



**Fulwood Methodist Church
Crossroads Centre**



**SUMMER
2023**



Twinned with the Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche,
Recklinghausen, Germany



THE FULWOOD METHODIST

FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8EA

Tel. Preston (01772) 718741

MINISTER

Revd Jane Wild - jane.wild@methodist.org.uk

Tel. 01772 715134

YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

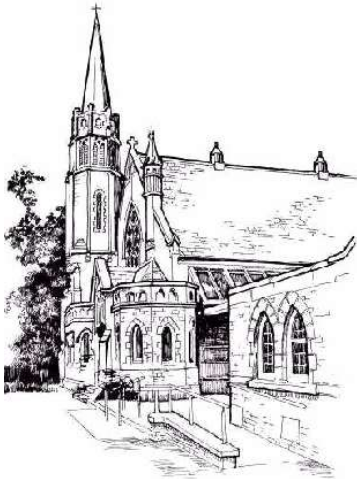
Darren Arnold - darrenarnold.church@gmail.com

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,

“Many are the plans in the mind of a human,
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”

Proverbs 19:21

When thinking about the things we do day by day or for our Church life, there are many factors we can take into consideration. As Christian people gathered in the Church we have some extras ones to think about.

“ *Does what we are doing make sense in the context of our biblical understanding?* ”

“ *How are the things I think of as important affecting my decision?* ”

“ *Are these the things that God says are important?* ”

“ *How do these choices impact on our relationships with others?* ”

“ *Which path would help others draw nearer to God?* ”

“ *How will these decisions make a difference or pave the way to making a difference in the world?* ”

“ *Do these decisions allow the kingdom of God to grow?* ”

Plan to be kind, and to seek the will of God.

This is my prayer for you.

Over the last few weeks we have taken some decisions in the circuit that will affect the way church life is organised.

Instead of each Minister being allocated to a particular set of Churches, we have grouped the circuit (ie. all the churches in Preston and South Ribble) into Mission Groups. Each of these groups will have a Ministry team. That team is comprised of Lay and Ordained people who will work with the churches on their Ministry and Mission in the community in which they are based.

Fulwood will be grouped with Central, Penwortham and Kingsfold Churches

Your ministry team comprises-

Darren Arnold *Children and Family Worker*

Denise Johnson *Lay Pastoral Worker*

Carolyn Hothersall *Lay Worker*

Sarah O'Halloran *Project manager and Olive Grove Co-ordinator*

Rebekah-Joy Spinks *Deacon*

Jane Wild *Presbyter*

Some of these people also have responsibilities in other groups.

We have also re organised how some of the decision making is done in the circuit with new opportunities to be part of special interest groups across the Circuit.

These will be shared in the notices ,but also be suggested by you. So please pray for our new direction, for the staff allocated to enable it and to discern if God is calling you to a new opportunity.

God bless. *Jane*

FAMILY NEWS

Baptisms

2 July Poly Hoben
9 July Jasper Ferguson



DIARY DATES

23 July 5.00pm Leaving service for Revd. Karen le Mouton.
Bamber Bridge Methodist Church.
24 July 6.30pm Alternative Church at the Black Bull on Garstang Road.
13 Aug 9.30am Quiet Communion.
10.30am Café Church / Communion.
9 Aug TBA Finance Team meeting.
3 Sept 3.00pm Church Welcome Service and Circuit celebration at
Penwortham Methodist Church.
7 Sept 7.00pm Stewards meeting.
10 Sept Sun am General Church Meeting to make appointments ie. leadership
team, *after the church service*. Please note no other business
will be considered.
12 Sept 7.00pm Churches Together in Fulwood and Broughton
at St Johns, Broughton.
16 Sept 5.00pm Harvest Concert and Supper.
17 Sept 10.30am Harvest Celebration led by Revd. Stephen Heath.
18 Sept 6.30pm Alternative Church at the Black Bull on Garstang Road.
23 Sept 9.30am Farmers Market.

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CHURCH STEWARDS

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

* * * * *

COMMUNION STEWARDS

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

* * * * *

EDITORIAL TEAM

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

EDITORIAL

I'm informed that a recent study reckons there to be about 171,146 words in the English language today and that the average articulate person uses only about 1500 of them. New words are being added all the time while others fall out of use.

Each time we set about preparing the magazine we live in hopes that someone, somewhere, will have used some of their 1500 words to conjure up an article for us. We're rarely disappointed! And many thanks to those who've responded this time around.

Perhaps you would like to have a go in time for the next issue?

Just a reminder: the **copy date** for our **Harvest 2023 issue** will be **Sunday, 20th August**. Any material submitted prior to that date would be most welcome – and please do remember that articles may be subject to editing!

Roy Smith (Editor)

* * * * *

AM CLUB

The AM Club is taking its Summer break at the moment until the beginning of September. We are currently assembling our Autumn programme and looking to provide a wide range of variety and range of speakers.

All men are welcome regardless of age to join us every fortnight on Tuesday mornings for tea and biscuits. An hour or so of fellowship.

Dave Topping

COMMUNITY CHOIR

We continue to meet on Wednesday evening at 7.00pm, but break off during the Summer, restarting at the beginning of September.

Our numbers vary weekly between 12 and 20 including several who are not part of our church family.

What we sing varies from popular songs, mainly from the 60's and 70's as well as from musicals such as Joseph, Les Mis, Blood Brothers and Mama Mia.

All are welcome, with an ability to sing being secondary to enjoyment and a sense of humour.

Dave Topping

* * * * *

ADVERTISING

We are always pleased to have new advertisers in our magazine, but were surprised to have an email to the church website email from an advertising company wanting to advertise us! It stated "*Imagine Fulwood Methodist Church on a huge electronic billboard next to a main arterial route in and out of Liverpool.*" We did not reply!!

If anyone knows of any new 'genuine' advertisers, please let us know!

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY WORKER

Summertime is now upon us, the schools are finishing, and people are looking forward to some relaxing holiday time. Here at Fulwood, we have a busy summer schedule full of activities for you all to join in with – from watching England in the football world cup, to baking, film sessions, to colouring, craft, cake and chat and also weekly toddler coffee mornings. Please do look out for the leaflets and join me for these events. I am also looking for some volunteers who can help run the sessions with me, so if you are willing please see me.

As you're aware most of the groups finish for the summer and resume in September. Firstly the Escape / Youth Club start back on the 8th September and we want to restart the Youth Club part of the group for Year 7 and above from 8.00 to 9.30pm, but we are in need of extra staff to help run this. It can be on a rota basis or more regularly, but anytime you could give would be really appreciated. If you want to know more please have a chat with me. We are also grateful to Redrow Housing for a donation of £500 from their community fund towards a new games console.

Also restarting in September will be the old 'OMG' church group for 7-11 year olds. This will start back on a trial run at breakfast time on the second Sunday of the month and under the new name of 'Lighthouse'. There will be stories, songs, prayer, games and activities and whilst this is happening for the youngsters, it will hopefully give the chance for the parents etc. to join in a bible study type activity at the same time, so please pray for this venture.

3Generate is rapidly coming upon us and it looks like we will be taking about half a dozen youngsters from Fulwood for the full weekend. We are hoping some of our younger members will travel down on the Saturday of the event and take part in the 4 to 7 to year-old meeting.

So there is plenty going on for our youngster's and families along with all the other groups not mentioned. Most of the church groups are getting new names, some are expanding the times they meet, so I hope you agree with me that we are a very lucky church to have so many young families in attendance and ask for your support and prayers for them all and the leaders.

I would like to finish off by just saying a big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped in all the church groups we run. Without you this just wouldn't be possible and as a thank you, you are invited to drop in for tea/coffee and cake on Saturday 12th August 2.00 to 4.00pm.

Many thanks,

Darren Arnold



**FULWOOD METHODIST
CHURCH**
Summer Activities 2023

**Tuesday 1st Aug 12-2pm - Craft session and watch
England vs China in the Women's World Cup**

Thursday 3rd & 17th Aug 2-4pm
Film & Popcorn

Thursday 10th & 24th Aug 2-4pm
Baking Session

Tuesday 8th & 22nd Aug 1-3pm
Colouring, craft, cake, and chat – also
Tuesday 15th Aug 10-12noon

**Friday Toddler Coffee Mornings 9.30-
11.30am 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th Aug & 1st Sept.**

The Tuesday sessions are Free sessions, but we will have a donation plate out if you feel able to contribute towards the equipment and refreshments. (Under 8's need to be accompanied by a responsible adult).

Thursday baking sessions will need to be booked by emailing darrenarnold.church@gmail.com - there will be 12 family tables (4 people) and we are asking for a donation of £2 per family to cover cost of ingredients etc. – when booking please specify dates you wish to attend. (Please note at least one adult needs to be on a table to help supervise).

Each session will have a toddler section available. Any questions please contact Darren on 07811775825 (Tues-Fri) or email darrenarnold.church@gmail.com

FROM OUR CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

Denise Johnson



I have been struck recently by a news item about a player in one of my favourite sports – Rugby League. I hasten to add, I am a watcher not a player. The item was about a Marathon run in Leeds called the Rob Burrow’s Marathon. Rob is a former player for the Leeds Rhinos and has Motor Neurone Disease. His best friend and former colleague on the pitch, Kevin Sinfield, has worked tirelessly since Rob’s diagnosis to support his friend and raise funds to support the medical research around Motor Neurone Disease.

On the day of the first Rob Burrow’s Marathon, Kevin Sinfield (*) pushed his friend Rob for the full twenty-six miles in a specially adapted wheelchair. At the finish line Kevin stopped running, he scooped his friend out of his wheelchair and carried him over the finish line. Some of you may have seen pictures in the media of this emotional moment. What love and care was shown by this big burly man who picked up his friend, kissed him and carried him in his arms.

This moment put two thoughts into my head. The first was of the poem Footprints, shown on the next page, which speaks of Jesus picking us up and carrying us in the hard moments of life when we can sometimes feel that he is not there. My focus was drawn to the line – “It was then that I carried you”. The second thought was about our own experiences of giving and receiving love and care from others. I certainly value my friends who are there for me in the good and difficult moments. Why not take a moment to reflect here whilst you are reading this to think of those who have been there for you or times when you have been the one who has “picked someone up”

I am a Pastoral Worker – I am paid to carry out a role in the church, but it is also my passion and desire and calling to love and serve others. My job is my life really. I am humbled often by the love and care shown for each other by those I meet with and share time with. It is in our care of others that the Gospel really lives.

Keep on showing love – it’s infectious.

Denise

() We wanted to include a photo of them both, but copyright rules prevented this.*

FOOTPRINTS

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
“Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You’d walk with me all the way.

But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don’t understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me.”

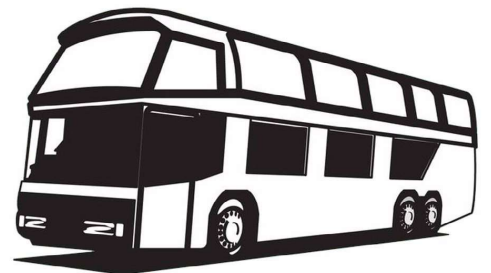
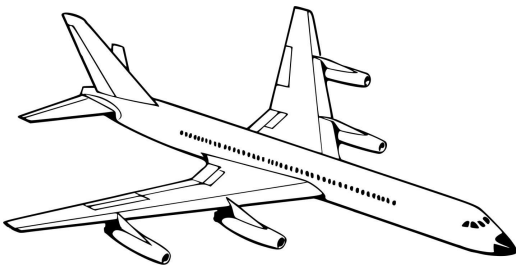
He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.”

Author Unknown

A PRAYER FOR TOURISTS

Heavenly Father, look down on us, your humble,
obedient tourist servants, who are doomed to travel
this earth, taking photographs, mailing postcards,
buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry
underwear.

Protect us from surly taxi drivers, avaricious
porters and unlicensed guides.



Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies
we do not understand. Forgive us for under-tipping
out of ignorance and over-tipping out of fear..

And when our voyage is over and we return to
our loved ones, grant us the favour of finding
someone who will look at our home movies and
listen to our stories, so that our lives as tourists will
not have been in vain..

*This is a short extract from a prayer composed
some years ago by the humorist Art Buchwald*

FINANCE UPDATE

Financial year to 31 August 2023

We are now just over three quarters of the way through the current financial year so, on behalf of the Finance Group, I thought it would be helpful to provide a quick update on our financial position.

We continue to balance the books – which is great news! This is due mainly to the people increasing their level of regular offering. THANK YOU to everyone.

Also, we continue to raise considerable amounts of revenue from regular church activities such as Welcome Wednesday, the New to You shop, Farmers' Markets, Plant Sales, and the sale of refreshments and books.

We have also had some successful events, such as the Hop and the Spring Spectacular. A massive THANK YOU to all our volunteers who make these events possible – and to everyone who supports them.

The level of income this year has enabled us to pay our bills without dipping into reserves this year – which is great news. We are expecting to break even at year end.

Our main costs are the Circuit Assessment, utility bills, building maintenance and the general running costs of a large and busy church. We make grants to national Methodist Charities including Mission in Britain, World Mission Fund, Action for Children, Methodist Homes, Methodist Women in Britain and so on.

New financial year from September 2023

Whilst we have good news for the current financial year – we once again face a challenge from September 2023.

Our utility bills have been manageable in the current year due to a two year contract which we negotiated in 2021. This arrangement is coming to an end and will result in our charges doubling from **£12,500** per year to **£25,000** per year. Also Circuit Costs are increasing. We have paid **£90,000** in previous years and are currently negotiating our increase – but it will be in the region of **£5000** to **£10000**.

It is now over a year since our Gift Day in 2022. We would therefore like to ask you to complete your annual review of the level of offering you make and consider whether you feel able to increase this.

We currently face a deficit of £17,500 in 2023/24. This equates to £350 per week – so even a small increase from each individual would make a massive difference.

Many thanks,

Amanda Latham – on behalf of the Finance Group - June 2023



HOW TO MAKE YOUR OFFERING

There are three ways you can make your offering for the work of our Church.

1. **Standing Order.**

This is our preferred method as it is the most safe and secure. It helps us to plan our activities as we know what income we can expect each month. It also reduces the time and effort needed by volunteers to count and then bank the cash.

You can easily set up a standing order with your bank – either on line or at your branch. You will need our bank details which are:

Fulwood Methodist Church – Standing Orders Account

Sort Code 16-28-33

Account number 12006229

If you are worried that you have nothing to put into the offering plate – there are small tokens in a basket by the door which you can place in the plate as it comes round.

We can claim gift aid on your offering if you are tax payer (see below).

2. **Envelopes**

You can put your offering into a special Fulwood Methodist Church envelope and place this in the offering plate. This option enables you to provide your gift discreetly. It also enables us to claim Gift Aid if you are a tax payer.

You can apply for your envelopes from Eric Waterhouse. You can contact him on 01772 863743.

Your envelopes will have a unique number. Our counters will record what you have given without knowing your name, and share this with our Gift Aid Secretary – so confidentiality is maintained.

3. **Cash**

You can place cash in the offering plate. However, if you are tax payer we cannot claim gift aid on any offering you make.

If you have a one off gift to make – and you are a tax payer – we do have Gift Aid envelopes you can use. They can usually be found in a basket near the door. If you choose this option – please complete all details on the envelope carefully.

Gift Aid

If you are a tax payer we can claim an additional 25% on all of your giving. For example - if you give us £10 a week – we can claim an additional £2.50 from HM Revenue and Customs. This is a massive benefit to us!

If you are a tax payer – please complete a Gift Aid Form. You will find these in the Willow Grove or ask Angela Dunnett, Amanda Latham or Charlotte Penrith for help.

HARVEST HUMDINGER

Following the fabulous success of our Spring Spectacular – we are organising a ‘Harvest Humdinger’! Please hold the date in your diaries – 16th September 2023, 5.00pm to 9.00pm.

We will have a hot supper at about 5.00pm – with 2 courses. From 7.00pm we will then have some fantastic entertainment from the Freckleton Band – see below. The show is called “Beyond the Stars” and will feature a guest appearance from their Youth Band. The show will include an interval – and will finish by 9.00pm.

We will make the minibus available for those who need it – please let us know when you buy your tickets.

Tickets will be priced at £15 per adult and £8 per child. We will be selling them after church in the coming weeks – or you can call Amanda Latham on 07768 46801 to reserve your place.

All proceeds will be shared between the Church, the Band and our Harvest Charity (details to follow).

Harvest Humdinger

Saturday 16th September 5.00pm – 9.00pm

Sit-down Supper

Followed by

“Beyond the Stars”

Performed by

Freckleton Band

With a special appearance from

Freckleton Youth Band

*Tickets must be purchased in advance. Available soon in church
or from Amanda Latham 07768 416801*

Adult £15, Child £8

*Funds raised will be shared by Fulwood Methodist Church,
Freckleton Band and our Harvest Charity*

DO YOU NEED A VENUE?

**PARTY MEETING CONFERENCE CLUB
COMPUTER CLASS CONCERT SEMINAR
KEEP FIT**

We have a variety of rooms available - visit the website for details
www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk/rooms/rooms.htm
or email - administrator@fulwoodmethodist.org.uk

Martin's

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www.martinsthefuneraldirectors.co.uk

ECO CHURCH AWARD

Thank you for your application for a Bronze Eco Church Award for Fulwood Methodist Church, and please do accept my apologies for the delay in reviewing your award application. We are receiving many award applications which is wonderful, but it is increasing the time it takes to review and process accordingly. We appreciate your patience at this exciting time for Eco Church.



I have checked your survey scores and read through your additional comments, and am delighted to confirm your award. Well done to everyone involved in reaching this milestone! Please do share this email with your church leaders and community as appropriate. Attached is a certificate for you to print out and display in your church or to share during your next church service, and via your church's social media.

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with some further comments to support your application. This was so helpful for understanding your church context, and so encouraging for us to hear more details of your eco church journey and hear about all the activities you have participated in. I hope writing everything out was a helpful exercise to reflect on your Eco Church journey so far.

As a bronze-awarded Eco Church, we encourage you to celebrate your award achievement and to share about your Eco Church journey on your website. Look at the Eco Church website here - ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Thank you for choosing to include the land section of the survey in your application. From a quick look on Google maps, I can see that you only have a small patch of land around your church. A Rocha UK recently announced our goal to restore 75,000 acres of land for nature over the next 5 years. Part of this involves the influence and management the Christian community has over church-owned land, so we are pleased to know of any land you may have influence over, whatever size. If you would like to talk to someone about any ideas or inspiration for a small patch of land, please do get in touch with our land advisor network at A Rocha UK who can offer some suggestions no matter how limited your outdoor space is; you can reach them. Do also take a look at our land resources.

Congratulations once again on receiving your Eco Church Award!

Warm regards,

Lissy

Eco Church Team

A Rocha UK

Letter sent to Veronica Frost
our EcoChurch organiser



Bronze Eco Church Award Certificate

This is to certify that

Fulwood Methodist Church

has won a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

- Worship and Teaching
- Management of Buildings and Land
- Community and Global Engagement
- Lifestyle

Signed Andy Atkins Date 22nd June 2022
CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk



SPIRIT OF OUR LORD DESCENDING

8.7.8.7.8.7.8.7. Tune: Blaenwern

Spirit of our Lord descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly fire.
Give us hope and light and courage,
Lift our eyes, our minds inspire.
Love of God so freely given,
Joy and Hope to one and all.
Light and life that will not weaken,
Power to save us when we fall.

God Creator, God our parent.
Leave us not in human sin.
Make us workers in your Kingdom,
Loving one and all as kin.
Give us freedom through your service,
Lives to live for those in need.
Offering our gifts and talents,
Serving all where you may lead.

We are saved by love of Jesus,
We may know that we are saved.
Saved by grace through faith in God's son,
Sins forgotten, fears allayed.
Saved unto complete perfection,
By the Cross and to God bound.
Sharing in Christ's resurrection,
Where all lost are truly found.



Alan Gillies, 2023

Photo - Creative Commons attribution non-commercial 4.0 International Licence

Alan Gillies is a local preacher in the Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit and is a Professor of Information Management in the School of Public Health and Clinical Sciences at the University of Central Lancashire.

He who does not know God the Holy Spirit cannot know God at all.

(Thomas Arnold)

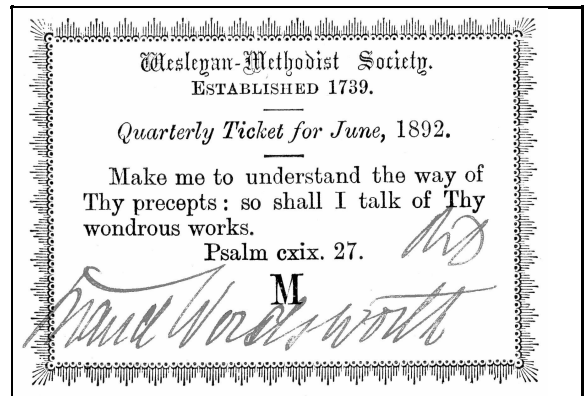
The Holy Spirit....writes His own gospel and He writes it in the hearts of the faithful.

(Jean-Pierre Caussade SJ)

CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO JACKIE CLARKE'S PARENTS



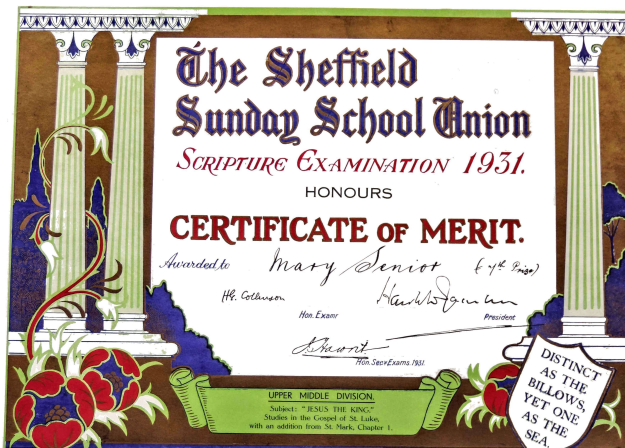
1927



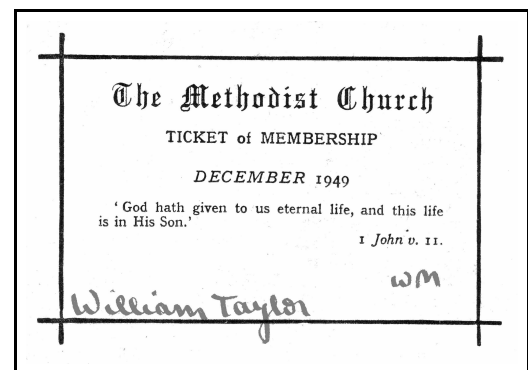
1892



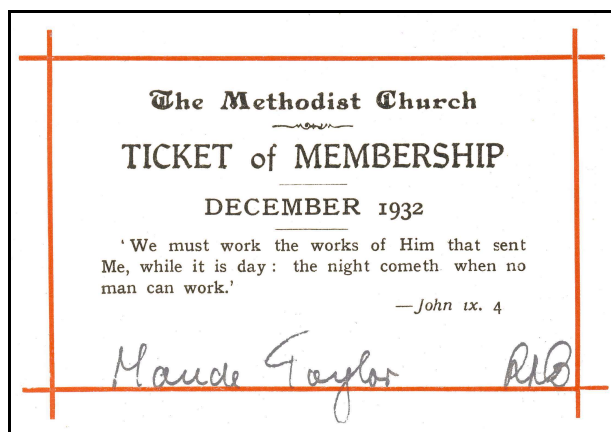
1933



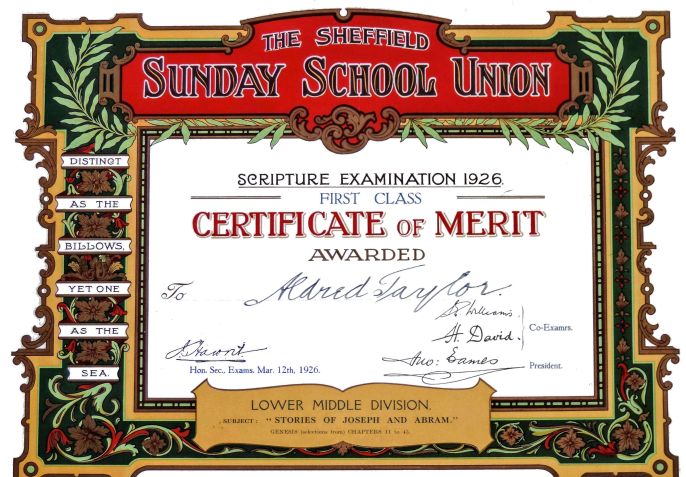
1931



1949



1932



1926

A FARRAGO

I'm sure some of you will have been very interested in the article carried by the Lancashire Post on Monday, 12th June: a whole page devoted to the Preston firm of Halewood Booksellers. Happy memories of that family's involvement with FMC.

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

This time around we've received examples from St Andrew's, Leyland; St Cuthbert's, Fulwood; St Peter's, Salesbury; King's Lynn Minster; Bury St Edmunds Cathedral and 'Living Magazine', which covers the parishes of Ampton, Great Livermere & Ingham : Three small villages in West Suffolk which still manage to produce a very worthwhile publication despite the fall-out from Covid etc.

Others which have come to us from even further away – France no less – are from the Cathedral of St Etienne in Auxerre; from the parish of St Marie, Verneuil and from the parish of St Jacques, Dieppe. All are in English too. Very far-looking.

Roy Smith (editor)

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TO A SKYLARK

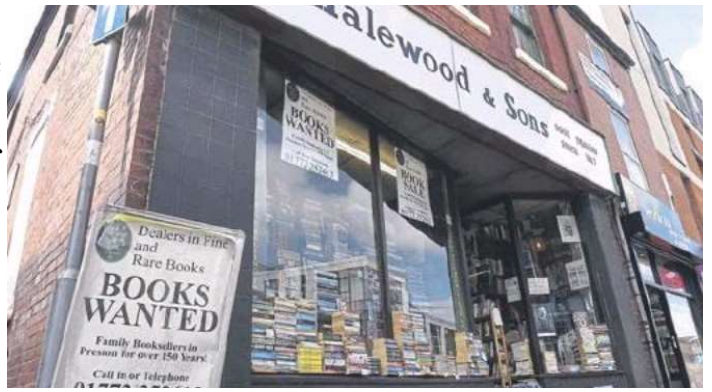
Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!
Bird thou never wert,
That from Heaven, or near it,
Pourest thy full heart
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.

Higher still and higher
From the earth thou springest
Like a cloud of fire;
The blue deep thou wingest,
And singing still dost soar, and soaring ever singest.

In the golden lightning
Of the sunken sun,
O'er which clouds are bright'ning,
Thou dost float and run;
Like an unbodied joy whose race is just begun.

First three verses of a long poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley

(The Service Area on the M6 Toll, behind the motel, is a place still to hear skylarks!)



METHODISM REPRESENTED AT THE CORONATION

In the background of the Coronation on 6th May there were some Methodist connections, and I wonder if readers were aware of them?

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev. Graham Thompson, along with other faith leaders, was in the congregation in Westminster Abbey. So too was Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, composer of musicals such as Jesus Christ Superstar, Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat, Evita, Phantom of the Opera etc. He was brought up a Methodist – his father playing the organ at Westminster Methodist Central Hall for many years. Sir Andrew had been asked by King Charles III to compose a new Coronation anthem, using words from the Bible; he chose words based on Psalm 98 and entitled it ‘Make a Joyful Noise Unto The Lord’.

King Charles had also invited some girl choristers from Belfast Methodist College to join with choristers of the Abbey and of the Chapel Royal to sing at the event and I spotted them in the choir stalls, smartly dressed in their school uniforms.

Central Hall, Westminster, as on many other state occasions, became a media centre for 400 world news organisation on the day and many millions, both here and around the world, saw coverage from cameras set up on its roof.

We can be proud that Methodism played its part in the momentous Coronation ceremony, bringing joy to many.



King Charles III
(Image copyright free)

Enid Singleton

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Insurance for your
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A WEEK IN THE SHETLAND ISLANDS.

The Shetland Islands are made up of several islands, connected by ferry and aeroplane. They are the most northerly part of the UK and certainly the most remote with dramatic cliffs, beautiful white sand beaches with clear sea to paddle in, Shetland is a wonderful place.

Hiring a car, my friend Diane and I travelled all around Mainland, the main island of Shetland, Yell and as far as Uist, in the very the north of the islands.

There are 15 Methodist Churches in Shetland and we went to Haroldswick in Uist, the most northerly (Methodist) Church in the UK. A very cosy Church with fabulous views from all the windows.



Haroldswick



Judith at Fair Isle church

One day we took a six seater plane to Fair Isle, where the sheep far out number the islanders. Fair Isle is the most southerly of the Shetland Islands, with only 55 inhabitants, including just 5 children. It is very remote and quiet, with a Primary school and a small health centre, with a resident nurse. There are no camp sites for tents or caravans, no restaurants, hotels or pubs. So holiday makers are not really catered for, or encouraged, but the small Fair Isle population must like it that way.

There is one village shop that sells most things, from ice cream to paintings by John Best, the local artist on the island. The island has a small harbour, used for ferry crossings and one or two sailing boats.

Fair Isle is popular with bird watchers, as the dramatic cliffs are full of sea birds including puffins, nesting ledges in the cliffs. A very large wild life observatory is being built at the moment. The old one burnt down recently, due to an electrical fault in the roof.

There are two lighthouses, at either end of the island which is only three miles long and one and a half miles wide. There are also two churches on Fair Isle, one not in use and in need of restoration and another little Methodist Church, which is very much the centre of island life, with regular services. The inside was bright and cheerful and there were beautiful stained glass windows. I noticed they have the same hymn books as us!



Inside Fair Isle church

We found the locals very friendly and interesting to talk to. The island is amazing in the summer, with practically 24 hours of daylight, but it is very isolated and often inaccessible and cut off from the outside world in winter. Storms and high winds mean the ferries and the small airport cannot be utilised for much of the year.

Shetland, for me, is a place to re-visit time and time again and explore all its hidden gems.



Judith Lowe

Diane in Haroldswick Methodist Church



Inside Haroldswick Church



*Judith at Hermaness, Uist
The most northerly point in the UK*

NOTE - Rev Mark Slaney, formerly a minister and Superintendent in our circuit, is now the District Chair for Scotland, which includes the churches shown.

Today is ours – let’s live it,
 And love is strong – let’s give it.
 A song can help – let’s sing it;
 The past is gone – don’t rue it.
 Our work is here – let’s do it.
 The world is wrong – let’s right it;
 If evil comes – let’s fight it.
 The road is rough – let’s clear it;
 The future’s vast – don’t fear it.
 Is faith asleep? – Let’s wake it;
 Today is free – let’s take it.

Beah Richards

BOOK CLUB

It is a peculiarity of we Methodist people that we start our ‘new year’ in September. The education system of course is in sync with us but for most of the rest of our lives January is the critical date. So it seems sensible to look forward right now to the plans for the Book Club for the next twelve months. These plans have been made after much discussion – we are a very democratic lot especially once we have had our share and cake and biscuits.

Book Clubs can take very various approaches to their activities. One danger is that the Book Club programme starts to dominate our reading. We want to avoid that – rather we want the varied books we choose to read to inform our discussion and provide stimulus for further book choices. The dates we are arranging are still to be confirmed and will be stated clearly in the Church notices, on the website and in future editions of this magazine. So this is what we are planning;

In **September**, our theme will be a discussion centred upon the works of **Bill Bryson**. Bryson is an American writer of popular non-fiction. A humorous and mischievous writer, his subjects are wide-ranging – history, geography, science, literature and more. Our members can choose for themselves which if any of his books they are to read, explain what they have learned and enjoyed and stimulate our further reading.

In **October**, we will be thinking about **the magazines** we choose to read, especially those which shape our lifestyles including our choice of books. In the past *The Strand* magazine was hugely influential and its history is a fascination of Mike Halewood who is coming along to talk about its history and effect on our predecessors.

In **December**, we will enjoy our **traditional seasonal session**– quizzes, surprises and Christmas literature. Unmissable fun!!

January will be **revolutionary!** The challenge will be to read that revolutionary text you have previously enjoyed or always intended to read. Will it be Dickens, Mantel, Attwood or someone else. Perhaps it will be a revolution of the heart or mind which attracts us. Perhaps at the end we will have a clearer idea of what a revolution really is.

March will be a time of **Continental Drift**. Earlier in the year, members will choose one of the world’s continents and then asked to find a book which is set there.

In **April**, **David Copperfield** will take centre stage, either in the original context of Dickens famous novel or through Barbara Kingsolver’s recent prize winning retelling in a novel called **Demon Copperhead**.

Our **June** meeting will once again concentrate upon the Methodist Church **Bible book of the year** (yet to be announced) and we hope it is an informative and challenging session as this year’s choice of the book of Revelation.

There will be a **July** meeting – we need to take breath before we decide our topic.

Something for everyone we hope – and possibly for you. You will be very welcome.



Bill Bryson

Ken Wales

CELEBRATION AND THANK YOU



On August 10th we celebrate 60 years of marriage. We were married here at Fulwood Methodist Church by Rev. Ronald Jobling in 1963. Our children, born in 1966 and 1969, were baptised here by Rev. Clifford Chesworth and today we are still worshipping at Fulwood.

Thank you to all our friends here for your patience with us, for your love, care and support over all these years; and thank you for helping us grow in faith.

Please don't stop, you're doing a great job.

Mavis and Len Fletcher

* * * * *

SEEN ON CHURCH SIGNS

Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted.

Be the kind of person your pet thinks you are.

The fact that there's a highway to hell and only a staircase to heaven says a lot about the anticipated traffic numbers.

Forgive your enemies, it messes with their heads!

Len Fletcher

TRANSITIONS

It is that time of the year again. Preparing children and staff to say ‘goodbye and good luck’ is a time of mixed emotions - sadness yes but also gratitude for all that has been shared and pleasure and pride for all that has been achieved. You will have experienced this in your own lives and maybe shared these sentiments in your families or with friends. But for those in schools, the feelings can be intense as energy levels are almost exhausted.

Year 6 children, those in their final year of Key Stage 2, will have had a demanding few months. Families have to decide which secondary schools they hope to move on to - and then wait many weeks before they are given that information. All the while, they and their teachers will be working towards the SATS which are taken in the final year of Key Stage 2 and then the time comes to prepare to say farewell. In many schools, school trips, some of them residential, year 6 productions and various celebrations add to the drama.

So, please take a moment to think about those involved in these stressful times. At

Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School much thought goes into how to help children (and staff) maintain an even emotional keel at all times, but especially now. Helping them to form their own memories and to treasure those they have valued, how to discard those which they don't value to the same degree and deciding what else to keep and what to discard are all part of growing and learning. Emotional and mental resilience are important aspects of our educational work at RAMJS, even if they are not examined at SATS.

Here is some work recently produced by Year 6 children at RAMJS.

So this is a good time to develop successful habits and skills for use throughout life. It may be a good time too for you to help others you know going





I have really enjoyed our school trips, especially our residential. I enjoyed being able to do lots of outdoor activities which I wouldn't normally be able to do.

Over the years I have made friends who have helped me and made me laugh when I needed to. I won't ever forget them.

I would like to be remembered for all my hard work and effort. I hope to go on to do really well in my education which I believe I can.

through this experience, giving recognition to what has been enjoyed and achieved as well as sharing your experiences with them to assist with anxieties. I remember when..... often offers reassurance that a child is not alone.

And what about you, dear reader, are you going through a period of change? What might these children have it in them to say to you as you face life's challenges?

So, it is not just 'good luck' or even 'good fortune' but much more 'may God be with you, God bless', that we must all share with each other.

Ken Wales

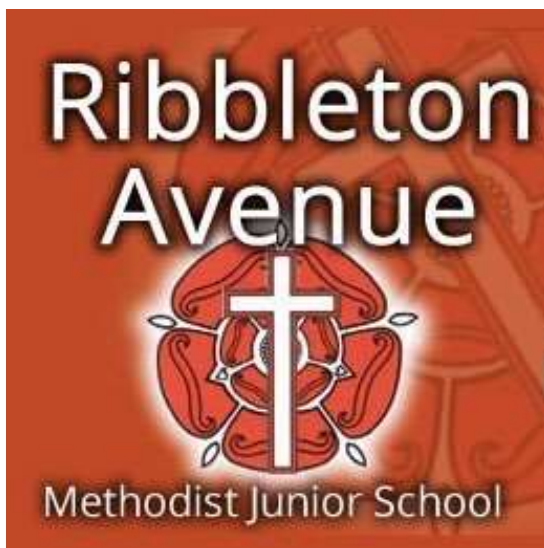
Chair of RAMJS Governing Body.



At RAMJS I have really enjoyed being here for four years and making new friends. I have enjoyed my learning and making memories which I'll have forever.

I have good memories of our teachers and how they made lessons fun. They never failed to make us learn and laugh!

I want to be remembered as hard working and one day I want to be a famous author.



4th FULWOOD METHODIST SCOUT GROUP

This year is very special as we celebrate our 80th Anniversary. We have been holding a series of events to mark the occasion which have been great fun.



In addition to this, we have now opened a new section, the Squirrels, who are young people aged between 4 and 6. This section feeds naturally into the Beavers and is going well. In July we will be investing 10 new Squirrels and three adults who have not been leaders before.



The group is now bigger than we have been in a while, however, there is often room for 'another one', be it an adult wishing to volunteer as a helper or be on the Trustee Board, or even a young person looking for a great adventure.

To contact us, our leader's details are on the Uniformed Organisations area on the Church website. www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk/uniformed/uniformed.htm

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THANKS TO FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Praise be unto God Almighty. Me and my wife Grace Hephzibah have been introduced to the family of the FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH, Preston, UK from 11th June 2023 by our Daughter, Catherine Merritta, Arun Paul (Son-in-Law), Benaiah and Dyandra, our Grand Children, who live in Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston. We are delighted to participate in the Worship Services and programs such as Messy Church, Sunday Club, Bible study June 2023. Thanks to Revd. JANE WILD for giving us an opportunity to sing a Tamil Song on Sunday 9th July 2023.

We are from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, members of the Church of South India, Diocese of Madras. We thank God who had sent committed Missionaries from Methodist Church, Church of Scotland, Anglican Church, and London Mission Society in the style of Jesus Christ with a Mission to save, liberate and transform all of us from slavery and bondage and undue domination by the hierarchical caste ridden society in the past 2000 years.

We must mention the hardship and sacrifice with which our missionaries have made it possible to reach into our land that was filled with things of darkness. They have brought us good news of Christ that was made possible only by the compassion by which they could address the Himalayan task of eradicating the unwanted garbage such as illiteracy, superstitions, law of Karma and rebirth, caste discrimination & untouchability through Elementary Schools, High Schools, Colleges and Primary Health centres, hostels for the students from villages studying in towns and cities, churches in the remote villages and towns.

With a sense of gratitude to our missionaries who came 300 years back to educate and enable us to understand that we are the children of God and all of us are given a new image, new identity such as Chosen Royal Priests, Jesus' own people and Holy People. Kindly remember the challenges that the minority religious communities are facing in India today, especially under the extremist, cast-ridden politicians who are scheming to take back our very nation to 2000 years of darkness & continue the oppression and violence against the poor and the downtrodden communities of people. As an example one can easily understand the Burning of Manipur in India for the killings of innocent religious minorities.

Kindly remember the church in India, the Christians and the leaders of our churches, so that we could remain faithful to our calling and commitment to the demands of the Mission of GOD in our times.

Thanks for your Prayers,

Rev. Y. Lazarus Baburao



**Rev. Y. Lazarus
Baburao**

*Picture taken from a YouTube video of a service he took in India.
According to Google maps, there are 23 Methodist churches in Chennai!*

PLAQUES IN PRESTON STATION

Continuing our series of plaques in Preston, this time they are all in Preston Railway Station. Go and see if you can find them all.

DURING THE GREAT WAR OF 1914-1919 THIS ROOM WAS, BY THE PERMISSION OF THE L.&N.W. AND L.&Y. RAILWAY COMPANIES, OCCUPIED FROM AUG. 19. 1915 TO NOV. 11. 1919, BY THE PRESTON STATION SAILORS AND SOLDIERS FREE BUFFET ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY WORKERS, WHO SUPPLIED THREE AND A QUARTER MILLIONS OF THE SAILORS AND SOLDIERS WHO PASSED THROUGH THIS STATION, WITH REFRESHMENTS AND COMFORTS. THE ROOM FROM AUG. 19. 1915 TO MAY 31. 1919 WAS OPEN CONTINUOUSLY DAY AND NIGHT AND FROM JUNE 1. 1919 TO NOV. 11. 1919 FOR FOURTEEN HOURS EACH DAY.

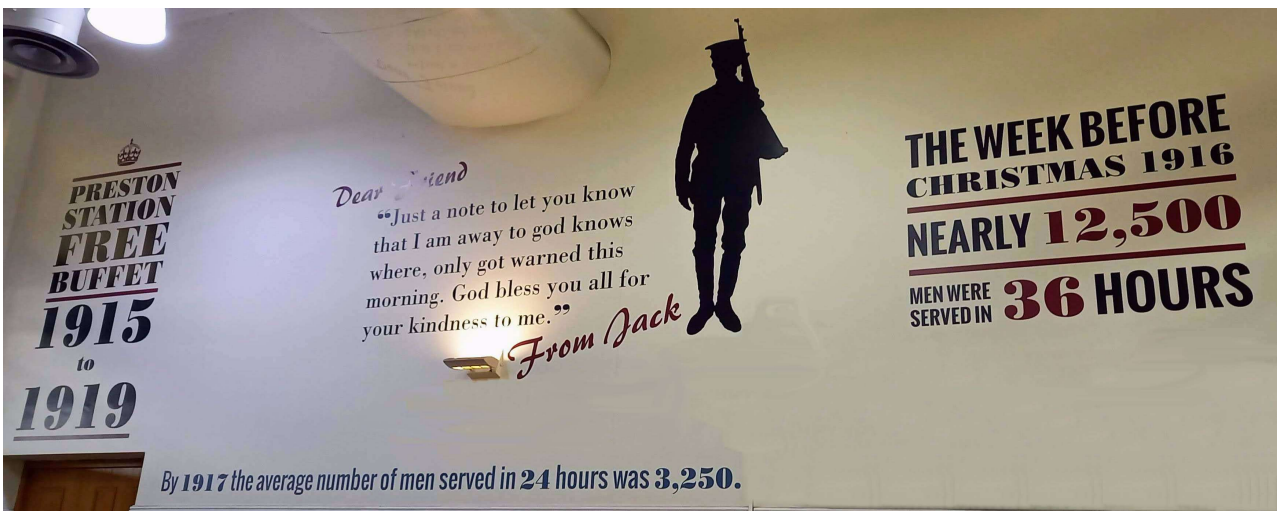
PRESTON STATION FREE BUFFET
— ASSOCIATION —
THIS BUFFET WAS OPEN DAY AND NIGHT, FROM THE 20TH DECEMBER 1939 TO THE 20TH DECEMBER 1945. OVER TWELVE MILLION SERVICE PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN SERVED, THROUGH THE GOOD FELLOWSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF PRESTON AND DISTRICT.

THIS PLAQUE WAS UNVEILED BY COUNCILLOR TERRY CARTWRIGHT, MAYOR OF PRESTON, TO COMMEMORATE THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE REFURBISHED TRAVEL CENTRE AT PRESTON STATION ON THE 6TH JUNE 1995.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the official end of steam traction on British Railways. On August 3rd 1968, class 5MT locomotive, 45318, from Lostock Hall engine shed with driver Ernest Heyes and fireman Tony Smith, departed from platform 4 with the 21.25 passenger service train to Liverpool Exchange thus bringing to an end an era which began at Rainhill some 150 years before.
Bob Gregson, August 2018.

PRESTON RAILWAY STATION
Railtrack acknowledges contributions to the cost of restoration of the Fishergate entrance building and ticket hall in 1995 from InterCity West Coast Limited and the Railway Heritage Trust
RAILTRACK
West Coast
PP

This plaque was unveiled by the Queen on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh on 7th May 1974 to mark the final stage of electrifying the railway from London to Glasgow



All photos by John Butterworth

ANOTHER PLAQUE AT PRESTON STATION

At the bottom of the slope where the taxis wait, there are engraved glass panels either side of the main doors. On the right hand glass panel, part of the engraving has - 'Come on Finney!' Alas, retire, so we sigh, 'Harry Duckworth please soothe with sweet choir'.



Harry was organist and choirmaster at Fulwood for many years until he retired. We have edited the photo to make Harry's name easier to see.

John Butterworth

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Stuart Black

“WHAT KIND OF MAGAZINE DO WE REALLY WANT?”

Found in an old copy FMC magazine, March 1969

The more one thinks of the question “What kind of a magazine do we really want?” the more rhetorical it becomes. The answer should be simple enough, but it isn’t.

Two issues of The Fulwood Methodist have been published, and it is time to take a very hard look at them, and decide, first, whether the whole project is fulfilling its original intention as means of communication within the church, and secondly, if the content of the magazine is interesting to read. Although The Fulwood Methodists ‘1’ and ‘2’ have received general approval, the Magazine Committee feel that both issues were far from perfect. Detailed criticism has, therefore, been sought from members of the church, and uninhibited comment received.

The main contention is that the Magazine lacks “the human touch”. News of people and what they are doing, our critics say, would be of great interest, and partly overcome the tendency towards pomposity. News of whom? A vague reply is that letters could be received (just like that!) from people who have moved on to another part of the country. The real answer may lie nearer home. Let us have news of the comings and goings, and general happenings of those with whom we meet week by week. This is not a plea for a gossip column, but an effort to know each other better. Where does this information come from? With the consent of the people involved, it can be passed on by members of the Pastoral Committee. It is in this way, particularly, new-comers can be given a welcome, and an introduction to everybody.

As for the ‘ponderous tone’, “the inability to hold interest from beginning to end”, and “the need to vary the length of individual articles”, the fault, dear Brutus, lies not within the stars, nor with our contributors, but with our editorial planning, which we hope will improve with subsequent issues. The Committee is aware that the magazine needs of shaft of humour to brighten it’s pages. This is a pressing need. If any reader has a gift for light-hearted comment, will he or she please declare it for all our enjoyment here to Pull any Punches! There’s an opportunity.

A further criticism has been that there has been “no focal point”. This issue with news from abroad provides a centre-piece. News of church activities “is repetitive”, it has been said, as details already appear in the notices, but some activities need bringing to wider attention from time to time. In the future we hope there will be reprints from other publications, where copyright permits.

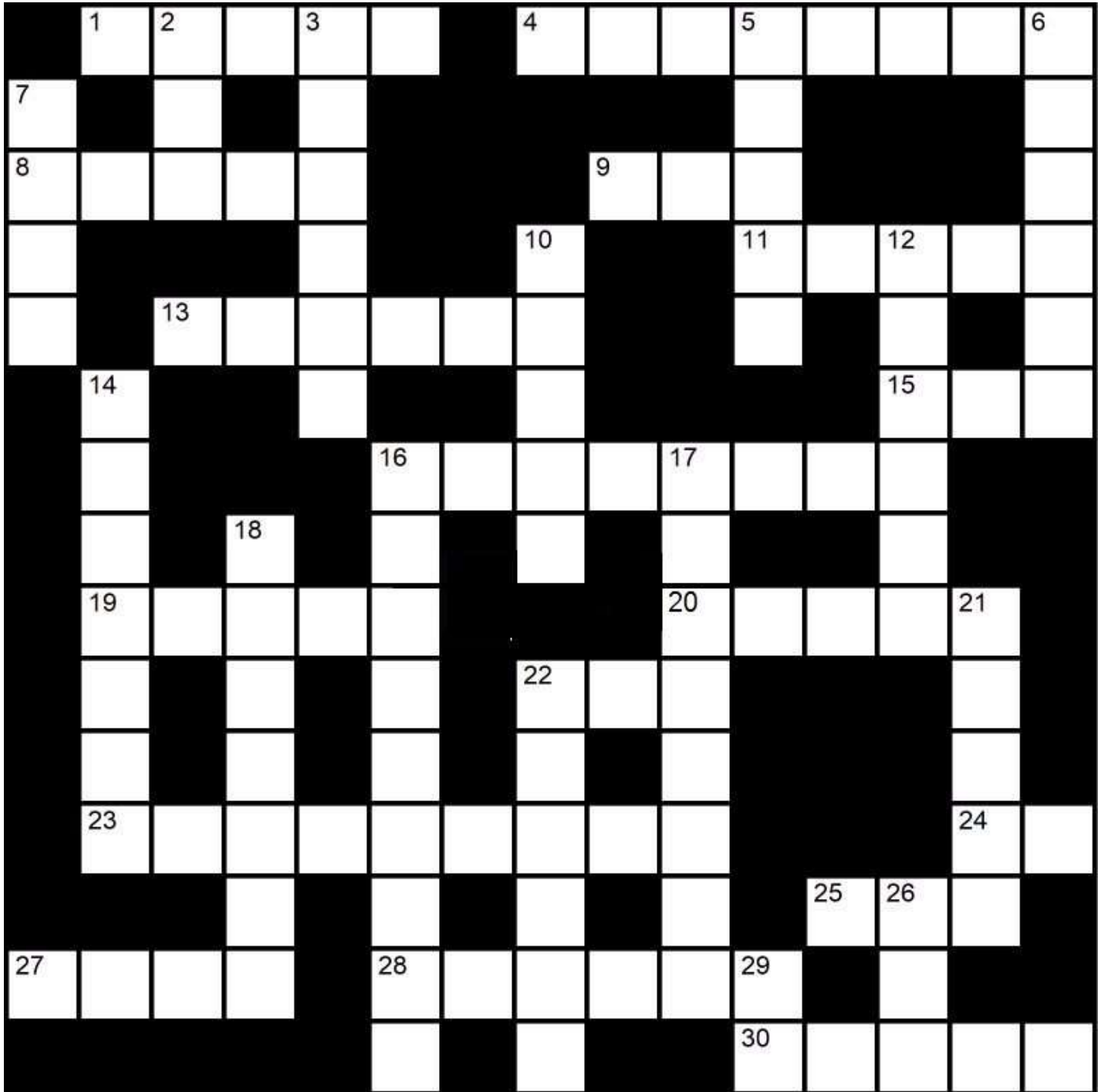
This catalogue of the magazine’s shortcomings is offered to encourage greater participation by all its readers. Let us not forget that people have said kind things about ‘The Fulwood Methodist’, but an exercise in self-criticism is not wasted if it leads to better production. “A lot of fuss”, you may well say “over a quarterly magazine which has made little impact”. Fair comment, but only by setting up apparently-far-too-high standards can anything of merit be achieved.

Written by Mr R F Watson

SUMMER 'AUTHORS' CROSSWORD

This crossword is based upon British and Irish literature. Most answers are the names of writers, usually their surnames. The clues marked with an * are of a kind.

In each case, a very short phrase includes two words from the titles of works they have written. (e.g. Casterbridge Native would lead to the solution Hardy).



Across

- 1 A description given to 'all the world', by the Bard (5)
- 4 * Nile Express (8)
- 8 * Ulysses Portrait (5)
- 9 Stove ruler (3)
- 11 Building with a 1 across by the Thames (5)
- 13 * Wolf Bodies (6)

- 15 With short humour - earnestly demonstrated by 30 across (3)
 16 * Barchester Diamonds (8)
 19 Australian marsupial starts knock out attempt left alone (5)
 20 * Dalloway Lighthouse (5)
 22 West Scotland seaside town, sounds fresh we hope. (3)
 23 * Treasure Hyde (9)
 24 and 29 down. Novel by Fleming, played onscreen by Sean Connery (2,2) (2)
 25 Use last letter with a pair of glasses to find animal park (3)
 27 * (first name) Blithe Fever (4)
 28 * Mansfield Abbey (6)
 30 * (first name) (the) Happy Gray (5)

Down

- 2 * Franchise Daughter (3)
 3 * Stamboul Glory (6)
 5 Representation in a slim agenda (5)
 6 Now droopy, wise guy? (6)
 7 A container which is just open (4)
 10 * (The) Burnt Cathedral (5)
 12 * Wigan Farm (6)
 14 * Bleak Carol (7)
 16 Author of Vanity Fair (9)
 17 * (The) Rainbow Sons (8)
 18 * South Barton (7)
 21 Good or fair? Well, look inside, reflect and find Tolkien's much -loved creation (5)
 22 Help a braying animal lead the way? (6)
 26 Leading oligarch, real character, to find a mythical creature of the deep. (3)
 29 see 24 across (2)

Ken Wales

Brian Mengella

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A FAMILY'S EASTER TRADITION

For some generations now, my family has been accustomed to visiting Croston cemetery at some time over the Easter weekend. All close relatives have now left the village and it's done partly to check on the state of the family graves (Smiths, Whittles and Rainfords) and also, I suppose, to re-acquaint ourselves with our forebears.

I always find "t'simmitary" (as my Great Aunt Alice called it) a sad place; even the trees seem to reflect this as they moan in the wind. However, if you know where to look, there's a couple of epitaphs to be found, to bring a grim smile to your face.

*O all who come my grave to see,
As I am now, so you must be;
Repent in time, do not delay,
For no one knows their dying day*

*Weep not dear wife but be content,
For unto thee I was but lent;
My time is past, my race is run,
Therefore, dear wife, prepare to come.*

Believe it or not there are folk who travel about, seeking out such gems and producing books such as *Discovering Epitaphs* by Geoffrey N. Wright (Shire Publications Ltd).

Of course, it isn't absolutely necessary to travel widely in an effort to make such discoveries: take a look closer to home for a start. You could even begin at Croston! There's one corner I always visit before I depart; it's just inside the gateway, on your left. Here the dates on the gravestones are generally between 1880 and 1905, and this seems to have been an era when it was a 'must' for your headstone to carry an epitaph. You'll see a whole spectrum of emotions reflected there and perhaps some sort of a health warning ought to be posted! See what you think of these:-

*We cannot tell who next may fall
Beneath thy chastening rod.
One must be first, but let us all
Prepare to meet our God.*

*Death did to him short warning give,
Therefore be careful how you live;
Begin in time, make no delay,
For no one knows their dying day.*

*Afflictions sore, long time she bore,
Physicians were in vain,
Till God did please to give her ease
And free her from her pain.*

*Day after day we saw her fade
And gently sink away;
Yet in our hearts we often prayed,
That she might longer stay.*

*Crept like a rose that is newly blown,
My youthful life is quickly flown;
Parents weep not, I cannot miss,
The mansions of eternal bliss.*

*She sleeps within this bed of dust,
A loving mother true and just;
Beloved she lived, in peace she died,
Her life was craved but God denied.*

*When loved ones lie withered,
And fond ones are flown,
Oh, who would inhabit
This cold world alone?*

*Mourn not for me my parents dear,
I am not dead but sleeping here;
If life was short we longer rest,
God called for me when He thought best.*

*It was most meet that he should be
No delver in earth's clod;
Nor need to pause and cleanse his feet
To stand before his God.*

*Not gone from memory, not gone from love,
But gone to her father's home above.*

Now what I discovered here has set me thinking more deeply so I discussed this again with others. Someone was reminded of the hilarity in his own family each week when very close family friends came round for supper, after evening service (yes, really), and with great amusement the In Memoriam verses from the weekly local newspaper were read aloud. Not very sensitive you may feel, but maybe light relief from the evening sermon. However we read them today, they are a reflection of the struggles people have in coming to terms with their loss - and the danger in trying to create rhyming tributes at the same time.

That got me wondering how future generations will recall and regard our attempts to mark these rites of passage. For example, the humour we think it appropriate to put on birthday cards, the images included on sympathy and get well messages and, possibly, the various emojis available to us for use on social media on each and every occasion. TV programmes and books help to remind us of the past, help us to discover how previous generations lived their lives, what they valued and how they expressed their feelings - just think of Tutankhamun! They will tell future generations of our quirks and foibles.

So one item in our magazine has certainly made me think. How about you?

Roy Smith

INTRODUCING MALCOLM RAE

Who needs no introduction!

This item is essentially to introduce our readers to someone who we hope will feature more regularly in this magazine. But we start off by referring to an evening in early Spring of this year when many in the Church and beyond held a most enjoyable evening of music, fun and friendship, excellent food and, last but not least, listening to the wit and wisdom supplied by Malcolm Rae, who will be well known to many of our readers.



Malcolm Rae

The evening resulted from the endeavours of so many people that it is almost unforgivable to mention names. But it would be wrong not to mention the leadership of Mavis Fletcher, the generosity and musicianship of Keith and Jane Brook and the Wyre Music Group Orchestra, and the superb catering. Supporting them was a cast of thousands!! Thank you to every single person who contributed or supported in each and every way.

Malcolm was asked to entertain and enlighten us at the end of our time together. What he had to say seemed so important not only on that occasion but for the here and now, that he has agreed that it may be summarised as below. Beyond one joke which I love, the many which Malcolm shared with us are not repeated here, In future editions of our magazine, we hope to provide Malcolm with another platform (he already has several) to bring more of his huge fund of stories to us and to share all he has learnt in his long and hugely successful life based here in north Preston. As you will see wisdom and humour are very warm bed fellows in the Rae household. In essence, Malcolm reminded us....

Humour is intensely important in our lives, not least at the present time. We know humour eases tension in social situations and reduces the strains we feel when life is not going smoothly. It fosters goodwill, it countersigns friendship. Smiles and laughter transcend language and cultural barriers. People look more handsome when they smile – so respond to my jokes! Physical and emotional health increases, immune systems are enhanced and inhalers can be put to one side. Let humour bring us all together.

Humour can raise spirits, break down barriers, ignite hope and optimism, remove despondency.

Malcolm thinks laughter is a bit like changing a child's nappy – it doesn't permanently solve all the world's problems, but it seems better for a while! Remember, you don't stop laughing because you grow old, but you do grow old when you stop laughing. And a good laugh is like manure to a farmer, it doesn't do

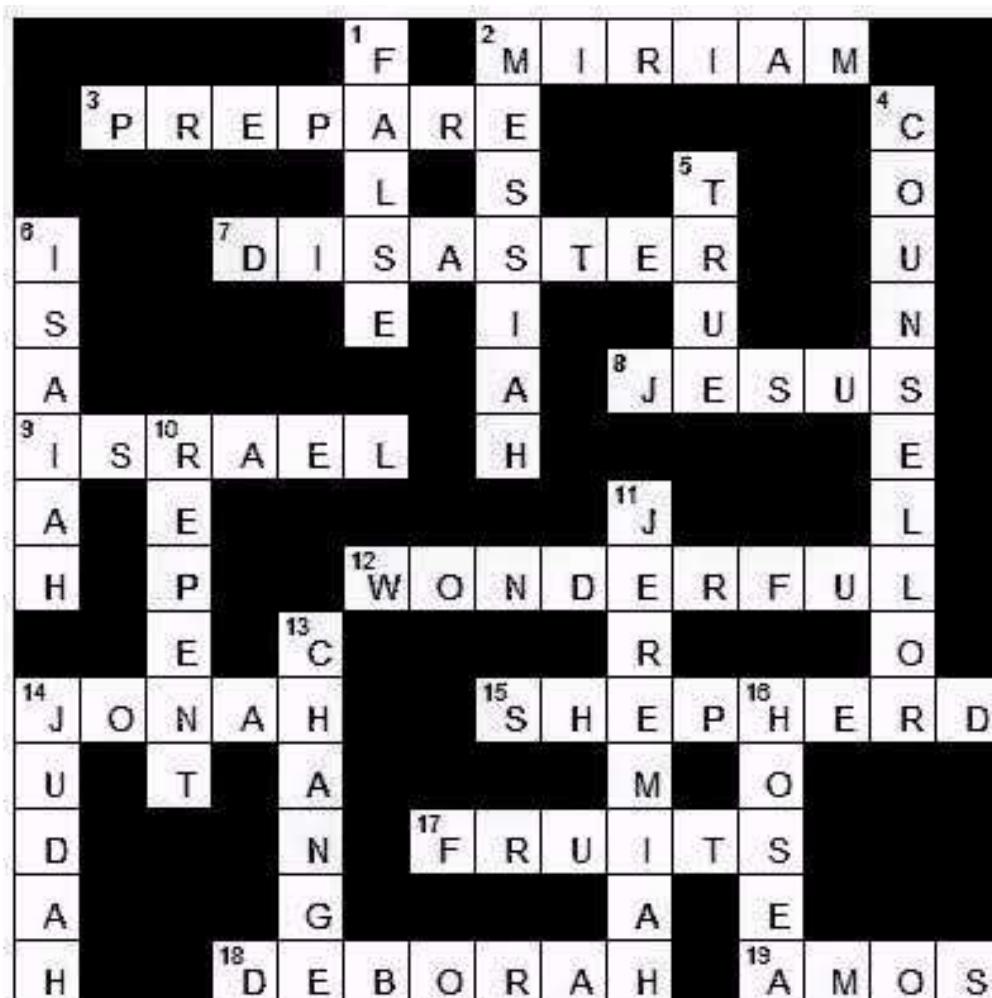
any good until you spread it around. But use it wisely – to lighten the load and warm the heart.

But beware, humour can be misused - never use it to hurt others. Apply the ATT test – do you know what that stands for? Our comments must be appropriate, timely and tasteful. And remember, it is always a good idea to keep smiling, that way everyone wonders what you have been up to.

Amongst many great stories, was this. The Pope visits Liverpool, drives into John Lennon airport, cavalcades through the city. Thousands stand and cheer. The Popemobile approaches the cathedral. At Toxteth a chap breaks the Police cordon and shouts ‘Your Holiness. Please can you help with my son’s hearing? The Pope calls off the security staff and decided he was going to listen to the man’s plea. He would do so at the Cathedral in private immediately after the service. So the man is shown into the vestry and waits for the Pope. The Pope comes through and asks what is the problem with the son’s hearing and how might he help. The man explained, his lad was due at Sefton Magistrates Court next Wednesday!

Ken Wales

EASTER CROSSWORD SOLUTION



SURPRISED BY A RUGBY PROGRAMME

C.S.Lewis famously wrote a book called ‘Surprised by Joy’. Recently, I was surprised by a rugby programme. Let me explain.

Some readers may recall an article in the last magazine about whether our early childhood experiences may influence our current views upon the Easter festival. I recounted how, in my own case it had usually been a rather unexceptional time and that whilst there were some cultural events they didn’t really connect with me in the same way that those of Christmas had done. What struck me was, in my own case I emphasise, the clear distance between Easter cultural events and the religious events we were recognising.



Imagine, my surprise then, when this year I read the programme for what is the traditional Rugby league fixture played out each Good Friday between Wigan Warriors and St. Helens. Normally Rugby League programmes and magazines are religion-free publications, but this one was different, for it carried an article from the Wigan Warriors’ Club Chaplain Glen Rickard. Increasingly, sports clubs recognise that Chaplains have a contribution to make to the wellbeing of their players and staff and some of us have heard them speak of their approach to their work.

But this was different. Under the heading ‘*Ruptures and Repairs*’ Glen Rickard addressed his column to all the programme’s readers in the wider church community. I have permission from him, and the club, to reproduce some of his comments here.

Glen explained that his heading applied to more than rugby injuries. All of us as human beings enjoy and benefit from relationships, but occasionally, perhaps too frequently, they rupture and require repair. That process can be just as lengthy and tiresome as sports injuries. At Easter, a time he hoped we would all enjoy, Glen reminded us that rupture and reconciliation is at the heart of the Easter message.

Glen offered us all some very practical advice about we might behave and react when our relationships are under strain. He explained why our brains respond in the way they do under pressure and some of the steps we can take (literally and metaphorically) when we experience such stress. Of course, we can read such advice regularly in the magazines we buy and the books we read. Emotional health is hugely important, even in Church.

Glen went further. “Easter is the time when Christians remember what happened on a cross over 2000 years ago. When God stepped towards us, took on a human body and endured the worst possible suffering and death, Christians believe this was necessary to repair our ruptured relationship with God..... God waits for our response. The question is, will you move towards Him this Easter? A simple honest prayer is all it takes. Well done, Glen (and Wigan Warriors). I look forward to reading more of your columns. Read the latest one here <https://tinyurl.com/3r7yp2zp>

Ken Wales

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday

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

Tuesday

10.00 am	AM Club - 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
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Friday

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

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

Monday

5.45 pm	Beavers (6 - 8 yr)	Fiona Jackson
7.00 pm	Cubs (8 - 10½ yr)	Dave Killingback
4.45 pm	Squirrels (4 - 5 yr)	Ketran Eastham

Tuesday

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

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

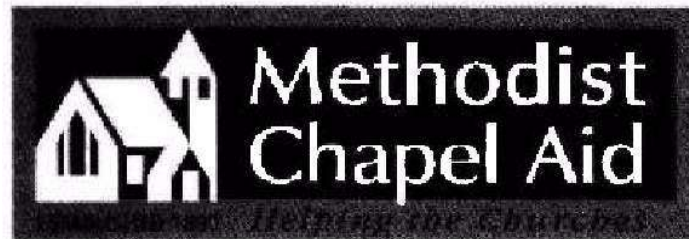
Friday

6.30 pm	Escape (7- 11 yr)	Darren Arnold
8.00 pm	Youth Club	Darren Arnold

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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