simnel Sunday. I, at this time of the year, would say “It’s time for me to make the Simnel Cake”

As a child I would sit at the kitchen table watching Grandma collect all the ingredients together, then weighing & mixing.

A Simnel Cake is a light fruit cake. Grandma would place half the mixture in a cake tin, as tradition she would place a layer of marzipan on that half and then fill the cake tin with the rest the mixture before putting it into the oven to bake.

After a few days, leaving the cake to cool and settle, she would decorate it with a layer of marzipan on top. Simnel Cakes are never iced! She would then roll out eleven balls of marzipan and arrange them round the top of the cake representing the eleven apostles, minus the twelfth, Judas. Another larger ball, or similar, was placed in the centre to represent Jesus. The cake was then placed under the grill for the marzipan to brown; again, by tradition. It was then eaten on mid-Lent Sunday, the 4th in Lent. People on that day were allowed to break their fast and would eat a piece of Simnel Cake as well as other foods.

Simnel Cake has been baked since at least medieval times, but in those days it was a bread bun with dried fruit. The word Simnel is the word for fine wheat flour. On mid Lent Sunday young men and women in Service were allowed the day off to visit their mothers. Robert Herrick, the poet, in 1648 wrote these words referring to Mother’s Day and Simnel cake, “I’ll to thee a Simnel bring, Gain’st thou go a mothering.”

These days we tend to lose traditions, but I’m told some supermarkets now sell Simnel Cakes at this time of the year. I bet they don’t taste as good as my Grand mother’s!



Enid Singleton

* * * * *

Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
And back of the flour – the mill;
And back of the mill is the wheat and the shower
And the sun – and the Father’s will.

Maltbie D. Babcock

A FARRAGO

- It is now 50 years since FMC's AM Club was started up – and it's still going!
- As if in answer to our repeated question regarding the likely fate of the Emmanuel Church building in Brook Street, a two-page article appeared in the Lancashire Post of 9th January. “Campaigners launch bid to raise £2m to save Sir Tom's favourite church” ran the headline.” (Sir Tom Finney was married there in 1945.) Ideas centre around turning it into 14 affordable apartments and a space for worship and community use.
- Did you notice that BBC1 was being broadcast from Blackburn Cathedral on both Christmas Eve (at 11:45 pm) and Christmas Day (at 10.00 am)?and that the Suffragan Bishop of Burnley, Rt. Rev. Philip North, will soon be taking up his new role as Bishop of Blackburn – the tenth person to hold that title?
- Did you know that, in Canada, Brownies (as in Guide movement) are being re-branded as Embers?
- For those who like to keep an eye on their weight. Did you also know that bathroom scales were invented in 1917?
- We're always pleased to receive copies of magazines, newsheets and visitor guides from other churches. This time around we've received no copies at all – which is most unusual!
- We also regularly receive a copy of the magazine from our twinned church, Evangelische- methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany. This time around it runs to six A4 pages and is well worth reading – English version available too. Read it here - tinyurl.com/yc6z54sw

parish letter February/March/April 2023



Recklinghausen Methodist Church entrance

AM CLUB

We are now getting our numbers back up after Covid and in our first quarter we have had a good variety of interesting speakers. Apart from an interesting talk and musical rendition from the new District Chair, Revd. Phil Gough. We had a talk on philately and by Easter will have had an illustrated talk on Cinema Greats, a solicitor's tales, and an insight into the work of the Street Pastors.

After Easter we have already planned for Advice on Scams and Cyber Security plus visits by Revd. John Bolton and the Chaplain from RPH.

We offer a warm welcome to new members with the promise of £2 subs (including tea and biscuits) well spent. Meetings are on alternate Tuesdays at 10:30 lasting about 45 minutes.

For further information contact Ray Armstrong, Roy Smith or Dave Topping. Or just turn up unannounced.

Dave Topping

* * * * *

COMMUNITY CHOIR

We have had a good response since Christmas and get between 12 and 20 singers every Wednesday (except School Holidays). We sang at Christmas outside the Co-op, by invitation, as well as at Sue Ryder Home and the PNE Community party. A group of us also went to the Grand Theatre to see 'Beyond the Barricades', a fabulous professional show based on Musicals. We are a friendly group and now have several members from outside the Church family and welcome anyone of any age who wishes to join us. You do not have to be able to read music or even consider yourself a singer, but you will need a sense of humour and be able to enjoy the evening.



Dave Topping

* * * * *

ALTERNATIVE CHURCH

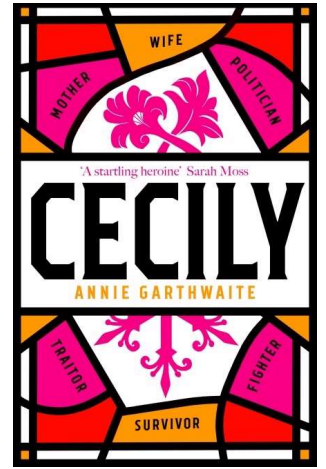
Over the last few months we have been running alternative church at the Black Bull pub. We have met at 6.30 and shared a meal together (although you are most welcome to join us and just have a coffee or something else to drink.) The format is usually a conversation starter: an opportunity to link that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

Wendy Bennett

BOOK CLUB - 1

In late January, the Book Club met for its first meeting of 2023. A relaxed start to the year you may think, but we had been reading over the cold spell two fascinating books about, if there is such a term, alpha-females. That is about two women, who in very different ways and in very different times and places made a huge impact on their times.

First, we went back nearly 600 years to the times of the Wars of the Roses as that period in our national history has become known. *Cecily* is the first book to be published by Annie Garthwaite after a successful career in other walks of life. What a debut it is and what a remarkable story it tells. It is a work of historical fiction but the painstaking care which has gone into creating an accurate backcloth for the story of a woman (Wife, Mother, Politician, Traitor, Fighter, Survivor as the book's subtitle announces) guarantees that we enter her time and environment and learn more of the life she led. The Club loved this book and marvelled at the tale it told of a woman meeting, experiencing and overcoming such a wide range of emotionally-demanding and burdensome responsibilities as did Cecily Neville. It is said that the author is writing a second volume – for at the end of this book Cecily is still alive. For one, I can't wait!



This book was written as historical fiction. In contrast Lady (Brenda) Hale wrote her book as a form of autobiography. I describe it in that way because *Spider Woman*, whilst very readable, left several of us wanting to know a little more about Lady Hale as a person. At the beginning of her book she states very clearly how she has felt herself to be an imposter at various critical stages in her life (perhaps others have felt this too in their lives, as she acknowledges is possible). In her book what she does describe lucidly and engagingly are the battles she had to fight (in a very different form from Cecily) in rising to the very top of the legal profession in this country.

That ascent was a huge achievement because the legal profession was, and probably still is, at its upper reaches a predominantly male institution but also because she had helped to shape the law, first as a law commissioner and then when she became a judge through case law, in ways which took account of a society rapidly changing its understanding of equal opportunities. For those who enjoy reading this sort of account of the time of our lives this book is a treat. If you want to know all there is to know about Lady Hale, you may be a trifle disappointed.

But one thing you will learn is about the controversy which arose as she presided at The Supreme Court hearing into the proposal to prorogue Parliament shortly after Boris Johnson came into power as Prime Minister. You may recall that during the hearing she wore on her dress a rather large spider-like brooch. This was her habit, for reasons she explains, although the actual item she wore was a very recent, and relatively modest, acquisition bought on the first day of the hearing. For on the way there she had realised the more valuable example she usually wore had unaccountably gone missing. So what, you may wonder? Well the newspapers had a field day – did not everyone know of the song recorded by The Who some years ago - *Boris the Spider*. For a moment, the Book Club became a disco.



The things you learn and listen to at The Book Club!

Ken Wales

BOOK CLUB - 2

This is just to keep everyone up to speed with recent and future meetings of the Fulwood MC Book Club. This is an open and friendly group and everyone is welcome. Join in, eat biscuits, have an enjoyable time – and read a book or two if you fancy. All the meetings are held in the Cedar Room at Church starting at either 7.00 or 7.15pm.

Tuesday 28 March at 7.00pm – we are thinking about the many works of the modern poet and writer Simon Armitage and especially his rewriting of the ancient poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

Tuesday 16 May at 7.15pm - a fun evening ‘Who gives a fig for the Bennetts?’ (apologies to our dear friends of course). Read a book by Arnold Bennett, Alan Bennett or dip into ‘*Pride and Prejudice*’ to meet Jane Austen’s fictional family. Share some thoughts and ideas, or just listen as you wish.

Tuesday 20 June at 7.15pm – a bit more serious! ‘*The Book of Revelation*’ is the Methodist Church Bible Book of the year and Rev. Jane Wild will help us to explore its history, its literary merit and its meaning, past and present.

Tuesday 18 July at 7.00pm – come and tell us what you have been saving up for your holiday reading. Or come and tell us about a book you once read on holiday which really made an impact upon you. Come and share, come and listen. Get some reading ideas for free!



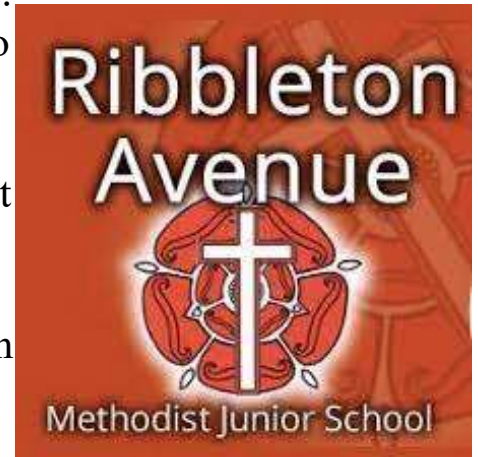
Arnold Bennett

Ken Wales

RIBBLETON AVENUE METHODIST JUNIOR SCHOOL

In recent editions, there has been a regular item about life at Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School. This time the focus will be on a rather different aspect of school life. Articles about the children, the staff and their latest activities may be much more interesting, but this features the school's governing body. Don't stop reading now! Sometimes that aspect of school life has its moments – and you just might be a school governor yourself one day. Watch out!!

Seriously, the post of school governor goes back into history even if the responsibilities have changed over the years. Today, each state school (that is a school funded by public funds) has its own governing body, just as most independent schools do. In state schools the role of a governor is decided in general terms by the government whilst appointments are made by a number of bodies with an interest in each school. In the case of a Methodist school, as you will see, that involves the Methodist Church



Every governor must quickly learn to understand that they are not there to manage or run the school; that is the job of the headteacher and other staff. To govern is not to manage but to make sure that all is well, that the country's educational laws and regulations are being met, that there is a clear sense of direction and that resources are wisely and properly used. In the case of a Methodist school it is also to ensure that the general intentions of those who founded the school are being followed. In other words, that a thousand and one things are properly in place. Done well, being a school governor is an exacting role but a rewarding one.

Being a governor is far from being a thankless and routine task. For one thing there will always be different perspectives to be considered for almost all the decisions to be made – how well we will fit the needs of the children, the staff and the community, as well as legal and financial questions? Have we an eye on the future so that we are becoming the school we want to be? Really important these days are other questions such as, how safe and secure are the children, are the wellbeing needs of the staff being looked after, is the building attractive, inviting and environmentally responsible?

At Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School about half of the Governing Body have current and active Methodist connections. Indeed, three of them (those named below) are appointed by the Circuit – the so-termed Foundation Governors. They Governing Body can co-opt others to be fellow governors. Whilst it helps to have experience in education, it is not essential. Governors from all walks of life can and do play valuable roles. Indeed, other interests are vital - parents, the community and staff all have a role to play.

What can be shared though is the joy of being part of an organisation which is doing its very best to make the world, and the lives of those who live and work in it, be a better place. The work is rewarding and not without its moments – tales can be told, but not here! What should be shared is the country's gratitude to thousands of women and men who generously give their services to do this important work.

The Methodist Church in the U.K. has a long history of supporting education in all its forms. That is natural for a religious movement which places a strong emphasis on self-improvement. Its founder, John Wesley, encouraged all his followers to read and learn daily. In the nineteenth century it was Methodists who played a full role in promoting education for all children. In some parts of the world Methodist schools are at the heart of the education system – did you know Nelson Mandela went to one?

In this country, as education became a universal service Methodists were



encouraged not just to work in the Church's schools but to offer their skills to the whole of the national system. That is why there are fewer Methodist schools these days than those of some other denominations. That is why so many more Methodist people over the years have contributed to children's education than those working in Methodist schools. There are a good number of those folk at Fulwood Methodist

Church – headteachers, teachers with other responsibilities, classroom assistants, support staff of all types.

As a result the Methodist School identity in the current British educational system might be marginal compared to some denominations. However, presently under the leadership of some very able educators, the reputation of Methodist schools is once more on the rise. The great majority of the 90 state primary schools which carry the Methodist name (sometimes alone, others in association with the Church of England for example) are rated highly by OFSTED. That number of schools is planned to increase under the guidance of the new Methodist Education trusts being set up as the role of local authorities diminishes. One current concentration of such schools is in the north-west and there are several in Lancashire, including the one at Ribbleton Avenue. Sometimes, as at Ribbleton Avenue, the school is the remaining Methodist presence in a location where the original founding Church has ceased to meet.

The Methodist Church continues to be associated with several independent schools created mainly in the nineteenth century, initially to provide education for children whose parents were working for the Church abroad. Times have changed and now in their different ways many of these schools seek to offer a distinctive education for a wider range of children and young people. There are two such schools in West Yorkshire.

The challenge for Methodist schools (and especially for their governors) these days is to find what it is in the Methodist heritage which still resonates with the educational needs of children and young people and with their communities. This is particularly so at Ribbleton Avenue where, of course, many of the children who attend the school are from families whose religious tradition and often practice is not Christian, let alone Methodist.

This is a challenge which every Governing Body has to consider regularly – and especially so in a Methodist school. There the school's job is not to proselytise, but it is crucial that there is a framework of values in place which allows a school ethos to develop which allows everyone to flourish. Also one which fits in with what enabled the school to develop in the first place – its foundation, in other words. Meeting that challenge will continue to be a priority for the Governors of Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School. In principle, their job is easy for it was John Wesley (the founder of the Methodist movement) who taught his followers;

*Do all the good you can
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

Not a bad place from which to construct an educational philosophy.

Ken Wales

(Chair of Governors)

Sue Penrith, Tony Andrews, John Atkins

(foundation governors)

Do you have any memories or stories of the school - your own or second hand? Recent or ancient perhaps. If so please share them with Ken Wales - we are trying to build a library of them. (kenwales9421@gmail.com) - or in person at Church. Or with Sue Penrith if you wish. How far can we go back? Who might be our oldest ex-pupil or staff member? Anything.....

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FROM LITTLE ACORNS

In the Christmas 2017 edition of the church magazine I wrote an article entitled 'Eva's Elite Emporium' or 'New To You'. In it I outlined the history of our endeavours from our beginnings during the fund raising years for the Development Fund to the end of 2017. We began at Ingol Methodist running their 'New to You' shop one day a week. When Welcome Wednesday came into being we set up in a small way with a few tables and a clothes rack. The second paragraph of my article lists the staff and seven years on, five of us, Eva, Judith and Alan Harvey, Diane Bird and myself are still here. We have been joined by Lynne Oliver and Ann and Michael Foley. We now open on a Tuesday morning when the church is open for coffee and Ann and Michael run the shop.

We are still asked the question, where do our unsold items go? We still send our unsold clothes to Jennifer who runs 'Cash for Clothes'. Sadly we have lost several of our outlets as they are no longer operating, but our intention is to spread our goods round the various charity shops.

Originally we set out all our wares on tables in Oak Hall and at the end of the morning packed them all away in large boxes. This was hard work! Glass, and china and pots and pans are extremely heavy. Consequently we were delighted to be given the use of Copper Beech which now means that all our heavy items can be left out permanently. We still wheel out our racks (which have increased in number) and the bedding and soft furnishings are transported in and out on special racks. We use all of Copper Beech on Wednesdays, unless there are music exams, returning

one half to a meeting room at the end of the morning. Down the years we have 'fine tuned' the operation and we are extremely grateful that we have this facility. We are now older and less fit for lifting heavy boxes. I sit in the shop dealing with sales, while the others are beavering away sorting and pricing. Our prices are



still very competitive. As I stay in the shop, I hear all the comments from folk as they come in for the first time. Eva and co. have displayed the china, glass, kitchen ware, pictures and more in a very attractive way. It is indeed a veritable Aladdin's cave and people are truly amazed at our range of wares. If you have never visited us, I suggest you drop in on a Tuesday or Wednesday morning and we also are open at the Farmers' Markets.

How much do we raise? Returning to the 2017 article we had raised over £6,000 that year and £5449 in 2015 and £5434 in 2016. Breaking down our achievements last year, I can report that Tuesdays' and Wednesdays' sales raised

£6438. Additional income came from the Farmers' Market, Cash for Clothes, a Table Top Sale and the Teddy Tombola at Christmas brought in the truly amazing amount of almost £7,500! In our early days, we would get very excited if we took £20 in a morning, but now £100 is the average and some days considerably more. We can now say that we are back on track after lock down.

Our purpose is outreach as well as raising money for the church. Our



customers are very loyal and they all came back to us after lockdown and we have made new friends. Sadly some have passed away and we miss them. Alongside the very busy folk working in the kitchen to provide teas, coffees, and lunches, I can truly say that we are providing a warm space, friendship and fellowship and the

weekly communion service provides an opportunity for worship.

Looking back to our humble beginnings at Ingol, to the scale of our present operation, we feel quite pleased with ourselves. Indeed a mighty oak has grown from our little acorn.

Barbara Hothersall

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DOMESTIC ABUSE GROUP

On Saturday 13th May 2023 between 10.30am -12noon there will be an opportunity to listen to a speaker on the issues surrounding domestic abuse. Everyone is welcome from every church in our circuit. Our speaker will be Councillor Clare Hunter, previous Refuges Manager for Preston Domestic Violence Services (PDVS) Preston and Chorley Women's Refuges. We really look forward to welcoming everybody to learn more about this important subject. Please do read our adopted domestic abuse policy on the notice board in the Willow Grove, we are hopeful in the future that all churches in the circuit and beyond will do the same.

Thank you,

Cheryl

If you require support, you can speak to either -

Cheryl Arnold or Sue Penrith - Pastoral

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247



* * * * *

LODGING A COMPLAINT

(obviously from another age!)

I want to have the law on him! I want to give him fits!
You see he whizzed along the road and smashed my hoop to bits!
He never tootled on his horn, he never called, "Clear out!"
And that he's broken every rule there cannot be a doubt!
So you must do your very best, his number now to get,
And then he'll very soon find out we've not done with him yet!
It was a whopping motor car, half purple and half green:
A rowdy, noisy, stinking thing, the nastiest I've seen.
I want to have the law I say, and you're the man to do it –
I'll make them pay or else, in gaol, they'll get some time to rue it!
My father says policemen live to see we get our rights,
And that is why they walk our roads throughout the days and nights.
So I am sure you'll find that car, the one which smashed my hoop,
And then 'The Sun' will tell the tale of P'liceman Taylor's coup!
So Taylor took him by the hand, and gravely wagged his head:
With this the lad was satisfied, and nothing more was said.

(Croston Parish Magazine 1914)

PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS

Christ with us:
My dearest Lord
Be Thou a bright flame before me;
Be Thou a guiding star above me;
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me;
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today and evermore.

Ascribed to St Columba of Iona

* * * * *

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us a teacher.
If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.
If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.
But our greatest need was for forgiveness,
So God sent us a Saviour.

* * * * *

A PRAYER USED IN SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

Lighting a candle is a prayer:

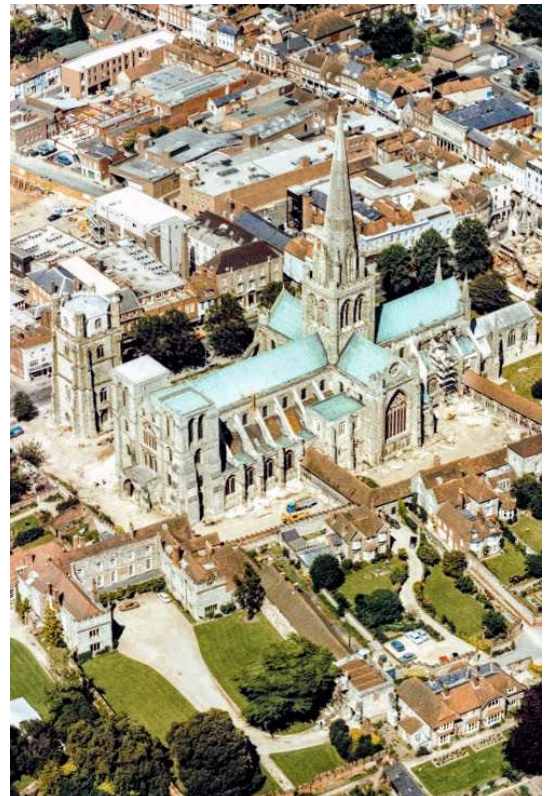
When we have gone, it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for them and for others: the sad and the sick and the suffering, and prayers of thankfulness too.

Lighting a candle is a parable:

Burning itself out, it gives light to others. Christ gave himself for others; He calls us to give ourselves.

Lighting a candle is a symbol:

Of love and hope, of light and warmth. Our world needs them all.



www.saintdavid.org.uk/pilgrimage/pilgrim7.htm

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT ME AND EASTER

Some of you may be reading this over the Easter weekend. As I write, I see in the media speculation that snow may fall this Easter - one report says it is 'odds-on', which to someone as sceptical as me, suggests it is merely possible. I suspect though this may be a good way of selling newspapers. "What forecasts of unlikely events might we print to increase sales", perhaps?

Having said that, snow in late March or early April in this country is not unheard of. I remember a few years ago Janet and I (with Delma and Tony Whitman) were delayed for twenty four hours at airports in this country as we made our way to Venice. And then there have been those occasions where early first-class cricket matches were delayed by snow. But this has set me thinking - I simply don't recall any of my childhood Easters being marked by snow. Do you? In fact, thinking a little more my childhood Easters are a bit of a memory blank.

This remarkable gap in my memory may be unusual: your childhood memories may be much richer than mine. Whether that is the fault of my memory or of the reality of Easter times in the late forties and early fifties I am not sure. For children, was Easter then much of a deal? Had society sufficient energy and resources left after those strugglers of the forties to make that much of the festival?

Social life for my family at that time was based very much on Church, family and friends. We had no car, so extensive journeys were not possible. Easter away was never an option, as it is for some (but not all) today. In Church there was little I recall that made life any more interesting or different - indeed, if anything, Church seemed rather more strange, austere and unappealing than it did at other times. Maybe spring came into it - daffodils, possibly; renewed signs of life in the gardens and the countryside. Ah yes, pussy-willow! And lambs!! But I don't remember much, if any, emphasis on Easter eggs and similar goodies as tokens of new life. I remember pancakes (of course) but little else of the Lenten period Shrove Tuesday heralded. When I came to Preston, the tradition of egg-rolling was totally new to me.

Maybe I came from a rather Puritan tradition where the outward emphasis was less on abundant love and more on our inherent ability (we miserable beings) to do the wrong thing. After all, I was raised in darkest Yorkshire! One story of my childhood I do remember - my grandfather was a colliery worker, rising very early to walk to the mine where he was employed. On Good Friday (the colliery was open that day) he rose even earlier in order to have time to play on the piano 'There is a green hill far away' before he left for work. Are those the sorts of memories any other oldies like me retain.?

But then as I got older, Easter did start to loosen up a bit. Maybe these possibilities had been there all the time, but I had not yet registered them.

Sporting fixtures, although any being held on Good Friday were still out of order, as was anything similar on Easter Sunday itself. But by the mid-50s I had

realised that over Easter there was an annual fair on Heath Common. Now, Heath Common was a remarkable piece of land just south of Wakefield. For reasons I have yet to fathom it was open common land, not farmed or cultivated, and in part a rewilded-golf course whose origins still confound me. But up at the top, by the pub (what was a shandy?) an open area was clear enough space for a huge visiting fair.

And that fair began to play a more active part in my consciousness. Bright lights, music, girls, unusual foods, rides and games to play.

Rifle-ranges, remember them? There I discovered Bingo and I recall ‘winning’ a prize - I chose a table lamp in the shape of a yacht with two sails each containing a bulb. For my father you understand, for he loved the sea, and maybe for psychological reasons way beyond me now.

It was only later, when I met Janet and started to visit her family home in St. Helens and then again when we moved to Preston, that I realised how Protestant my childhood Easter experiences had been. Over here, west of the Pennines, the Roman Catholic influence was greater - shops closed on a Good Friday (I am pretty sure that my father, employed as he was in the retail trade, worked on Good Friday), a diet of white fish and mysterious rituals of Holy Week itself. Tenebrae, what was that? Of course, what differences there might be between the two areas today, twenty something years into the twenty-first century, is another matter. Few, I imagine.

Easter then has never been an emotionally rewarding time for me. Maybe the memories of many people are mixed-up and unresolved, just as mine obviously are. I regret that they are for it has left me with a legacy, a challenge. I have needed to work out for myself a theology of Easter, an understanding of the mystery of Easter (as increasingly I prefer to think of it), which lacks a strong emotional base. Is it any wonder that what limited understanding I have is shaped more by intellect than any other human faculty. What am I missing?

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Ken Wales

* * * * *

It’s always easy to find reasons why other people should be patient.

Don’t let the littleness in others bring out the littleness in you.

The first to apologise is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. The first to forget is the happiest.



VOTER ID CHANGES

The way that we vote in national and local elections is changing. From 4 May 2023, voters will need to show photo ID at polling stations. The JPIT 'JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES TEAM' of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, have put together this guidance to help church and community leaders be able to share this information within their communities.

Voter ID doesn't replace the need to register to vote - you will still need to register to vote at your current address, if you haven't already. What is changing?

The UK Government has introduced a legal requirement for voters to present photo ID at a polling station in some elections. This will first apply in the local elections taking place in England on 4th May 2023, and in any election after this.



Who is likely to be impacted? These groups are more likely to find ID a barrier to voting and may need your support. It is important that we do not let this change disenfranchise anyone.

Disabled people, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities, Older people, People experiencing homelessness, people registered to vote anonymously, trans and non-binary people.

Deadlines for May 2023 Elections -

Monday 17 April: Register to vote

Tuesday 18 April: Apply for a postal vote

Tuesday 25 April: Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate

Thursday 4 May: Polling Day (remind others to bring ID)

What is an accepted form of ID? Voters need only one form, in the original version. This could include: Passport, Driving licence, Blue badge, Concessionary travel card (bus pass), Identity card with PASS mark, Biometric immigration document. You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you and has the same name.

You can find a full list of other forms at: electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID
What if I don't have ID? If you or someone in your community doesn't have ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. You can: apply online at: voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk. Apply by requesting a paper form from your local council. Apply in person at your local council (some councils may not offer this) To apply, you will need to give your: name, address, date of birth, National Insurance number, a photograph (passport style).

Don't Lose Your Right To Vote

Photo ID doesn't replace the need to **register to vote**

What is changing?

To vote in some elections you will now need to bring photo ID to a polling station. This will first apply in the local elections taking place in England on **4 May 2023**.

What other options are there?

Voting by post:

- Does not require photo ID

Voting by proxy:

- The person voting on your behalf shows their own ID, not yours.

To do either, you need to fill in an online application. Your local council can help if this is difficult for you.



Deadlines for May 2023 Elections:

Register to vote:



Apply for a postal vote:



Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate:



Polling Day:



Need extra help?

1. Ask somebody you trust for help
2. Contact your local council
3. Call the Electoral Commission helpline on: **0800 328 0208**

Which ID Can be used?

You need only one form, in the original version e.g:

- Passport
- Driving licence
- Blue badge
- Concessionary travel card
- Identity card with PASS mark
- Biometric immigration doc



Find a full list of other forms at: electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

It's okay if your ID has expired, as long as it still looks like you.

What if you don't have ID?

If you don't have ID you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

- Apply online at: voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk
- Apply by requesting a paper form from your local council
- Apply in person at your local council (some councils may not offer this)

To apply you will need:

- Name
- Address
- Date of birth
- National Insurance number
- A photograph (passport style)



Voter Authority Certificates don't expire so apply for one even if you don't have local elections in your area.



SOME SEASONAL CUSTOMS

Looking back, there was Shrove Tuesday on 21st February this year - and the annual Olney (Buckinghamshire) Pancake Race. There are claims that this event dates back to 1445, when a harassed housewife forgot the time! She had to run off to attend the church service, frying pan still in her hand and wearing her pinny. It's still re-enacted each year, starting at 11:55 am and, these days, is preceded by a children's race at 10.00am. Twenty or thirty years ago, similar races were a feature of many a town centre, Preston included, with teams of people, often from the catering industry, taking part. Maybe YOU were one!

Not all traditions are that old, many cannot be traced back accurately, but one with a relatively brief history was the celebration of Empire Day on 24th May each year (Queen Victoria's birthday). This lasted from 1904 to 1958 and for schoolchildren there was this special song:

*We have come to school this morning,
'Tis the twenty fourth of May,
And we join in celebrating
What we call our Empire Day.*

*We are only little children,
But our part we gladly take,
We all want to do our duty
For our King and Empire's sake.*

*Pride of Empire and of country,
Pride of being British born,
Pride of justice, truth and freedom,
Pride of flag which none shall scorn.*



***Empire
(Commonwealth Day)
Monday 13th March 2023***

Since 1973 the replacement Commonwealth Day has been celebrated on the second Monday in March: this year on 13th.

A much older event, Lady Day, may still appear on some calendars on 25th March. This marked the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary and was one of the English Quarter Days : a time for settling debts and paying rents.

The other Quarter Days were: Midsummer (Feast of St John) on 24th June; Michaelmas (Feast of St Michael the Archangel) on 29th September and Christmas (Feast of the Birth of Jesus) on 25th December.

On Easter Saturday/Holy Saturday - 8th April this year – you could always pop over to the Rossendale Valley. No! Not a trip to call on Rev. John Bolton, but to

visit Bacup (or Back Up as some 'foreigners' call it.) There you'll find the local Britannia Coconut Dancers, accompanied by members of the equally-local Stacksteads Band, carrying out their annual perambulation of the town centre. Their dances



Britannia Coconut Dancers

and music are distinctive and you'll still find them with their distinctive blackened faces too, denoting past connections of the area with mining and quarrying.

On Friday, 2nd June this year, you could travel a little further, to the Saddleworth & Oldham Whit Friday Band Contests. It's an amazing evening of free entertainment at a wide selection of venues - starting at 4.00pm-ish and going on until almost midnight. Google to find out more. If you haven't been, you haven't lived!! (Just ask Graham Bird.)

Roy Smith

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HOGHTON FOLK DANCE CLUB

Hoghton Folk Dance Club meets
on Tuesdays, 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 £3 per session

For directions to the hall or for any other
information please contact Eve Calderbank
on 01772 731483 or
tomaseve@virginmedia.com

MY ADVENTURES WITH THE NATIONAL METHODIST YOUTH BRASS BAND



As some of you may know, I play trombone in the National Methodist Youth Brass Band. Since 1987 the band has been visiting Methodist churches across the country and some places abroad to perform and lead worship. The band is comprised of young Methodists between the ages 13 and 21 (and a few a bit older) enacts its motto of fun, faith and fellowship, deriving from the musical notation for very, very loud!

On a typical weekend, besides staying up far too late, we meet up at the church on a Friday and eat, rehearse and share worship. On the Saturday we rehearse some more then explore the area before our concert. After the concert we explore the faith theme of the weekend; our most recent being “What is love?” in which we explored the concept of love in the Bible. On the Sunday we take part in worship then head home to sleep.

In August, we toured the South Coast going to various locations including Brighton, the Isle of Wight and Worthing. Playing by the beach, despite the blazing hot sun, was great fun although some band members got quite burnt. Some of our recent weekends were at Stamford and Barnsley which were particular challenges for me to get to as they coincided with train strikes. I can’t wait for our next weekend in Darlington.

Hope Wild

* * * * *

A cheerful giver does not count the cost of what he gives. His heart is set on
pleasing and cheering him to whom the gift is given.

Julian of Norwich

The days that make us happy make us wise.

John Masefield

The end result of kindness is that it draws people to you.

Dame Anita Roddick

THINKING ABOUT RETIREMENT?

1. Take a course in advanced couch testing - the ideal preparation for retirement.
2. Think twice before you clear out the garage, or the cellar, or the attic - the empty space just becomes storage space for the kids' stuff.
3. A recent survey revealed retirees greatest fears - top of the list was a fear that the money will run out before the end of life. Second, life runs out before the money is all gone.
4. Best idea for travelling in retirement - go past your old place of work at least twice a week during working hours.



Malcolm Rae

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO WHEN YOU RETIRE WORDSEARCH

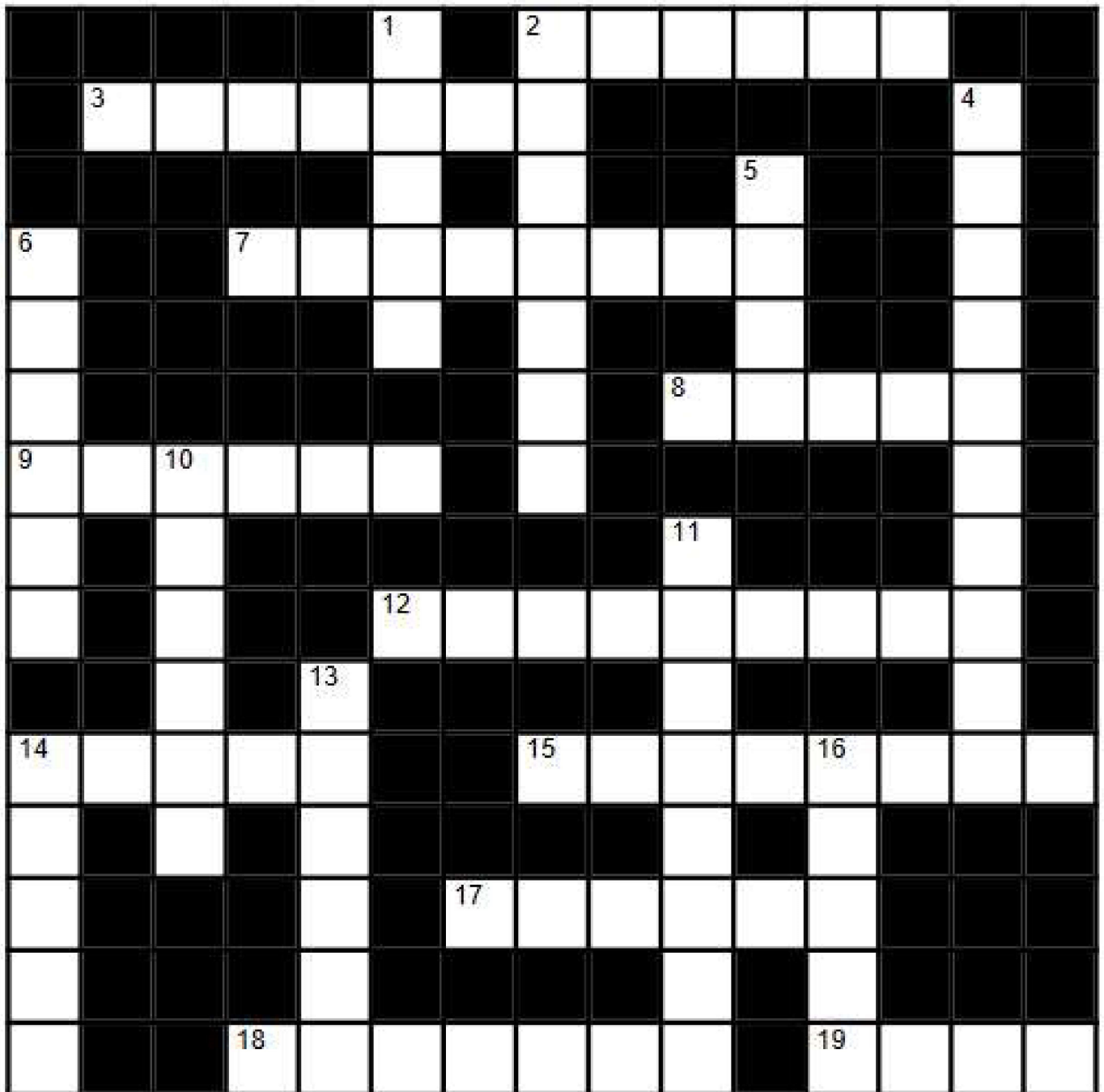


Words can be in any direction including diagonal. Solution on page 41.

We will have one for women in the Summer edition!

PROPHETS CROSSWORD

This time, our crossword is loosely based on the theme we have been following in Lent both in Church and Sunday Club. That is, the Prophets. How much do you know about them, what can you discover? No prizes but we hope you enjoy the puzzle.



Across

- 2) This older sister of Moses who appears in the Book of Exodus. (6)
- 3) Get ready. First word of huge hit from Godspell. (7)
- 7) The end product when things go badly wrong - sometimes in nature, sometimes its our fault. (8)

- 8) The Messiah - the One the prophets foretold. (5)
- 9) The united kingdom under Saul, David and Solomon for example (6)
- 12) A description of the Counselor (or Counsellor) foretold in Isaiah 9:6 (9)
- 14) Reluctant prophet who went overboard (!) Destination Nineveh in Assyria whose people he hated for their cruelty (5)
- 15) The profession of Amos - Martin Luther King referred to him as ‘an extremist for justice’ (8)
- 17) Jesus taught us that we would know false prophets by these (Matthew 7;16) (6)
- 18) The only female judge mentioned in the Bible and also a prophetess (7)
- 19) The first Hebrew prophet to have a book named after him - on the side of the poor (4)

Down

- 1) Opposite of true - these prophets are known by their fruits we read (5)
- 2) The expected King of the Davidic line: Handel’s masterpiece (7)
- 4) A provider of advice, often spiritual advice. A wonderful one was foretold (10)
- 5) Such a prophet speaks the genuine word of God, we are taught (4)
- 6) 8th century BC Israelite prophet - the first of the major prophets. His theme - ‘The everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth’ (See 40:28 of his book) (6)
- 10) Change direction, often in sorrow and with regret (6)
- 11) Regarded as a traitor and deeply unpopular. Warned of the Babylonian threat and taken by force to Egypt (8)
- 13) What our behaviour must do if we truly repent (6)
- 14) The fourth son of Jacob and Leah we are told, whose name gave rise to the names of a religion and a land (5)
- 16) An 8th century BC prophet who learned from his broken marriage (See chapters 1-3 of his book). Realised that Israel was being unfaithful to God who would never forget His people. His name means ‘salvation’ (5)

Incidentally, a really informative and easy source of information is ‘The Bible from Scratch’ by Simon Jenkins (Lion Publications) A copy of this book, suitable for all ages from about 8 onwards is available in the Willow Grove for reference.

Ken Wales

BETWEEN THE HORROR AND THE HOPE THERE IS SILENCE

How do you handle silence? Do you like it or do you despise it? Is it comforting or something that must be filled with anything? It's Saturday. And it is silent.

Yesterday was almost too much to bear. The One who taught us, did miraculous things around us, demonstrated power like we had never seen, before us, is dead. Dead. Never, ever did He do anything wrong. There was no sin in Him. None. Sure, He exposed those who were religious and those who sought to gain money from us and power over us. He even exposed the sin within us...but it was for our good. It sparked emotion like we had never seen. People loved Him or hated Him. Those who hated Him...wow! They tried to trap Him, twist His words, expose Him as a fraud.. but they could not. They said horrible things about Him to try to disgrace Him among the others but they could not. Never have we seen such hatred toward someone. Those who loved Him were devoted to Him. They clung to Him, wanted to be near Him, wanted to hear everything He had to say, watch everything He would do. Messiah. The One who has come. It is Friday. The people who hated are now cheering. He is defeated. His ministry is dismantled. He is dead. Those who loved Him are stunned. They are scared. He is dead. Silence.



What do we do in the silence? Our hearts race. We relive the moments. Oh the horror. It was brutal. It was dark. It was awful. We feel sick. The pain, the loss, what happened on that cross? We want to run. We want to hide. We want to forget...but who could? We want to find comfort in the embrace of others, in the chatter, in the noise. But there is silence. It is deafening. We either fill the silence or we embrace it. Even when we try to fill it our strength fades. Sleep comes. And there is silence. Either way it comes. Noise. Noise. Noise. I don't want to hear that "still small voice." I'm angry. I'm scared. I'm tired. "I KNOW." Huh? "I KNOW." "I SAID IT WOULD HAPPEN BUT YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND. REMEMBER? Yes. You said, "In three days. You will rise. My heart starts to beat and the memories flood back. The horror begins to fade. Is that hope I feel? But You are dead. How can it be?

Then Sunday came. The tomb was empty. The Lord was raised. The sacrifice made. The debt had been paid. He is alive! He is alive! The sound of hope could be heard. The silence was gone. There was praise all around. It all makes sense. The prophesy was fulfilled. The matter of justice had been settled. The great exchange was made. My sin for His perfect righteousness. Hope springs anew. Hope. My sin debt was paid. There is purpose in my life. I can trust the risen Saviour... in



everything. For everything. In spite of everything. There is hope because of the horror. There is hope in the horror. If I am quiet I find Hope in the silence.

Everyone is facing something. Everyone. And we all will do one of two things after the horror. We will make a lot of noise or we will embrace the silence and listen for Hope. For the unbeliever its a matter of understanding your personal sin. Yes, it is there. The horror of the cross is because of your sin. The horrific death of Jesus was because of your sin. The great exchange? Jesus took your sin upon Himself. His perfect, sinless self. He became the sacrifice and died in your place. How do we know God accepted this sacrifice for your sin...because on the third day He rose. His resurrection is proof that God accepted His sacrifice. If you believe this, your debt has been paid. What do you get in the

exchange? You get Jesus' righteousness. His perfect righteousness. For the believer the Holy Spirit has come to live in you. He will guide and direct you. No matter what happens or what you go through, He is there to direct your steps. The silence becomes a comfort because in the silence He speaks, He directs, He encourages. How do you handle the silence after the horror? Be quiet. Listen. Hang on. Hope was just a day away. And oh the difference a day can make.

By Melanie Martin

an American friend of Margaret Holmes

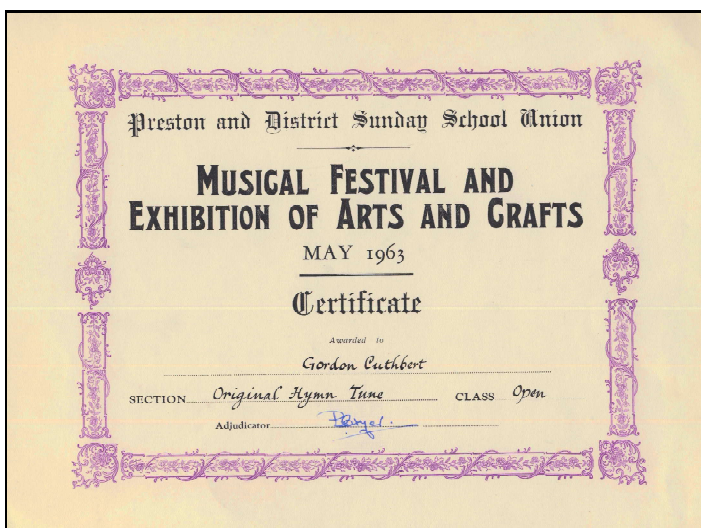
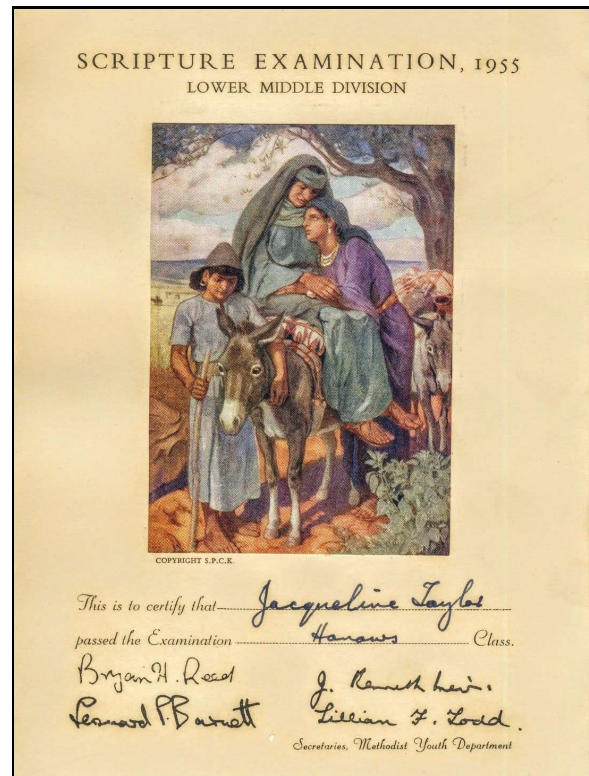
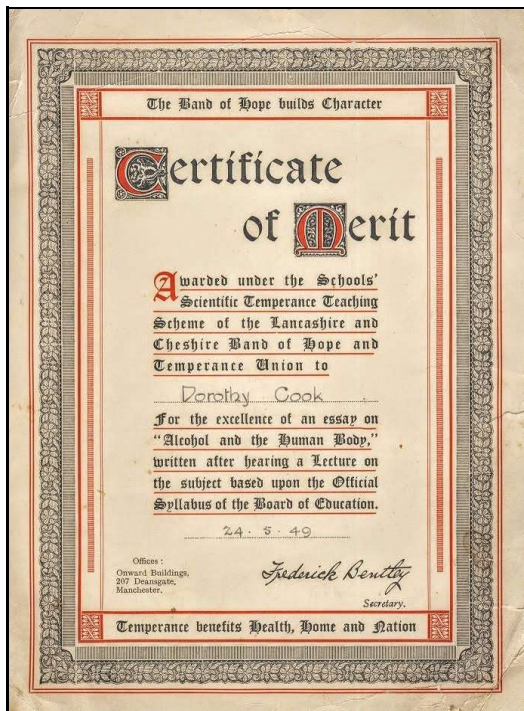
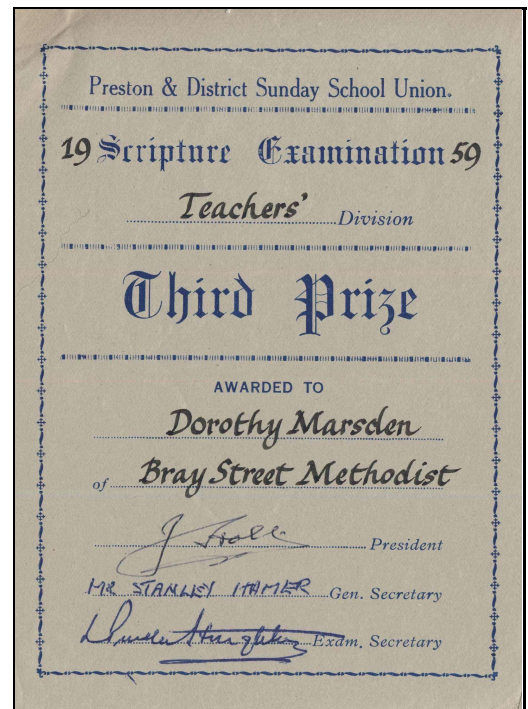
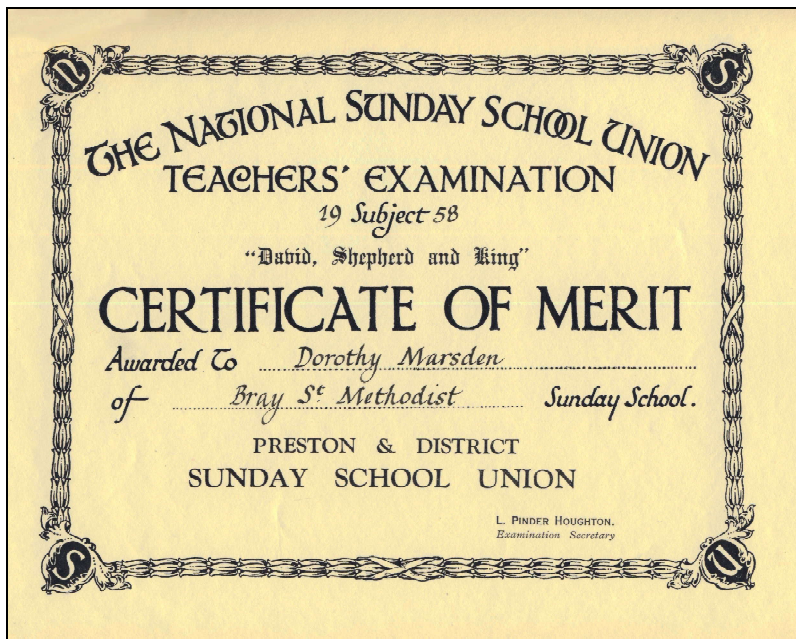
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Retirement Wordsearch solution



- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| golf | fishing | playinginshed |
| napping | sleepingin | relaxing |
| watchingt | reading | grandkids |
| bifocals | creakyjoints | crosswords |
| bingo | morningtea | |

MORE CHURCH CERTIFICATES FROM THE PAST



These certificates are from Dorothy Cuthbert and her husband Gordon, Dorothy Marsden, Roy Smith's wife and from Jacqueline Taylor, now Clarke.

If anyone has other interesting examples please lend them to us .

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

| | | |
|---------|----------------|----------------|
| 2.30 pm | Knitting Group | Veronica Frost |
|---------|----------------|----------------|

Friday

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

Saturday

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 10.30 - noon | Who Let The Dads Out? (monthly) | Darren Arnold |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------|

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Sunday

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

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