



**Fulwood Methodist Church  
Crossroads Centre**



# **Christmas 2020**



Twinned with the Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche,  
Recklinghausen, Germany



**THE FULWOOD METHODIST**

# FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8EA

Tel. Preston (01772) 718741

Registered Charity No. 1133929

## MINISTER

Revd Jane Wild - [email](#)

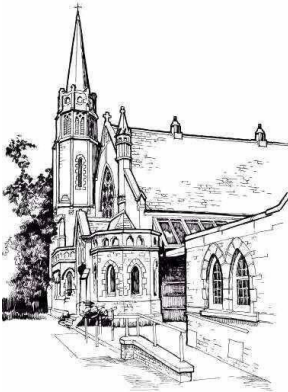
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## YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

Darren Arnold - [email](#)

## CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

Denise Johnson - [email](#)



## NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

9.45 am SINGING PRACTICE

10.30 am MORNING WORSHIP & SUNDAY CLUB

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

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

6.30 pm. EVENING WORSHIP. With every 2nd Sunday of the month from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm - **SPACE** - Multiplex Worship and Discipleship for all, at various circuit churches. (*See weekly notices for details*)

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

For BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS contact Revd Jane Wild

\*\*\*\*\*

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

or contact ..... Tel.....

## EDITORIAL

There's no doubt that everyone's been going through a tough time recently and we sincerely thank those who've been able to provide items for this Christmas issue of the magazine. It may not be as extensive as we'd have liked but at least the magazine continues to make its appearance – and on time too! (Thank you, John) Don't forget: you can see all the magazines from Harvest 2001 onwards on the Church website.

The **copy date** for our **Easter issue** will be **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. Any material in advance of that date would, of course, be most welcome. Please do remember that articles may be subject to editing!

*Roy Smith*

\* \* \* \* \*

## FULWOOD STEWARDS

### CHURCH

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

### COMMUNION

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR	Roy Smith	7 Southgate, Fulwood Preston PR2 3HX
	Assisted by	Barbara Hothersall & Libby Stone
	Computer layout	John Butterworth <a href="#">e-mail</a>

For the time being, this magazine is only available at our [website](#) and click the Magazine cover graphic or the **Online Magazine** tab on the 2nd page. We may print a few copies for those without internet access.

Copies going back to Harvest 2001 are available!

# PASTORAL LETTER

from Revd Jane Wild

Dear Friends

It will be over before Christmas! Everything will be back to normal.

That was a sort of prophecy from March when the world changed.

It did not come true, however much we wish it had.

In ancient times, God gave His people Israel hope by speaking to them through the prophets. He revealed what was to come and told of the great blessings they would receive when Jesus, their Messiah, would and dwell among them. The people looked forward to the coming of their Messiah with hope. We find the same hope when we read the words of the prophets. Christ has come and our hope is in Him, sure and steadfast, an anchor for the soul (Heb 6:19). A hope that is eternal.

So, these prophecy's that have and do come true are important for us.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

As we know Jesus was born on that first Christmas, we can trust in the word of God who speaks in this way. Best of all God is with us.

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

The Jesus born in a manger became the one who was crucified because God loves us. That kind of love changes the way we see our selves and when we commit for loving others changes the world.



So our prophecy this Christmas is that no matter what happens in the world, the God of Love is in it, offering hope in darkness, a new beginning when things seem to have no end and recreation of our lives and societies. Are you willing to be part of this new hope.

God bless you whatever happens over the next few months and I pray that your Christmas will be

Happy because you hold God in your hearts.

Happy Christmas

*Jane*

\*\*\*\*\*

## FAMILY NEWS

### Death

29th September: Beryl Irene Halewood

See Obituary on page 7



## YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY WORKER UPDATE

Happy Christmas!!!! Well, another lockdown and more time away from the hands-on, face to face work, but don't worry, the ideas are still coming for new ways of doing Church differently. As part of this I have now put together a team of people who will help me to develop the ideas I have into practical working ways.

Talking of ideas I hope you will be able to see the Advent Shoebox Dioramas being produced by the families of the Church. They will be opened every day and will be available to see on the church's Facebook page and if we were allowed back into Church then they will be on display on the bookshelf area. Other ways of seeing them are being looked at so all can see. Other groups do continue to run.

At the moment the Breakfast Church gang are looking at Psalm 139 and particularly looking at the concept that we are unique, special and loved by God. We've made skeletons, a shadow theatre, mirror, gingerbread people and today's session, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, we looked at skills, so we were treated to several performances and looked at some great artwork. As a new skill they were taught how to count to 5 in Welsh!!

OMG will meet again on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec and will try to escape a Nativity Escape Room and they will also be looking more into the '3generate' material. Barbara Pettitt, Jane and I have been doing video class assemblies for Ribbleton Avenue Junior School, I have also been keeping in touch regularly to see if we can help them in any way and are arranging with them to send Christmas Cards to some of the Care Homes we have contact with. There is also a possibility they will record some poems, stories etc for the homes to watch.

On a circuit note, the Children and Family Workers are putting together a Family Fun Night on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Dec at 6.30pm where we will be having lots of fun and games and quizzes (more details to follow).

Please have a great Christmas, take care of yourselves, family and friends and stay safe. Hope to see you all very soon with some sort of normality.

***Darren***

\* \* \* \* \*

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

***Dorothy Nevill***

Faith is the capacity to trust God while not being able to make sense out of everything.

***James Kok***

Sometimes God holds you back temporarily until the road is safe and clear to continue. Be thankful for the stall.

***Anon***



## FROM OUR CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

In the closing weeks of a year I usually take some time to sit back and reflect on things that have happened through that year – birthday celebrations, weddings, holidays and gatherings with friends. This year has been a year like no other but yet there has been this great sense of pulling together and of community. I am guilty sometimes of thinking of what might have been with theatre trips, holidays and parties cancelled. In the Johnson house, however there have been many positives.



I have discovered my own local community much more; I have explored local walks and found beautiful places on my doorstep. I have grown my own food and enjoyed eating it! I have been at home in the evenings a little more and I have got round to doing those jobs that I have put off for years. I have learned to appreciate the opportunities to go out and have sat outside peoples windows and talked with them as they have protected themselves from infection. I have listened to lots of people on the telephone and had some very deep conversations about life and death and faith.

For many of us this has been a year of questions. Why is this happening? What is God doing? Why are people suffering? Will our churches open again? When will all this end? These are all questions that I have been asked during the last few months. It is good to ask questions and healthy to talk about our faith and our doubts. It is equally important to stay positive and to find ways to stimulate our faith and grow in it. I am reminded of the old advert for Readybrek breakfast cereal, where the people who ate Readybrek had a warm glow around them as they went out to face the day. What gives you that warm glow inside? Seek out more of those activities and avoid the ones that bring you down. Try not to get sucked into negativity but look for those glimpses of light. “It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness” said a wise person. At Advent and Christmas we naturally turn our focus to light and hope. Seek out the hopeful places for you and the things that give you lightness of heart. Whatever is to come as the old hymn says, “Let your little light shine”

I hope that you experience the wonder of Christmas however we are able to celebrate.

Grace and Peace

***Denise***

# **BERYL IRENE HALEWOOD**

**1926 - 2020**



Beryl was born on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1926 in Stoke-on-Trent to Bertram and Alice Mills. She was the first of three children, soon to be joined by Maureen and Malcolm.

The family moved to Preston, living initially on Regent Drive before settling on Hawkhurst Avenue. Beryl was always proud of the fact that she was one of the first pupils at Fulwood and Cadley Primary School when it opened. It was soon after this that the family joined the congregation at Fulwood Methodist Church.

After leaving school, Beryl worked as a secretary at offices on Strand Road in Preston. It was whilst walking to catch the bus home that she passed Halewood and Sons bookshop and thereby met her future husband, Horace, upon his return from service on HMS Norfolk and the Arctic Convoys during the Second World War.

They were married at Fulwood Methodist Church in September 1947, the same month and year as Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Philip (as she often pointed out!) They lived initially at 'Norfolk House' in Leyland before moving to New Lane, Penwortham and finally to 'Red Gables', Garstang Road, Fulwood. They were blessed with four children – Carole, David, Michael and Philip.

It was when Philip was a toddler that Beryl helped set up the 'Toddlers' Club' at Church and she was also one of the founder members of 'Young Wives' (now know as 'After Eights' and still going strong!)

She was a great cake baker for many fundraising events, not only for Church but also for her other love, the RNLI, for whom she raised funds over many years and was rewarded with a medal and certificate for long service.

She was never happier than when she was surrounded by her family, cradling young babies, singing her favourite hymns at Church or wrapping presents and organising Christmas parties for 'Toddlers' Club'.

Her final years were spent at 'Oxford House' on Garstang Road, Fulwood, where she was caringly looked after by Sam and her team.

Beryl died on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020, aged 94.

# THE FULWOOD CHURCH CHALLENGE



**You have completed one of the challenges. Well done!**

It all started as a small project to produce a series of challenges for the Sunday Club children in year 6 at school (10-11 year olds) before they went to high school. A lot of families find it difficult to attend Church every Sunday and some of the basic teaching about our faith which in the past we would have thought they knew, can no longer be assumed. We decided to link the challenges with badges achieved when they completed the activities. Who doesn't like a badge? A small, manageable project ... and then Covid happened! In our discussions we realised that this was an idea that could be used for the whole Church. It could be:

- Multi-generational, as we are **all** still learning
- Active and fun
- Available in different formats – on-line, paper based etc.
- Bible based
- Manageable
- Relate to other sessions being run with the Church, e.g. Breakfast Church or Alphabites.
- Inclusive
- Promote a sense of community, helping us to keep in touch with families and individuals.

A small team – Jane, Darren, Delma, Sonia and myself got together to produce the material; some other people read the drafts and commented on them. We decided to colour code the activities to give an indication of difficulty and originally planned to produce 3 different booklets to reflect the levels but realised that a 'pick and mix' approach worked best. There is a different topic each half term and the work has focused on 'The parable of the Lost Sheep' and the second challenge was called 'God and me' and was based on Psalm 139. After Christmas we are looking at 2 stories from the life of Christ. Each challenge contains a 'create' activity, 'reflect', 'learn' (a Bible reading or video clip), and 'change'



(how we can apply the learning to our lives). Both projects have helped us to explore how much God loves us.

### **What's happened so far?**

Over 20 people have completed the first challenge and more people have done bits of the topics. Our youngest participant is 2 and the oldest 99 (well done, Cyril). We (Sonia) have set up a special private Facebook site to hold the material and allow people to up-load photographs of their work – some brilliant sheep were created and shared with others. Challenge bags have been produced and either collected or delivered for people who prefer to work with paper copies.

### **What can you do?**

Take part!

Look out for information with the Church notices and decide which activities you want to do. The 'yellow' tasks are aimed at teenagers and adults but you might prefer to do a different coloured task.

Email [Janet Wales](mailto:Janet.Wales@fulwoodmethodist.org.uk) if you want a paper copy of the challenge.

Do the activities on your own, with friends or members of your family. Some grandparents use the resources with their grandchildren. Collect your badge!

Pray for the project. Contact [Janet Wales](mailto:Janet.Wales@fulwoodmethodist.org.uk) for more information.

# **DO YOU NEED A VENUE?**

**PARTY MEETING  
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**[www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk/rooms/rooms.htm](http://www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk/rooms/rooms.htm)**

or email Barry Crossley - [fulwoodmethodist@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fulwoodmethodist@yahoo.co.uk)

*Please remember - rooms are available for whenever we reopen!*

## MEMORIES, MEMORIES!

A recent article in the Methodist Recorder brought back childhood memories for me of BBC's 'Children's Hour' and Sunday School Anniversaries. The article concerned a famous Methodist preacher, Revd. Evans, and also his grandson of the same name – who was a Methodist minister too and equally famous. They were both of gypsy origin and the grandson was better known as 'Romany'.

When I was a child there was no television, so we became avid listeners to the radio, especially Mondays to Fridays between 5pm and 6pm for 'Children's Hour'.

Romany was not only a Methodist minister, but a naturalist. He and his dog Raq featured on 'Children's Hour' as he took us on nature walks, describing things he saw in the natural world: wild flowers, trees, birds, animals, insects and butterflies. He wrote several books for children under the title 'Out With Romany', of which I had several.

In the years of my childhood in the 1930s and 1940s churches held Sunday School Anniversaries in the summer. Sunday School took place on Sunday afternoons – unlike the Sunday Club of today, which coincides with Family Worship – and Anniversaries were an opportunity for the congregation to see the Sunday School scholars they didn't see the rest of the year. For weeks before the event, rehearsals took place of hymns to sing, short plays to act and poems to recite in front of the congregation. Special preachers would be invited to come and one such preacher was Romany. He came to Fulwood several times and we children were always excited to see him.

Romany used to stay with Church members Mr & Mrs Cornall, who lived on Black Bull Lane. During his stays he loved to walk down Boys Lane and Walker Lane, observing the wildlife en route. The Monday evenings of Anniversary Weekends were also special, when the visiting preacher would give a talk and there would be a supper to follow. We always looked forward to Romany's talks. One Monday evening he had brought an owl pellet which he had found on Walker Lane. He dissected it to show us what the owl had eaten for several meals.

On starting to read this article you may have been puzzled by my memory of how the BBC's 'Children's Hour' and Sunday School Anniversary came together. Now you know!

*Enid Singleton*

\* \* \* \* \*

## A (SHORT!!) FARRAGO

The Lancashire Post of 7<sup>th</sup> October carried a list of newly ordained Anglican priests. Among the names were: Michael Clayton (St Cuthbert's), Michael Hutchinson (St Cuthbert's) and Elizabeth McLean (Christ Church). We welcome them to the Fulwood area and hope they are now happily settled in.

***We also regularly receive....*** a copy of the magazine from our twinned Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany.

*Roy Smith*



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## THE REAL REASON



Tinsel and mistletoe  
Holly on the bough  
Mince pies and log fires  
Snowflakes from laden skies,  
Candles and Church choirs  
Busy streets, the shops are full  
Of toys, games and crackers to pull  
Excited children laugh and shout,  
Do you really know what it's all about?

Behind the tinsel and all the glitter  
Is gold, frankincense, myrrh so bitter,  
A baby boy in a manger born  
In Palestine, one winter's morn,  
In Him the joys of heaven come down,  
A Saviour, Prince who wears a crown



*via Beryl Hoyle*

\* \* \* \* \*

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHRISTMAS HYMNS AND CAROLS?

- A very special day and a celebration. What is being celebrated?
- Carry me to Bethlehem. Why?
- A shepherd could bring a lamb. What could the hymn singer bring?
- What came down at Christmas?
- Who is the hope of the world?
- Why do we 'Hark the Glad sound'?
- Who is born of David's line?
- What happens on Christmas night?
- Who come joyful and triumphant?
- What can I give him?



*via Beryl Hoyle*

Answers on page 28



## COMMUNITY CHOIR

We had hoped to do some pre Christmas singing in one of our local care homes this year but along with so many other things the virus has brought our choir gatherings to a halt. We are constantly reminded of the effect that it has had on people's wellbeing ,not just financially and socially but also causing depression and mental problems.

With this in mind when we are eventually allowed to return to some form of normal it's our intention to bring back a song into our lives. It has been said that music and song can have a great beneficial effect on our state of mind and we hope to celebrate the return with an invitation to all to come and join us whether for a one off or a more regular basis. We will be in touch as soon as this is possible.



*Dave Topping*

\* \* \* \* \*

Everywhere in life the true question is not what we gain, but what we do.

*Thomas Carlyle*



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## RECKLINGHAUSEN

We have heard from our friends at our twin Church in Recklinghausen in the Ruhr region of Germany. They are keeping well during this difficult time.

Their Church opened its doors again for Sunday services with the same restrictions as ourselves. They put their services on YouTube for anyone to watch.

They are sorry not to have visited us last summer and like us, they wonder when things will allow new plans to be made.

They send greetings to all members of Fulwood Methodist Church.

*Jackie Clarke*

\* \* \* \* \*

### BAD PARROT.....

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary.

Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even more rude. John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer.

For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute.

Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arms and said "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behaviour." John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behaviour, the bird spoke-up, very softly, "May I ask what the turkey did?"



Found by *Mavis Fletcher*

# **Martin's**

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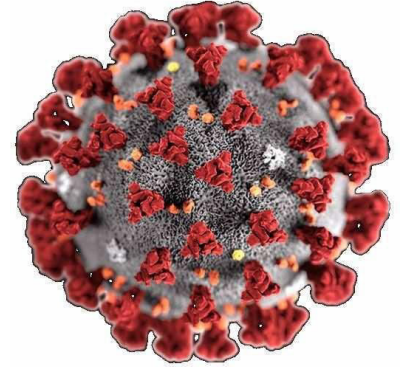
## **Stuart Black**



## THAT VIRUS - AND MORE

If, like me, you are intrigued by new words and phrases and want to explore their origins and meanings, 2020 has been a vintage year. Inevitably many of those newcomers have been associated with public health and the virus. I read in the news a few days ago that this year's word of the year was 'lockdown'. The word, it was said, had been almost as widespread and troublesome as the virus itself. Certainly during lockdown periods we have been given time and space to reflect on all sorts of things we had been intending to think about a little more.

In my case, one word or idea which has long puzzled me has been 'progress'. Sadly, to go against what I have written above, it is only now towards the end of the year that I am beginning to find the time to do a little reading and thinking about that topic.



The question is whether you think the world is, on the whole, a place where overall the quality of life is getting better day by day. Connected with that general question we can ask, as many did certainly in the early summer, what should be the 'new normal'. That is, people seemed to feel that it was no bad thing that the world had slowed down or even come to a temporary halt. Our political leaders and commentators felt it would be some time (for once they were correct) before we could resume our normal patterns of life. But some people began to say, perhaps you were one, that they much preferred aspects of the first lockdown. Fresher air quality, the sounds of nature, the reduced stress from lesser travel and other commitments: even for some, an escape from shopping and meetings. Others of course found the lockdown deeply troublesome and, despite the lovely weather, yearned to get back to normality.

So, were you one who was starting to look forward to the old normal or did you think that it was time to reset many aspects of our daily lives? And this question takes me back to a rather old philosophical question, is the world progressing into a better place? Well, for sure, I am pleased that we live in an era of advanced medical care, of more effective pain relief, of better communications and the freedom to travel and to be educated. Even then though not all of these benefits are available universally or anything like equally. But I would rather have toothache today than a hundred years ago.

Several years ago, during a period of study at Lancaster University, I was taken aback in an exchange with a lecturer in Religious Studies when he responded negatively to my assumption that the world was progressing. To my surprise he was clear that he saw no evidence of that in the world at large. Human nature remained as it has been for thousands of years. All the undoubted benefits I have just mentioned merely serve to demonstrate the additional powers which men and women now have to impact adversely upon each other. As well as to show care and compassion to each other of course.



This conversation caused me to want to think more deeply about ‘progress’. For as a Christian I feel that I have a responsibility to think and act very carefully when I am trying to decide what should be ‘the new normal’. At the heart of this questioning will be a deepened understanding, I hope, of what is the essential message of the teaching of Jesus. It will also be necessary to gain insights into how that teaching was adopted and possibly changed by Paul and the other early Christian leaders. With winter upon us and perhaps more lockdown time ahead, I hope to be able to write further about this.

One thing is for sure though – I don’t think the answer will be straightforward. As I write, the papers are full of news of the new vaccine(s) (surely that is progress?) but full also of squabbles about who should receive it first, who should profit from the new vaccine industry and who should take the most credit for its development. And don’t even mention whether democracy, our preferred method of governance in the west, is a good thing.

Human nature, it seems, is hard-wired within us and it and we need constantly to remind ourselves of our human needs, the needs of others and to pray constantly for the coming of that Kingdom of which Jesus spoke so passionately.



*Ken Wales*



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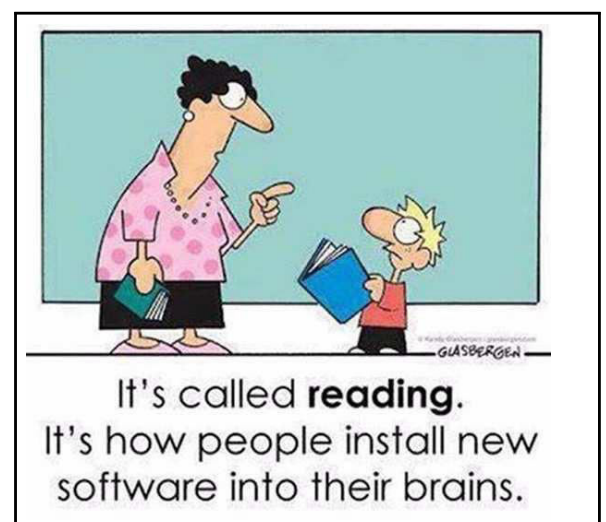
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**References available**



*Signs of the times!*



It's called **reading**.  
It's how people install new  
software into their brains.

## LET THERE BE LIGHT

It has been a grim year! We have all had to live under restrictions and our personal freedoms have been severely curtailed. Initially, as Spring arrived we were quite optimistic. The sun shone, birds sang and everywhere was in blossom. As the Summer progressed lockdown eased. We could travel further, visit friends and family, go back to work and school and go back to Church. Life was slowly returning to normal.

However, our silent enemy Covid 19 was still here and hit back. Cases and, tragically, deaths began to rise. Area by area the country had to retreat into lockdown and at the beginning of November we seemed to be back to square one! The future, however, has hope – vaccines and better treatment and the NHS, bless it, is better prepared. The world has experienced plagues before, Egypt in biblical times, the Black Death in Europe, the Great Plague of London, and in modern times, Ebola and Sars. We must be positive even though the dark days of the coming winter are almost upon us and Spring and Summer seem very far away.

On a more positive note, this is the time for looking forward and communities across the world celebrate festivals of light. As I write, Diwali, the five day festival of lights, celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains has just taken place. It is a new year festival; a time of new beginnings and its followers believe that is the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. Homes, shops and public places are decorated with small lamps (diyas). There is feasting, families meet (in easier times) and Laksmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth is worshipped. Festivals of light are held across the world during these autumn/winter months. In Phuket in Thailand, people celebrate ‘Loy KratLong’, in Naples in Italy it is the ‘Piedigrotta’. In Japan, the ‘Mizuakari Festival’ in Kumamoto takes place every October where its ancient castle is adorned with 60,000 lights. The Amsterdam ‘Festival of Lights’ happens in December when the city’s waterways are lit by thousands of candles. Closer to home there is ‘Lumiere’ in Durham, the lantern festival in Ulverston and, of course, Blackpool Illuminations.

In January, after Christmas celebrations are past, the people of Shetland enjoy the biggest and most spectacular of the fire festivals ‘Up Helly Aa’. This goes on all day and into and throughout the night.



*Up Helly Aa - Shetland*

Photo © Mike Pennington (cc-by-sa/2.0)



It is a northern 'Mardi Gras' and takes all year to organise. It falls on the last Tuesday of January in the capital, Lerwick. Squads of men (guizers) dress as Viking warriors and parade through the town carrying lighted torches, arriving at the beach where they set fire to a war galley.

In the Christian calendar, 13<sup>th</sup> December is 'St. Lucy's (or Santa Lucia's) Day'. Lucia of Syracuse was a 4<sup>th</sup> century virgin martyr at the time of Diocletian. The legend tells us that she took food to Christians who were taking shelter in the catacombs wearing a candlelit wreath upon her head to light her way. Thus leaving her hands free to carry the food. Her feast day is widely celebrated as a festival of light in Scandinavia where young girls process dressed as St Lucy wearing candlelit wreaths.

Bringing light into darkness means much to all peoples, be it lighthouses shining out over dark, troubled seas or feasts with lights and music and food. Sadly many festivals have been cancelled or severely curtailed this year. We will soon be observing a very important festival, Advent, when Christians await the coming of the brightest and best of all lights – the Light of the World – Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Happy Christmas  
*Barbara Hothersall*

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**For details - contact Allan Clarke at church**

# HOW DOES EASYFUNDRAISING WORK?

## A GUIDE FOR SHOPPERS FROM FMC

We only have about 10 people who are fundraising for Fulwood by using the [‘easyfundraising’ website](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to raise extra funds. So please remember to use ‘easyfundraising’ when you do your Christmas shopping this year.



Over 4,300 shops and sites will donate to Fulwood Methodist Church for FREE when you use ‘easyfundraising’ to shop with them. This means you can raise donations for us when you buy anything, from decorations and festive food shopping to gifts like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more!

These donations really help us and all you have to do is use the ‘easyfundraising’ website when you’re ordering the things you’ll be buying anyway. Using ‘easyfundraising’ is just about the simplest way to raise money for your good cause. If you’re wondering what it’s all about, read on...

‘Easyfundraising’ is the UK’s biggest charity fundraising site. It’s simple to use, and it’s free. ‘Easyfundraising’ turns your everyday online shopping into donations for your good cause, at no cost to you. How? Just visit your favourite retailers through their website and the shop as normal. Once you’ve made a purchase the retailer will then make a small donation to your cause to say “thank you”.

### What do I need to do to raise donations?

Firstly, search for ‘easyfundraising’ then register with them and tell them who you want to support by typing ‘Fulwood Methodist Church’ into the search box, then you can register yourself or ask someone to help you. Then, next time you want to buy something online, log into ‘easyfundraising’ first then search for the retailer you want to shop with and click their name. You’ll then be taken to their website where you can continue to make your purchase in the usual way. But, crucially, because you visited ‘easyfundraising’ first, your cause will get a donation.

### What’s the catch?

No catch. Whatever you buy costs exactly the same as it would if you had visited the retailer site directly. They don’t take any financial information from you as all your transactions are with the retailer. They won’t sell your information on and they won’t spam you. And it doesn’t cost you or your cause anything.

### How much will I raise?

An average online shopper can easily raise over £100 a year with ‘easyfundraising’. The donation per purchase will generally be between 0.5% and 10%. Some retailers - including insurance and broadband providers - will pay a set fee, which can be in the £100s!

What if I forget to shop through ‘easyfundraising’? Not a problem! There are two tools to help you remember: Install the [‘Donation Reminder’](#) onto your desktop in just a couple of clicks – it will then automatically highlight retailers where a donation is available while you’re browsing.

Download the ‘easyfundraising’ app on your phone with [Google Play](#) or [App Store](#). You’ll be able to use the app whenever you shop from your mobile or tablet and know that you’ll never miss out on a donation.





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## DOES ANYONE REMEMBER?

If so, I'd love to know!!

Delving again into my copy of 'The Methodist School Hymnal' (produced about 100 years ago) and searching for whatever hymns were listed 'for Christmas' I discovered there were only a few – and the majority of those were completely unknown to me. Perhaps other members of the congregation could recall some of them?

The first I encountered was:

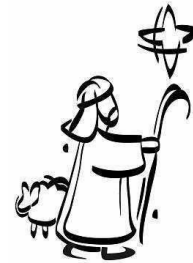
*Little children, wake and listen;  
Songs are breaking o'er the earth:  
While the stars in heaven glisten,  
Hear the news of Jesu's birth.*



This was six verses long; was sung to the tune 'Newton Ferns' (4/4 time) and was to be sung briskly.

Next up came;

*'Twas a starry night of old,  
When rejoicing angels told  
The poor shepherds of Thy birth,  
God become a child on earth.*



Five verses, to the tune 'Elmwood' (6/8); to be sung very smoothly, with a gentle swing, and the final verse to be sung more slowly.

I did at least recognise the name of the composer of the next one: Mrs C. F. Alexander – but that was all!

*Once in Bethlehem of Judah,  
Far away across the sea,  
There was laid a little baby  
On a virgin mother's knee*

And a refrain:

*O Saviour, gentle Saviour,  
Hear Thy little children sing;  
The God of our salvation,  
The Child that is our King.*



Six verses to 'Once in Bethlehem' (6/8), slowly and with feeling. The (3/4) waltz time of *Away in a manger* brought some semblance of order to my thoughts and I felt I also knew Christina Rossetti's

*The shepherds had an angel,  
The wise men had a star;  
But what have I, a little child  
To guide me home from far,  
Where glad stars sing together  
And singing angels are?*



This could be sung to the tune 'Christina' (6/8) – briskly, or to 'St Plegmund' (6/8) – with a gentle swing.

Finally came a solo:

*Hark! The Christmas bells are ringing;  
Gladdest message they are bringing:  
Joyful peals they ring today;  
These the words they seem to say,  
Christ is born on this morn;  
Join our happy, happy lay!*

....with all the children joining in on.....

*Ring, bells, sweetly ring:  
Children with you sing,  
Christ is born on this morn!  
Ring, bells, ring!*

Tune: 'Christmas Bells' (4/4) – not too fast.



*Dorothy Smith*



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## BOOK CLUB

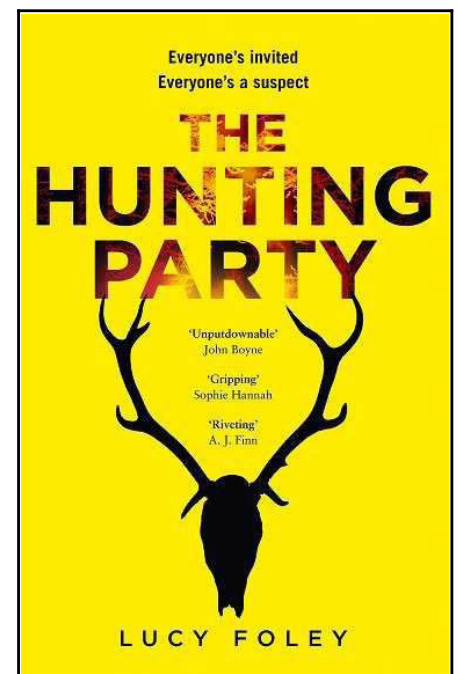
It seems that one commercial area which has seen some growth in the last few months has been the book trade. Sales apparently have increased substantially through the on-line giant Amazon, through e-books to be read on a Kindle or similar device and the recent creation of a new online bookshop, designed to support independent book shops, called BookStore. TV programmes and newspapers have done much to promote new books to new audiences. The thing I have missed most is being able to have a lengthy browse in any of my favourite bookshops (I have several, needless to say).

It is with pleasure that we can report that the Church-based Book Club has continued to meet and to discuss a range of books since the problems started to arise in the early Spring. Whilst it isn't quite the same when you eat the biscuits and cake and drink the coffee over Zoom in your own home it certainly has not inhibited our discussions. Indeed, I think they may have been livelier on-line than before. Whilst not all our previous members have been able to be with us, we have gained one or two new adherents and they are very welcome. So, which books have we been reading and discussing?

Well, in the summer, we had a very interesting session inspired by our minister, Revd. Jane Wild, looking at the 'Book of Ruth' from the Old Testament. We try to have a session like this each year, usually using a Biblical book chosen for study by the Methodist Church. Our aim is to look at the book as literature, trying to see what devices are used in the narrative and what may have been influencing the author when it was written and why eventually it became part of the Old or New Testament. We do not neglect the spiritual purpose of the book just as when we are reading non-Biblical books we look for spiritual or moral messages. Ruth was fertile ground – a really enjoyable discussion of a book which it turned out was not amongst the most-favoured among our group.

'The Hunting Party' by Lucy Foley is a recently published crime novel set at New Year in the depth of the Scottish Highlands. A group of friends from their days at University meet annually with new partners or old and inevitably tensions come to the surface. Lucy Foley is a very accomplished young writer and we hope she writes more (she has recently had published 'The Guest List' and that is on my reading list). A very enjoyable read for a damp and grey or even a white weekend by the fire if you want a bit of escapism.

We also discussed, more briefly, a collection of short essays by the archaeologist Francis Pryor called 'Paths to the Past'. This was a welcome change to many of us – a book where you could choose which chapters to read about sites and locations you know well or would like to visit. It gave me ideas for trips away once we are able to

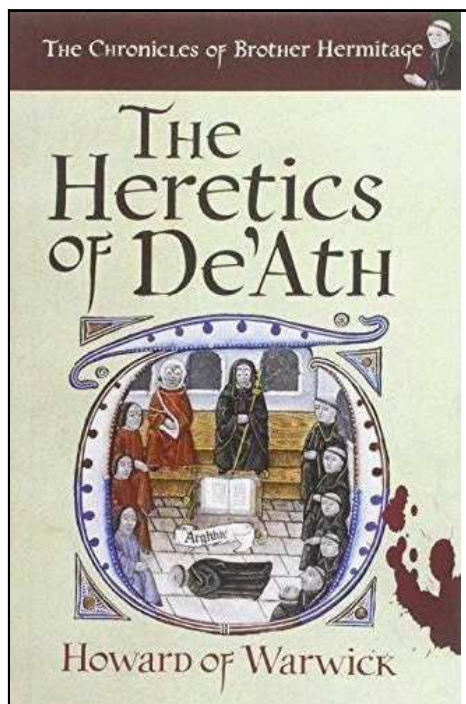




travel without restriction. Pryor is very knowledgeable and communicates his understanding of what each of these sites is telling us about its past in a very engaging way.

Very recently, we read and discussed a more weighty volume called 'The Foundling'. This is a very interesting novel telling a story based upon The Thomas Coram Hospital for abandoned children in London. The historians amongst us found it authentic and it gave rise to much discussion about social welfare and the motives which drive us to act in the way we do. In this case the plot was based upon the true parentage of a child who was now developing into a young woman. The writer, Stacey Hall, is a Lancastrian from the Rossendale Valley who studied at the University here in Preston. Her earlier work, called 'The Familiar', and this book show that she is very much a young writer with a huge future in the field of historical fiction. Human stories but with a wide backcloth of fascinating and well-researched social history.

We will be holding our Christmas session in early December and it has become a bit of a tradition that those of who wish to do so bring along a reading or a



contribution from a seasonal book or magazine. In the past all sorts of interesting material has emerged and has led to much reminiscing about Christmas past. "Do you remember when....?"; well, you can add the rest.

We are also indulging one of our members (I won't name names) who has developed an addiction to a very quirky set of detective novels set in the years immediately following the Norman Conquest. If they were all as daft as 'Brother Hermitage' no wonder the country took some of the turns it did! The book we are reading is called 'Heretics of De'Ath' by Howard of Warwick, if you are interested. I just happen to know that one of our members, as a result, is now onto the sixth in the series and is deeply enamoured. I wonder what the others will think?

We have also decided on our reading for over the Christmas and New Year period, in addition to any delightful books which turn up in our Christmas stockings this year. We will be reading a new favourite author of mine called Benjamin Myers and his book 'The Offing', set in the wonderful countryside around Robin Hood's Bay. And for good measure we have chosen 'The Second Sleep' by the very accomplished Robert Harris. History and fantasy in one volume!

So, all-in-all, COVID is not holding back the life of Fulwood Methodist Church Book Club. Even if chocolate biscuits don't taste quite the same on Zoom, we enjoy our sessions which give much food for thought and lighten our spirits. Watch out for dates and arrangements on the Church website and in the notices. Join us, do!

*Ken Wales*

## A BIT OF TEXTILE HISTORY

Dorothy Cuthbert gave me some booklets on knitting, crochet, sewing and associated crafts, plus some actual samples at least a year ago. Some are from her mother and grandmother and some are from Gordon's family. They date from Victorian times, through the Edwardian period, to the 50s and 60s. Some even have their iron-on transfers for embroidery completely intact. A very interesting archive.

I have contacted The Harris Museum to see if they are interested in accepting them as a gift from Dorothy. Their curator of textiles was interested, but as storage space is at a premium and they have lots of instruction booklets already, they didn't want them. They are also only interested in samples 'with a story' or an association to someone local. I'm also going to contact Gawthorpe Hall for Dorothy. The archive at UCLAN is interested in them for their Textiles and Design Section. I have given some of the magazines from the 1950's & 60's to Withy Trees Day Support Centre run by Age Concern Central Lancashire for their reminiscence sessions. I also donated some old knitting patterns which Diana Keach's daughter gave us for the knitting group at Withy Trees to look at and discuss.

However in amongst the patterns there were some pages from 'Weldon's Ladies' Journal', Dec 1911, including the 'Children's Page'.

This poem/prayer was printed at the top.



*Just to be tender, just to be true  
Just to be glad the whole day through  
Just to be merciful, just to be mild  
Just to be gentle, kind and sweet  
Just to be helpful with willing feet*

*Just to be cheery when things go wrong  
Just to drive sadness away with a song  
Whether the hour is dark or bright  
Just to be loyal to God and right;  
Just to let love be our daily key  
This is God's will for you and me.*

In the article accompanying it about children anticipating Christmas and all the excitement that brings, there is a passage about what makes the best gift. In essence the writer says it's the thought behind the smallest gift which enhances its value. It concludes by saying "never be afraid of the smallness of a gift, if your sincere love goes with it".

The children are also asked to think of others who may be old, lonely or ill at Christmas and to share a kind word or action with them. It concludes with this verse: -

*Hast thou plenty? Then rejoice, rejoice and freely share;  
Hast thou scanty share? E'en then a little thou canst spare;  
And hast thou only bit or crumb, a donor yet thou mayst become.*

At this time of Lockdown and uncertainty; many people, both adults and children, are reaching out to support others who may be ill, old and lonely in all kinds of ways to fit our modern era, as well as in ways the children of 1911 would recognise.

**Veronica Frost**

## MY FATHER WROTE.....

.....these lines in my first dictionary when I was ten years old.  
I have no idea who wrote it originally.

Somebody said that it couldn't be done  
But he, with a chuckle replied  
That may be it couldn't  
But he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he tried.  
He buckled straight in  
With the trace of a grin on his face.  
If he worried he hid it;  
He started to tackle 'the thing  
That couldn't be done' and he did it!



*Marjorie Talbot*

\*\*\*\*\*

## AT THE SIGN OF THE CLOSED DOOR

How could I know  
That they were so important?  
Just the two. No servants, just a workman sort of man.  
Leading a donkey, and his wife thereon  
Drooping and pale – I saw them not myself,  
My servants must have driven them away;  
But had I seen them, – how was I to know?  
Were inns to welcome stragglers, up and down  
In all our towns from Beersheba to Dan  
Till He should come? And how were men to know?  
There was a sign, they say, a heavenly light  
Resplendent: but I had no time for stars,  
And there were songs of angels in the air  
Out on the hills; but how was I to hear  
Amid the thousand clamours of an inn?



*Anon*

\*\*\*\*\*

## MARIE CURIE QUIZ

The annual quiz cannot be sold in the usual way this year, but if you would like to tax the grey cells during lockdown and the Christmas period then go to this [Just Giving page](#) where you can download the quiz and donate.





## CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS

You may remember that last year we had Mary and Joseph, the Wise Men, the Angel Gabriel, the star and animals overlooking baby Jesus in the crib on the front doors of church.

If you are passing our Church this year, please stop and have a look at the windows of the Crèche between the two large Church doors at our new Christmas display.



\* \* \* \* \*

## ANSWERS TO CAROL QUIZ

- A new King born today MHB 93
- To see the Lord appear to man MHB 118
- Bring my heart MHB 117
- Love MHB 105
- Mary's child MHB 95
- The Saviour comes MHB 82
- Saviour who is Christ the Lord MHB120
- All Christians sing MHB 115
- All ye faithful MHB 110
- My heart MHB 107

\* \* \* \* \*

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

The sun will not set upon anger, much less will I let the sun set upon the anger of God towards me.

*John Donne*

It is when God appears to have abandoned us that we must abandon ourselves most wholly to God.

*Francois Fenelon*

## CAN YOU FIND THE CHRISTMAS CAROLS?

In each carol the vowels (a e i o u) have been left out

e.g. WYNMNGR - Away in a Manger

1 NCNRYLDVDSCTY

2 CMLLYFTHFLL

3 HRKTHHRLDNGLSSNG

4 SWTHGLDNSSMNFLD

5 SMDTHWNTRSSNW

6 CRDLDNMNGRMLY

7 LVCMDWNTCHRSTMS

8 NTSBYSBRN

\* \* \* \* \*

## CLEVER ANAGRAMS

PRESBYTERIAN – Best in prayer

ASTRONOMER – Moonstarer

DESPERATION – A rope ends it

THE EYES – They see

A DECIMAL POINT – I'm a dot in place

THE EARTHQUAKES – That queer shake

THE MORSE CODE – Here come dots

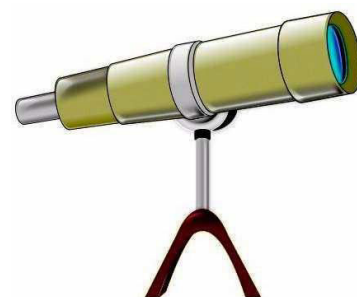
DORMITORY – Dirty room

SLOT MACHINE – Cash lost in me

ELECTION RESULTS – Lies – let's recount

SNOOZE ALARMS – Alas, no more Zs

\* \* \* \* \*



At Christmas, play and make good cheer – for Christmas comes but once a year.

*Thomas Tusser, 1537*

This Christmas, when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern.

*Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

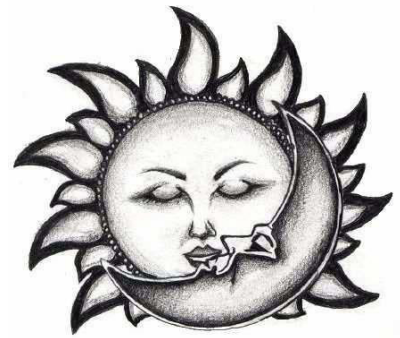
## GOD'S GARDEN

The Lord God planted a garden  
In the first white days of the world,  
And He set there an angel warden  
In a garment of light unfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,  
That the hawk might nest with the wren,  
For there in the cool of the even  
God walked with the first of men.

And I dream that these garden-closes  
With their shade and their sun-flecked sod  
And their lilies and bowers of roses,  
Were laid by the hand of God.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.



For He broke it for us in a garden  
Under the olive trees,  
Where the angel of strength was the warden  
And the soul of the world found ease.

*Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858 – 1932)*

\* \* \* \* \*

## A LETTER FROM JESUS

If you look for me at Christmas, you won't need a special star.  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are.  
You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations,  
You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations.  
But if you take a moment from your list of things to do,  
And listen to your heart you'll find I'm waiting there for you.  
You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came,  
And you'll find me in the stillness as I'm whispering your name.

**Love, Jesus**



## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

### **(Under normal circumstances)**

#### **Sunday**

9.45 am Singing Practice (Cedar Room)

#### **Tuesday**

10.00 am Men's AM Club (fortnightly) Graham Johnson

2.15 pm Women's Fellowship (weekly) Muriel Crossley

5-7.00 pm Messy Church (half-termly) for families Delma Whitman

7.00 pm Alphabites (monthly fellowship) Margaret Holmes

7.00 pm Book Club (monthly) Ken Wales

#### **Wednesday**

10 till 1.30 Welcome Wednesday - food, activities, games and New2U stall

10.30 am Midweek Communion with prayers

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

#### **Thursday**

7.00 pm Knitting Group (Copper Beech Room) Veronica Frost

8.01 pm Ladies After 8 group (fortnightly) Barbara Hothersall

#### **Friday**

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

## **FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

#### **Monday**

6.00 pm Beavers (6 - 8 yr) Fiona Jackson

7.00 pm Cubs (8 - 10½ yr) Karen Smalley

#### **Tuesday**

7.00 pm Scouts (10½ - 14 yr) Chris Thomas

7.00 pm Explorer Scouts (14 - 18 yr) Operated by Scout District

7.00 pm Scout Network (18 - 25 yr) Operated by Scout County

#### **Thursday**

5.45 pm Rainbows (5 - 7 yr) Jayne Myatt

6.15 pm Brownies (7 - 10 yr) Diane Bird

7.30 pm Guides (10 - 14 yr) Hannah Jones

#### **Friday**

6.30 pm Escape (7- 11 yr) Darren Arnold

8.00 pm Youth Club (Secondary School age) “ “

#### **Sunday**

10.30 am Sunday Club Janet Wales

12.30 pm OMG (2nd Sun of month for years 5 to 8/9) Wendy Bennett

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