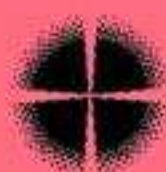




FULWOOD METHODIST  
CHURCH 1912-2012

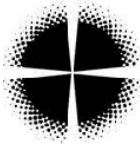


**CHRISTMAS**  
**2011**



Fulwood Methodist Church  
Crossroads Centre

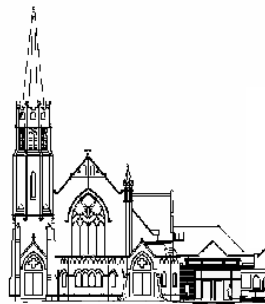
THE NEW FULWOOD METHODIST



# Fulwood Methodist Church Crossroads Centre

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**Minister: Rev. Peter Sheasby M.A, B.D.**  
85 Victoria Road  
Fulwood  
PRESTON  
PR2 8NL  
Tel. 01772 715134



**Deacon: Sister Myrtle Poxon**  
523 Blackpool Road  
Ashton  
PRESTON  
PR2 1EQ  
Tel. 01772 720184

## SUNDAY SERVICES

9.45 am CHOIR PRACTICE  
10.30 am MORNING WORSHIP & JUNIOR CHURCH

Parents are encouraged to come to church with their children.  
There is a CRÈCHE for babies and toddlers while parents worship.  
Children leave the service after about 15 minutes and go into JUNIOR CHURCH.  
(Beginners 2½ - 4 yr., Primary 5 - 7 yr., Juniors 8 - 11 yr., Seniors 11 - 16 yr.)  
Parents can go out with their children, see them settle, and then come back into church for the rest of the service.  
Church Worship and Junior Church finish at the same time.  
On most Sunday mornings, coffee, tea and orange juice are served in the Willow Grove after services. All are warmly invited to share in this.  
The CHURCH MINIBUS provides free transport to and from Church on Sunday morning. You are invited to use it.  
Timetable and route information available at Church.

6.30 p.m. EVENING WORSHIP at **URC, Symonds Road**  
Another opportunity to celebrate the goodness of God.

**THE LORD'S SUPPER**  
is celebrated monthly at either morning or evening service.

**MARRIAGES AND BAPTISMS**  
can be arranged in consultation with the minister.

\*\*\*\*\*

**If you need any help, or have any concerns, please contact  
Rev. Peter Sheasby, Sister Myrtle Poxon or your pastoral visitor.**

Your Pastoral Visitor is ..... Tel .....

## EDITORIAL

Perhaps people have had a busy time since the Autumn Issue: articles for inclusion in the Christmas magazine have been hard to come by, so we are doubly grateful for the material we did receive. However, it is **YOUR** magazine, and if nothing much comes in then that's simply the way it is!

Once more we thank all our regular donors for the copies of other church magazines received. Please keep up the good work. Our thanks also to those who took the trouble to bring home magazines from their holiday jaunts: from Grange & Cartmel Methodist Churches; Hastings, Bexhill & Rye Methodist Circuit; Saltaire URC; Winchelsea Methodist Church and from John Wesley's Chapel (The New Room) at Bristol.

Finally, the **copy date** for our next (Easter) issue is **Sunday 4 March 2012** and Contributions ahead of that date would be especially welcome!

**Roy Smith**  
(Editor)

## EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR	Roy Smith	7 Southgate, Fulwood Preston PR2 3HX (716772)
	Assisted by	Barbara Hothersall (716203)
		Libby Stone (774818)
	Computer layout	John Butterworth (774024)
	e-mail	fmc magazine@yahoo.co.uk

If you need a spare copy, please pick one up from the porch.  
This magazine is also available in large print version and on the internet at **[www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk](http://www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk)** and click the **Online Magazine** tab.  
Copies going back to Harvest 2001 are available!

\* \* \* \* \*

## FULWOOD STEWARDS

### CHURCH

Delma Whitman (Senior Steward), Ray Armstrong, Edna Armstrong,  
Stephen Grice, Judith Harvey, Amanda Latham.

### COMMUNION

Pauline Kirkham (Senior Steward), Arnold & Joan Barker, John Butterworth,  
Jacqueline Clarke, Audrey Harrison, Margaret Sandford, Melba Southwood,  
Ann Topping, Leslie Birkett, Martin Beck.

# PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

How many Christmases have you seen? I know, more than you want to count?! What was the best? And dare I ask, what was the worst?

I remember the magic of coming downstairs as a child and finding the lounge laid- out like a village with boards painted with roads from my cars and houses. I remember the first Christmas with Anna (and a later one when she woke at 3am!). I remember the joy of Christmas leading worship, once including 6 different services in 24 hours.

This story of Christmas has been around for 2,000 years, yet every year is different and hopefully memorable for one reason or another. We celebrate with carols, prayers, candles and readings, re-telling the same message year after year yet always finding something new that God has to say to us.

In Fulwood we come the 99<sup>th</sup> Christmas in our Centenary year. How varied they will have been. In my last ten years we have had Bethlehem houses hanging in church, as well as an upside down Christmas tree; we have focused on peace, angels and greetings. This year we have been thinking about the different decades since 1911. If someone returned to Fulwood today they would be singing some of the same carols, but also new ones. They would be surprised but hopefully pleased with the way we have decorated the building. But the Bible readings would be exactly the same (except for the more modern language) because God's gift to us never changes – Jesus, the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, the Saviour of the Humankind.

I hope this year is one of your best Christmases ever, memorable perhaps for a wonderful gift, time with family or friends, but most of all may it be when the Good News of Jesus born among us helps you to find him close beside you.

God's blessing be with you this Christmas,

*Peter*

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### Baptism

30<sup>th</sup> October 2011      Rebekah Sophie Green  
Harry Winston Vesty

### Funeral

29<sup>th</sup> November      Thomas Sutcliffe (ex Eldon Street)  
2<sup>nd</sup> December      Alice Coulthurst  
5<sup>th</sup> December      Oluremi Adewale

## CENTENARY PLANS



This year the Church celebrates its centenary with special services and events. There are various plans which include a pictorial exhibition and an exhibition of memorabilia. Each group within the Church family has been asked to mount a pictorial display portraying the group's activities both past and present. Photo frames have been purchased for this purpose. The Scouts already have one which is, at present, in the passage leading to the rear car park.

While some groups are comparatively young and, therefore, do not have much of a history, others go back a long way. We are appealing to the congregation for photographs, leaflets, books etc. and any artefacts they feel will be relevant. We hope to have soon a full list of contact names and we will publish them in the notices. It is hoped that the photo frames will have been completed by the end of January 2012 so that they can be displayed around the building at various times throughout the year and in September we shall mount an exhibition .

We will be able to “copy” photographs (we have the technology!) so they can be returned to folk very quickly. In the case of the memorabilia, artefacts etc., please keep those until much nearer the time.

Contact names so far – Choir – John Butterworth (photos), Ladies After Eight – Jacqueline Clarke (photos), Pauline Kirkham (memorabilia) AM Club – Barry Crossley and Allan Clarke (photos & memorabilia)

We shall put out appeals in future issues of the magazine and, if necessary, in the notices. Please search your cupboards, backs of drawers and tops of wardrobes – you never know what you might find!

**Barbara Hothersall**  
(Centenary Group)

## BUILDING TOGETHER NEWS AND CALENDAR

We have carried on steadily since the Autumn magazine was published with some very successful events. We did not have a St Andrew's Night Ceilidh but instead we arranged a Lancashire Night and the last Farmers' Market of the year, both of which were very successful. Our annual Craft Fair was a very successful event raising almost £900 and later on a Table Top sale raising £283.00. As I write we are looking forward to our Centenary Christmas Fair with a special 'Through the Decades' theme. Our Christmas Fair is always a popular event so we are anticipating a lot of support.



**Fulwood Methodist Church**

Sadly we have had to relinquish the Ingol Thrift Shop which we have run on Wednesdays for several years. To replace this valuable source of both outreach and income, we have launched 'Welcome Wednesdays', (the brainchild of Edna Armstrong). These will run on Wednesdays from 10.00am until 4.00pm with morning coffee, light lunches and afternoon tea. There will be new or nearly-new items for sale, the Craft table and the Book table and folk can entertain themselves with jigsaw puzzles and board games if they so wish. Please come along and bring a friend or neighbour. It is early days yet but first impressions have been very favourable.

The Flower Festival DVDs and Calendars are selling well. If you haven't purchased them it is not too late. For the DVDs please contact John Butterworth (tel. 774024) and the calendars are on sale in Church after service or contact Barbara Hothersall (tel. 716203). They are excellent souvenirs of a spectacular event. Mavis has produced another Quiz for Christmas and the subject is food!

The church band, 'Threeonesix', have just released their latest CD of four Christmas songs. It is called 'The Secret Stillness', named after one of the tracks, a new song written by Dave Topping with music by Mike Cushing. It is available from church for £5.00 or via Mike Cushing 07866 476639 – email – [m.p.cushing@gmail.com](mailto:m.p.cushing@gmail.com) or any band member.

On February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 'Threeonesix', is putting on a concert. They will be publishing details in due course so please make a note of the date. In March, the other Church band, the 'Hybrid Flower Monkeys' are doing a gig at St Pius on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. And all monies raised from this event will be shared between our Scouts and the Development Fund.



There are a few plans for next year. In January we shall run our Cakes Stall on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January. On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> we shall have the first of our textiles collection, probably during the morning. We may also run something else alongside it as we have done in the past. On 14th January we are running another Family Quiz Night with a Jacob's Join supper. Full details will be published in due course. On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January the FIRST Farmers' market of 2012 takes place.

The Fund Raising Group is looking for help and is hoping to put together a list of folk who would be prepared to run an event from time to time. The more volunteers we have the less onerous it will be. We are not asking for folk to arrange it, simply to run it – sell tickets, take the money, run the raffle, arrange the furniture and tidy up afterwards. Obviously, members of the fund raising group would be involved. Please think about it and if you feel you could help in this way, or require further information, please contact me (716203) or *barbara.hothersalll@btinternet.com*

There will be other events taking place and we will publicise them soon. On behalf of all the Fund Raising group, a very happy Christmas and New year to you all.

**Barbara Hothersall**

\* \* \* \* \*

### **PSALM 23?**

- 1 The Lord is my programmer, I shall not crash.
- 2 He installed His software on the hard disk of my heart; all of His commands are user-friendly;
- 3 His directory guides me to the right choices for His name's sake.
- 4 Even though I scroll through the problems of life, I will fear no bugs, for He is my back-up; His password protects me;
- 5 He prepares a menu before me in the presence of my enemies; His help is only a keystroke away.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and my file will be merged with His and saved forever.

**Author unknown**

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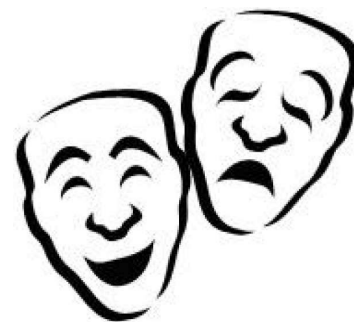


## ‘100 YEARS OF VARIETY’

### WANTED – GOOD ACTS FOR OUR SPECTACULAR SHOW!

As part of our centenary celebrations the ACTS group are planning on staging a Variety Show on 12,13,14 April 2012, in the style of the Music Hall shows of the past.

**BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Do you have a party piece which you would like to share? Can you sing, dance, play a musical instrument (or even the spoons!) or recite poetry? Maybe a group of you – family or friends – would be able to perform a short sketch or musical item. Are you a secret juggler or magician? Perhaps the different uniformed groups would like to play a part.



We hope to reflect the past hundred years through this entertainment so, for example, you may want to remind us of the songs from decades past or perform a sketch with up to date material. There may even be room for our very own Hybrid Flower Monkeys group to sing a song from the 60s!!

We want to encourage a wide range of age groups and variety of acts. So, please think about what you would like to do, write your ideas down and leave them at church addressed to Margaret Squire as soon as possible. Or you could email them to *margaretsquire@yahoo.co.uk*. We will be holding auditions on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2011 to make sure that we have a balanced and comprehensive programme, so please be ready to come and show us the outline of your act on that occasion. There will be opportunity to rehearse more fully nearer the time.

So get your thinking caps on, your dancing shoes polished and your magic wands at the ready for the greatest show that Fulwood has ever seen! Put the date in your diary and, if you don't feel able to get up on stage, be ready to put on your best bib and tucker, bonnets and ball gowns and come to support us on **12, 13 & 14 April 2012!**

**Margaret Squire**  
on behalf of the ACTS group

\* \* \* \* \*

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Not to defend some worn-out creed,  
But to live out the laws of Christ,  
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## TRIP TO BLACKPOOL ZOO

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011, 39<sup>th</sup> Preston Brownies and Rainbows went on a trip to Blackpool Zoo. There were 23 Brownies and 8 Rainbows, with 7 leaders. We met at the front of the church at 9.30 and got on the coach to leave at 9.45. It took us 25 minutes to get there and we were very excited.

The first thing we did was look at the tortoises – some were small and some were MASSIVE. Then we went to watch the parrot show. The parrots were really colourful, the small ones were green and yellow and the others were red, yellow, green and blue. Throughout the morning we saw Sea Lions (they were really clever and brilliant swimmers), flamingos, penguins and monkeys.



Then it was lunchtime, the most tasty part of the day. Some of us went on the bouncy castle and others went on the climbing frame. In the afternoon we saw crocodiles, elephants, spiders, snakes, monkeys, donkeys and Wise Owl's favourite, the zebras. The monkeys got squirted when they were naughty (like if they tried to take keys) but lots of us liked them best. We had a great time.

## CRIME PREVENTION BADGE

Sergeant Gary (Lauren's dad) came in to talk to us about stopping crime. He came in his police uniform and it was exciting because he showed us his handcuffs and a walkie-talkie. He told us to lock our stuff up and he showed us a sheet of paper with a picture of a street with lots of careless things (a ladder outside a house, a bike with no lock, a telly on the back seat of a car, house keys lying about) and we had to find as many things wrong as we could.



Sergeant Gary taught us about the three Ws when we go out (When will we be back, Where are we going and Who are we going with).

We made a poster about keeping safe and each Six did a play to show Sergeant Gary when he came back to test us for our badge. He gave us all an invisible pen to mark our postcodes on to our possessions. We all got our badge and had a fun time.

*Apologies - This article should have been published in the Autumn issue*



## MEMORIES OF PRESTON GUILDS – PART I (Additions)

**1682**

Roger Sudell, Guild Mayor that year, is an ancestor of *Sue Penrith (nee Sudell)*.

**1902**

Film was taken of the event (I wonder if Mitchell & Kenyon were involved?)

The photo on the right is of Thomas Shaw - Joan Hardman's grandfather, in 1902. He was a member of the Ripon Street & Garstang Road Guild Decorations Committee which collected subscriptions to provide a floral gateway across Garstang Road and window boxes for the houses on Ripon Street. The total cost was close to £300: what would that be in today's money?



**1922**



There was also filming of this Guild.

“My brother carried a football on a wagon, representing PNE.  
(*Joan Hardman*)

The man on the left is Sue Penrith's father as Abraham Lincoln in 1922 (Moor Park Wesleyan School) and on the right shows Dorothy Smith's mum on the LH side of the photo, with the St. Paul's contingent.



**1952**

(The films of the 1902 & 1922 Guilds were shown at both the Ritz and the Palladium cinemas.)

“Excitement came when 1952 actually arrived. This was a time of great activity, fun and friendship. We were used to the annual Whitsuntide Processions (the Whit Walks), when the Church of England and Roman Catholics walked round the town, but Nonconformists only walked ‘once every Preston Guild’.



(The photo shows June Robinson, on the left, with the Croft Street Methodist Sunday School banner.)

We had a brand new banner made for us by two ladies of the congregation. I was one of four steerers – holding on to long ropes attached to the top of the banner. There were four children each holding on to a shorter rope and, of course, two men holding up the poles of the banner. Turning corners en route was rather tricky: I had seen banners fall when turning from Friargate into Corporation Street! It was a long way from Fulwood and all around the town – AND I had been to see the Roman Catholic Procession in the morning!

I had two days holiday for the Monday and Tuesday of the Guild, then it was back to school. I was taking part in ‘Merrie England’ on Avenham Park. We had to be ready before the crowds came, so I rode pillion on a friend’s motorbike from Leyland to save time! (*Joan Hardman*)

*Audrey Harrison* recalls singing with the Cecilian Choir in ‘Merrie England’ (*photo right*) on Avenham Park, and testifies to the truth of the newspaper report which began, “Despite the bitterly cold wind which blew.....” Her husband’s duty was to be always on hand with a flask of hot coffee!



Further to *Roy Smith’s* memory of the reading of the First Proclamation (on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August), this was delivered by the Town Clerk, Mr W.E.E.Lockley, M.A.



These, and more photos can be seen on the internet at [www.fulwoodmethodist.org/fmcmag](http://www.fulwoodmethodist.org/fmcmag)



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## CHURCHES AND THE GUILD

There is a long tradition of churches contributing to Preston Guild; for 2012, under the banner of 'The Living Christ', we hope this activity can cover the whole year, establishing partnerships and projects which last beyond the Guild, and generating new ideas for how the church can serve the city

### Events planned

Jan 22 Christian unity service in the Guild Hall, 3 pm

Feb – Mar City-wide Lent series : The 'I am' sayings of Jesus,  
Monday evenings at the Minster

March 3 Fairtrade Fair, Preston flag market, 10 - 4

Good Friday 'Preston Cross': drama, broadcast live on BBC

May 5 Sponsored walk for Christian Aid and CAFOD

June 22 Opening of Methodist Collection of Modern Art. On display at St Peter's  
UCLAN til July 20

July 10 Serve Our City - week of social / community action

Sept 2 Ecumenical Service - 2 pm

Sept 3 Churches Procession - 'The Living Christ'

Sept 8 Churches Bike Ride and Stride featuring 'Open Doors'

*Please get involved: speak to Dave Topping at church.*

Guild website: [www.prestonguild2012.com/](http://www.prestonguild2012.com/)

Churches material: [www.ashtonmethodist.org.uk/page9.htm](http://www.ashtonmethodist.org.uk/page9.htm)



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## MEMORIES OF PRESTON GUILDS – PART II

1972

“This was still a time when relatives and friends would travel considerable distances, combining a social visit with watching one of the splendid processions. We had a number of such visitors.” (*Roy Smith*)

“This time my own family were taking part, so the tradition was being passed on.” (*Kay Speight*)

“Wednesday afternoon – the Free Churches’ Procession - a lovely, warm and sunny day – Fulwood Methodists assembling in Rutland Street, off New Hall Lane – the children dressed as Chinese boys and girls, led by Gladys Aylward on the long march through the mountains of western China.

As we moved off we were joined by Arnold Barker (Sunday School Secretary), leading an adult donkey and its youngster – kindly loaned by a family at Barton. All went well until we turned right into Stanley Street and came to a pedestrian crossing, where the large donkey halted and refused to walk over the broad white stripes on the road!” (*Allan Clarke*)

“It was like the tale of ‘Delaney’s Donkey’ Val Doonican used to sing about! With myself and others pushing and pulling, and Eva McLaren tempting it along with carrots and sugar lumps, the obstacle was eventually overcome - but the process was repeated time and again around the town centre. In one place the stripes on a crossing had actually been painted out – but the animal still refused to cross! By the time we reached North Road enough was enough: the donkey once more firmly planted its feet - and I and my four-footed friends found ourselves totally abandoned by all and sundry!” (*Arnold Barker*)



*The photo shows Arnold and Eva with their notorious ‘friends’)!*

“Memories include watching the float being assembled; waiting for the procession to begin; travelling on a bus for a part of the procession route and going to Avenham Park to watch the schools’ performance of Prospect of Preston.” (*Sue Penrith*)

“I was helping to carry the Church banner when the bottom fell out of one of the leather holders!” (*Chris Penrith*)

“I was involved with the Schools’ Pageant on Avenham Park. I helped to train choirs to sing from the bandstand. We spent a whole day at Lancaster University sound recording studio: singing in the open air is difficult and for the sound to carry around the park, this recording would be amplified and the children would sing along with it. The procedure was somewhat delayed because an unidentified squeak was detected. It took about an hour and a half to find the cause – a mouse under the floorboards! This had to be caught before we could continue, otherwise the recording would have been ruined.

The tradition has been for the children to act out the history of Preston from ancient times: from a settlement by the river to modern times with modern industries. This year the British Aircraft Corporation was mentioned, and its part in the production of the Concorde aircraft. Children formed the shape of the aircraft and ran across the arena as a Concorde flew overhead – quite a spectacle.” (*Enid Singleton*)

“I was a Town Councillor at the time and the Guild Mayor, Alderman Fred Gray, invited me to assist him during Guild Week – particularly at the Mayoral Reception for Overseas Ex-Prestonians. This was held on the Thursday in the Public Hall. So there I was, helping to marshall the queue and chatting to people patiently waiting: ‘And what part of the world have you come from?’ I asked two ladies. ‘From Tarleton,’ they replied!!” (*Geoffrey Harrison*)

“I was involved in researching local songs which might be incorporated into the schools’ pageant. Conclusion? There are not very many songs connected with Preston! Accordingly, someone had to set about writing some. Try this as an extract from one of them:

*My dad works at B.A.C.  
Making things for you and me,  
His aircraft fly across the sea,  
He’s not weaving cotton.”*

It wasn’t a totally new idea: it had been done before and it looks as though it’s being done for 2012 as well.” (*Roy Smith*)

“By now I was married, with a family, living in Preston and attending Fulwood Methodist Church. In the procession Kathy walked with the Brownies and David was dressed as a Mountie (along with Philip Halewood) on the church’s lorry – but who can ever forget that wretched donkey and the chaos it caused?!” (*Dorothy Smith*)



“Dorothy was dancing with the local English Folk Dancers in the Saturday night Torchlight Procession, while I was with the Leyland Morris Men. Estimations of half a million spectators may seem rather over-the-top, but certainly there were huge crowds – and with all those big temporary stands along the route it produced an amazing atmosphere.” (*Roy Smith*)



### ***Banner Girls***

Back Row - Nicola Hinnels, Pauline Kirkham, ????, ????, Rosalind Watson, ????

Front row - ????, Jacky Hinnels, Pam Rowlands, Ann Huddleston, ????, ????

Can anyone please fill in the missing names and we will add them to the internet version.

\* \* \* \* \*

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children: one is roots, the other wings. (**Hodder Carter**)

The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there. (**L. P. Hartley**)

Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses and some don't turn up at all.

## TESS WHALLEY (1917 - 2011)

Tess was born in Preston on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1917, living first in Cobden Street and then Lilac Grove, Holme Slack. At English Martyrs' School her English teacher encouraged Tess to stay on for further education, when most young people left school at 14 years of age. This led to her first job: clerical work in the office at Whitehead's Furniture Store. Keen to better her prospects, she attended evening classes for shorthand and typing and these new qualifications took her into the office of a firm selling office equipment.

In 1939 she joined the war effort, working in the offices at Dick, Kerr's (in time to become English Electric). Later she went on to work for Lancashire County Council as a much-respected typing pool supervisor.

It was at Dick, Kerr's that she met Margaret Blackburn: a life-long friendship was formed, and their fell walking on Sunday afternoons grew into hiking, climbing and youth hostelling holidays in the Lake District. She met Walter Hunnisett, her first husband, in this office too. He had to go into the forces but they kept in touch, saw each other when he was home on leave, and married after the war.

Tess never had children of her own but enriched the lives of her wider family and encouraged each member on their path in education. She had recently become a great, great aunt too.

Cooking was a keen interest and she successfully completed a cordon bleu course, which she was able to use to great effect when entertaining. She joined the Cecilian Choral Society and sang with them for many years. She and Walter moved to a large, rambling house, where she would entertain visiting musicians and singers after concerts. Around the time she retired from singing with the choir she joined the Harris Music Club and served as its secretary for many years. Again, she gave hospitality to visitors: that was Tess's nature – always generous and giving of herself, and enjoying the company of others.

In later years her life became much quieter; she found fellowship at Fulwood Methodist Church and greatly appreciated the support she was given by the church and by her neighbours.

**Tony Mercer**  
(nephew)

\* \* \* \* \*

“...but then Mrs Jamieson must remember that he had been living for a long time among savages – all of whom were heathens – some of them, he was afraid, were downright Dissenters.”  
(Cranford – Elizabeth Gaskell)



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## ALMA OLIVER (1928 – 2011)

Alma was born in Manchester on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1928, the youngest of three children. She attended St. Clement's school in Higher Openshaw up to the age of fourteen, when she left to start work. She trained as a secretary, gaining qualifications in shorthand and typing from Pitman's College in Manchester and working for various companies.

In her younger days, Alma took part in a variety of musical activities, ranging from tap and ballet dancing to choral singing and amateur dramatics. She also had a keen interest in natural history.

In 1952 Alma met Geoff at a dance at Belle Vue and they married a year later. When Diane was born in 1954 and Lynne in 1959, she devoted her energies to her family, though she always retained her love of music, which was passed on to her daughters and her grandchildren.

After the death of her parents in 1959, the family moved South for Geoff's work. Alma managed to successfully juggle the demands of a full-time job and a family, always finding the time to plan picnics (usually by a railway line, to accommodate Geoff's passion for trains!) and to help with homework. By this time the family had increased to three cats, two dogs, two daughters and a husband (in that order of priority).

In 1972 the family moved North again and settled back in Geoff's home town of Preston (after a few years running a shop in St. Anne's). When Alma retired, she embarked on the further study she had always aspired to. She started with a "Study Skills" course and worked her way up to gaining an honours degree in European History in 2002, much to the delight of all the family. The photograph shows how proud she was at her graduation at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester – a day that will be remembered by all the family.

Alma continued with her interest in animals, supporting several animal charities and sponsoring a donkey at Redwings Horse sanctuary and she was also a Friend of Derian House Children's Hospice.

During the last few years of her life, Alma's health deteriorated and she sadly died in September. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



**Diane Bird**

## 23<sup>RD</sup> PSALM FOR GENEALOGISTS

Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray.

He maketh me to lie down and examine tombstones.

It leadeth me into still churchyards.

It restoreth my ancestral knowledge.

It leadeth me in the paths of census records and ship's passenger lists for my surname's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the shadows of research libraries and microfilm readers

I shall fear no discouragement, for a strong urge is within me.

The curiosity and motivation, they comfort me.

It demandeth preparation of storage space of the acquisition of countless documents.

It anointed my head with burning midnight oil

My family group sheets runneth over.

Surely, birth, marriage and death dates shall follow me all the days of my life

And I shall dwell in the house of a Family History Centre forever.

*Author unknown*

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## TWELFTH NIGHT

A play by Shakespeare? Twelve drummers drumming? The day you take down the decorations? The end of the Christmas festivities, which today we feel are over once we go back to work after New Year?

But it wasn't always like that. In the Middle Ages and Tudor times the Christmas festival really did continue for twelve days or more of celebration, some religious, much not. Christmas comes at the time of the pagan midwinter festival, when the days are shortest, and not much could be done on the land, so people needed occupation and entertainment. Some of these early customs were incorporated into the Christian festival, and today, although we might not burn the Yule log for the full twelve days, we still surround ourselves with light and bring evergreens into our homes to remind ourselves that spring will come again.

For the Tudors and the generations before them the twelve days of Christmas were a time of music and mummers, plays and parties and practical jokes at all levels of society. It is believed that Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* was intended for such a celebration, and the four and twenty blackbirds from the nursery rhyme recalls a favourite trick of putting a surprise inside a pie to shock the person cutting into it. In larger households it was sometimes a small person who leapt out! The twelve days of Christmas were topsy-turvy days when one could forget for a time the harsher realities of life. At court and in larger households a Lord of Misrule would be chosen, who would overturn established practice and mastermind the fun and games. Twelfth Night was the finale and special Twelfth Cakes were baked. These contained one bean, and the person who found it in their slice was king or queen for the day; in families it was usually contrived that a child should find the bean. All of this disappeared under the rule of Cromwell and the Puritans, and although Christmas celebrations were revived after the return of Charles the Second, Twelfth Night was never as important again. There are references through the centuries to Twelfth Night parties, as in *A Christmas Carol*, when the Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to see children enjoying a party, but the old traditions have more or less died out in this country.

Not so in some other countries. In France around January 6<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Epiphany, celebrating the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem, cake shops are full of 'galettes du roi', tiny to enormous, and all containing a porcelain bean, or sometimes a tiny figure to represent the infant Jesus. It is in Spain and South America, however, that the celebrations are greatest. This is the day on which presents are exchanged, in remembrance of the gift



brought to Jesus by the three wise men , and it is the Day of the Kings to which children look forward expectantly.

I doubt if Twelfth Night will ever be widely celebrated again in the United Kingdom, but some customs have survived, and other are being revived. If you are in London on January 6<sup>th</sup> and go to Bankside you can see the mummers perform the St. George play and eat Twelfth Cake. Something for the Building Together team to consider for 2013?

Libby Stone

\* \* \* \* \*

## TEN COMMANDMENTS IN RHYME

Thou no Gods shall have but me,  
Before no idol bow thy knee.  
Take not the name of God in vain,  
Nor dare the Sabbath Day profane.  
Give to thy parents honour due,  
Take heed that thou no murder do.  
Abstain from words and deeds unclean,  
Steal not, for thou of God art seen.  
Tell not a wilful lie, or love it.  
What is thy neighbour's; do not covet.

G. R. Hill



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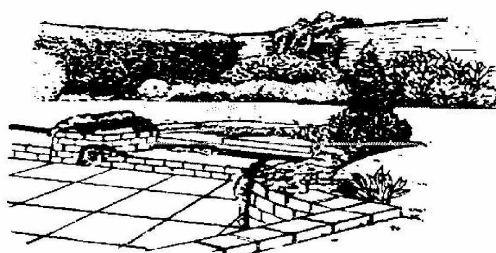
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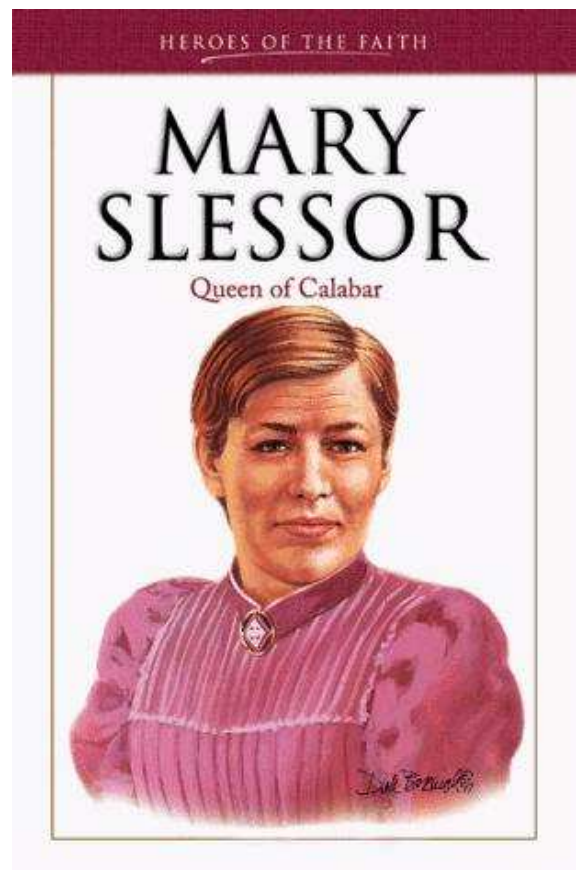
## GREAT MOTHER AND QUEEN OF OKOYONG

These grand titles belong not to an African queen or empress but to a diminutive Scottish textile weaver, Mary Slessor. She was born in Aberdeen on 2<sup>nd</sup> December in 1848 and died sixty seven years later in Calabar, on the Nigerian coast close to the border with Cameroon. For most of her adult life she had worked in the East African mission fields and was as famous as her compatriot and inspiration David Livingstone.

Presbyterian by faith, she became a voluntary teacher in the Queen Street Mission in Dundee. The family had left Aberdeen to find employment after Mary's father had lost his job. Having left school at the young age of eleven to work in the mills she was mainly self taught. Full of missionary zeal, she determined that she would work in the overseas mission fields and after three months training at Moray House in Edinburgh, she left Scotland in August 1876 sailing to Duke Town in Calabar. Thus began her remarkable life.

Very soon she left the comparative comfort of Calabar and went up country to the district of Okoyong to help the women of the area. She was responsible for ridding the area of the barbarous practice of killing twin babies. These babies were believed to be the results of the mother coupling with evil spirits. They were usually killed and their mothers were shunned. Many of the babies she saved she adopted and they became her family. Although engaged for a time to another Scottish missionary teacher, Charles Morris from Duke Town, the relationship failed because the Mission Board refused to let Charles join Mary in the Okoyong and she would never leave her people.

She scorned the comforts of the colonial lifestyle and lived as the native people, drinking unboiled water, walking barefoot, dispensing with a hat by day and a mosquito net by night. The Victorian traveller, Mary Kingsley stayed with her in 1895 and commented in her writing how Mary was loved, admired and respected by the people she served but that the missionary authorities regarded her as "mad and dangerous". Throughout her life, she was at odds with the mission authorities because of her constant pressing to go deeper into the bush and set up new, remote mission stations. The British government, however, were aware of



her qualities and standing within the native communities and they appointed her as magistrate, the very first woman to hold this post. In 1892 she became the vice-consul in Okoyong presiding over the native courts and in 1905, the Vice President of the Ikot Obong Native Court. Regardless of her now important position she still lived simply and for most of her life in Nigeria she had suffered poor health. She died of fever and dysentery in Calabar in 1915.

She had continued to support her family in Scotland financially until her mother and sister died. At this time she felt her links with “home” had broken and she wrote that “Heaven is now nearer to me than Britain”. She did return to Scotland from time to time to raise funds for her work and she often brought her twins with her.

Although Livingstone is well remembered, outside Scotland Mary Slessor is less so. Her fellow countrymen commemorate her on their £10 bank note. In Nigeria, there is her church in Calabar and the legacy of her work with the women of the Okoyong. She was first and foremost a bearer of the Christian message. She wrote “With every visitor who comes to give compliments, with every curious passer-by who comes to see what the white woman and her house are like, with every company who brings a palaver to settle, with every dose of medicine, we try to send home the message of salvation”. She was indeed quite a lady!

**Barbara Hothersall**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **BIG MEN**

The story is told that during the American Civil War, Jefferson Davis one day wanted a reliable officer for an important command. He asked General Lee what he thought of a certain man by the name of Whiting for the post. Lee commended him highly. One of the latter’s officers was greatly surprised at the General’s commendations, and, calling him aside, asked him if he knew what unkind things Whiting had been saying about him. Lee said, “I understand that the President wanted to know my opinion of Whiting, and not Whiting’s opinion of me.”

Big men are too magnanimous to notice criticisms or slights. It is the small man, who is carried away with his own importance, who cannot overlook personal attacks.

\* \* \* \* \*

Did you know that myrrh is still used today in traditional Chinese medicine? It’s used as a liniment for bruises, aches and sprains; to help alleviate toothache and for rheumatic, arthritic and circulatory problems. Some herbalists consider it also has the power to make you look younger!



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## A FARRAGO

Our very sincere congratulations to our Minister, Rev. Peter Sheasby, who will be moving on next summer to become the Superintendent Minister of the Retford & Worksop (Trinity) Circuit. We wish him well in this new episode of his life— and we shall greatly miss Peter, Christine and Anna.

The 1952 photo of some of our participants in the Guild, and the dresses they were wearing, made Olive Rowlands immediately think, ‘Horrockses’. She remembered too an article in September’s issue of Lancashire Life on the same subject. As a result of ‘the vintage revival’, some of the firm’s floral prints being used in a new bedroom collection: in fact they’re at the forefront of this cool revival, it would seem. Horrockses Fashions would love to hear people’s stories and see the dresses and patterns they’ve have stored away. Who knows, they may influence their next designs.

Contact them by post at 5, Universal Square, Devonshire Street, Manchester M12 6JH or at [www.horrocksesfashions.co.uk](http://www.horrocksesfashions.co.uk)

Hopefully a good number of you read the article on our centenary year in the Methodist Recorder of Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

At Ilkley the hills are alive, you might say. Well, for Liz Huddleston they are. She reports that after five grandsons and one great grandson she now has a GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER!!

The weekly ‘Baptist Times’ will cease publication at the end of this year.

The Cliff College Festival 2012 is planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June. (4<sup>th</sup> June is also the date fixed for the Queen’s Jubilee Bank Holiday Monday).

\* \* \* \* \*

“Ooh, that’s a nice tune: I’ll see if I can write some words for it.” (*words of Sydney Carter as he sat in the Albert Hall watching English folk dancers practising for a forthcoming festival. The tune? The Shaker hymn tune ‘The Gift to be Simple’ which, as we know, accompanies ‘The Lord of the Dance’*)

\* \* \* \* \*

The Mayan people (2,000 BC – 900 AD) used tobacco leaves in religious rituals, as well as to heal wounds.

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## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### Sunday

9.45 pm     Choir Practice     Mavis Fletcher (655939)

### Tuesday

10.00 am     Men's AM Club (fortnightly)     Allan Clarke (718547)  
 2.15 pm     Women's Fellowship (weekly)     Muriel Crossley (716973)  
    Kathleen Speight (715080)  
 8.00 pm     Housegroup (Variable locations – see Notices for details)

### Wednesday

10.30 am     Midweek Fellowship and Communion.  
 Normally evenings WoW (Women's Group, monthly)     Wendy Bennett (860965)

### Thursday

8.01 pm     Ladies After 8 group (fortnightly)     Libby Stone (774818)  
    Table Tennis matches     Richard Holyfield (727349)

### Friday

9.30 am     Toddlers' Club (Mothers & children under five) Janet Porter (462808)

Rambling Group - dates on Church Notices

Study & Discussion groups – dates on Church Notices

## FOR YOUNGER FOLK

### Monday

6.15 pm     Beavers (6 - 8 yr)     Fiona Jackson (700487)  
 6.45 pm     Cubs (8 - 10½ yr)     Karen Smalley (735087)

### Tuesday

7.00 pm     Scouts (10½ - 14 yr)     Steve Williams (07944098287)  
 7.00 pm     Explorer Scouts (14 - 18 yr)     Operated by Scout District (#)  
 7.00 pm     Scout Network (18 - 25 yr)     Operated by Scout County (#)  
 (#) Contact Lesley Thomas - Group Scout Leader (727877)

### Thursday

5.45 pm     Rainbows (5 - 7 yr)     Jayne Myatt (718217)  
 6.15 pm     Brownies (7 - 10 yr)     Claire Richardson (728853)  
 7.30 pm     Guides (10 - 14 yr)     Allison Allcock (703571)

### Friday

6.30 pm     Escape (7- 11 yr)     Sister Myrtle (720184)  
 8.00 pm     Youth Club (Secondary School age)     Sister Myrtle (720184)

### Sunday

10.30 am     Junior Church     Janet Wales (863791)

# **DIARY DATES 2011 - 12**

## **Bring your new diary up to date!**

### **December**

Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Film Club for Christmas
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	from 3pm	Junior Church Parties
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Candlelight Carol Service
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	from 6pm	Carol Singing round Nursing Homes
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm	Lancashire Sings Christmas
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Christingle Service
	from 11pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Celebration service
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Friendship Christmas meal

### **2012**

#### **January**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Covenant Service
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family & Parade Service
	3.00pm?	District Year of Prayer launch
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	3.00pm	Guild Year Ecumenical Launch at Guildhall

#### **February**

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family & Parade Service
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Guest preacher – Rev Ian Sumner
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Ash Wednesday
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	from 9.30am	Lancashire Methodist District – Inspire 6
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship & All Age Sunday School
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Guild Lent Series at the Minster
(and all Mondays in March)		

#### **March**

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion (1912 style service)
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family & Parade Service
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mothering Sunday – Baptism Celebration

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10am – 2pm	Farmer's Market
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Guest preacher – Rev Phil Clarke

## April

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Palm Sunday – Holy Communion
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Guild Lent Series at the Minster
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	Holy Week Reflection
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Holy Week Reflection
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Family Meal & Communion
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Good Friday Worship
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion for Easter
	10.30am	All Age Worship for Easter
	6.30pm	Holy Communion for Easter (at URC)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Guest Preacher – Rev George Nuttall

BT = Building Together fund-raising

Cake Stall on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and Craft Stall on third Sunday of each month



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