

THE RECORD

SPRING 2022



CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

The **Methodist** Church South Fylde Circuit
Making Disciples: Transforming Lives and Communities

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Church Road Methodist Church Registered Charity No 1134109



SEE, WHAT A MORNING!

See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the graveclothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce Christ is risen!

See God's salvation plan,
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, 'Where is he laid?'
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!

The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound till he appears,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty;
to the King crowned with power and authority!

And we are raised with him,
death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;
and we shall reign with him,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974)

A word from Louise.....



Such is the nature of ministry that I am writing this letter at the end of February but aware that we will be in Lent and looking ahead to Easter by the time it comes to print. Storm 'Dudley' is about to arrive (and if you can hear that name without thinking of Harry Potter good for you) and mountains are figuring a lot in our readings as we prepare for the feast of the transfiguration. Go up to the mountain and behold you will meet God. It set me thinking.

I belong to the Lancashire Climbing & Caving Club we own a hut in the Lake District, half way up the bridle path from the village of Torver to the Old Man of Coniston, a fairly small mountain.

I have walked up that bridle path, to where it meets the Walna scar road. It's what remains of an old track that was used by copper and slate miners of old, to walk from Coniston to the Duddon valley. It skirts under the mountain. The track has been well used, it is rutted and worn down by the many feet that have trodden that way for years. Did they ever look up at the mountain that they are walking around?

There is a little pathway signposted up the mountain. Now I have walked the Walna scar track many times; in bad weather, just heading for Coniston and a coffee shop or pub, in better weather heading the other way to the climbing locations of Dow Crag and Wallowbarrow, if it is pouring down, quite often I fail to even notice the little pathway going up the mountain.

But there have been occasions I have walked up to the top, in good weather, you can see for miles, the whole of the south Lake District spread out before you, it is a wonderful experience. And quite understandable why some people say they feel closer to God in amongst the natural environment.

The pathway up the mountain is quite a challenge to walk, the first time I went up with a group of friends, after a while I got more confident, I did some training to lead parties of scouts.

Our journey of discipleship is much like the journey up the mountain. Before we came to faith we walked past, without noticing the entrance, like the workers, treading the Walna scar track day after day, we plod along in our own lives. What made us step off the beaten track and head upwards? Maybe someone encouraged us, walked with us the first time, to show us the way, or maybe we picked up the guide book that is our scripture, and chose to set off, to explore. However we first set foot on that pathway, we inherit the responsibility of passing that knowledge on for future generations.

Moses went up the mountain alone. He received from God an amazing gift, the 10 commandments, but he was alone with God for a long time and when he came back down the mountain, the people he was sent to lead had strayed. Jesus took just a few of his disciples up the mountain. Peter, James and John, they had a wonderful experience so good that they wanted to stay on the mountain, but that was not what Jesus wanted for them. The experience was to prepare them for the time to come, a time when he had gone and they were to lead his followers. And so in the footsteps of the Disciples we follow. On a good day we might experience something special. Like Peter, we might wish to build a hut, our church and stay but that is not for us, as Jesus tells us we need to go back down, to serve, to help others, to encourage others to come up the mountain with us. What are the excuses we tell ourselves for not doing so? Is the weather forecast too bad, are we too old and tired, do we not know the way, are we afraid of getting lost, stepping out into the unknown. We are not alone, the risen Christ is with us, and his Holy Spirit will empower us.

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news.

Blessings this joyful Easter tide.

Louise

WORSHIP SERVICES



MARCH

2 nd March 7.00 p.m	ASH WEDNESDAY Circuit service at Church Road
6 th March 9.00 a.m.	ACTIV8 led by Revd Louise Makin
13 th March 10.30 a.m.	Revd Louise Makin Service includes Holy Communion
20 th March 10.30 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Revd Louise Makin Service includes the celebration of Holy Baptism aLive Contemporary Worship
27 th March 10.30 a.m.	MOTHERING SUNDAY Revd Stuart Wild

Our regular monthly pattern of Sunday services is currently as follows:

First Sunday in the month: Activ8 will *start* at 9am and be *followed* by breakfast. There will be **no** service at 10:30am, but those wishing to attend a traditional service are encouraged to go to The Drive.

Third Sunday in the month: – This will *not* be ‘all age worship’, although the Band will continue to provide the music. Children will attend JKids.

Fourth Sunday in the month – aLive at 6.00 p.m. A contemporary service with music, discussion and refreshments



APRIL

3 rd April 9.00 a.m.	ACTIV8 led by Revd Louise Makin
10 th April 10.30 a.m.	PALM SUNDAY Revd Louise Makin Service includes Holy Communion
14 th April TBA p.m. ⁽¹⁾	MAUNDY THURSDAY Service of Reflection
15 th April 11.00 a.m.	GOOD FRIDAY United Ecumenical Service at The Drive
17 th April 9.00 a.m.	EASTER SUNDAY Celebration of Holy Communion led by Revd Louise Makin
10.30 a.m.	Judith Smith
24 th April 10.30 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Revd Terry Hudson aLive Contemporary Worship



MONDAY PRAYERS

People from churches throughout the Circuit meet for prayer every Monday at 6pm to 6.15pm via Zoom.

The focus varies e.g. our churches, circuit and local community, our country, the world-wide church and the NHS etc. There is no expectation that everyone will pray out loud! Please see Janette for Zoom access details.

¹⁾ *Time to be arranged, please see monthly notices for details.*



MAY

1 st May	
9.00 a.m.	ACTIV8 led by Revd Louise Makin
8 th May	
10.30 a.m.	David Turner
15 th May	
10.30 a.m.	Revd Louise Makin Service includes Holy Communion
22 nd May	
10.30 a.m.	Christine Pierce
6.00 p.m.	aLive Contemporary Worship
29 th May	
10.30 a.m.	Andrew Barratt

Covid safeguards

We are continuing to follow UK government guidelines:

- Ensuring that **rooms are adequately ventilated**
- Advising the use of **face coverings** in crowded or enclosed spaces to reduce the risk of transmission
- Promote **testing and self-isolation** where appropriate
- Providing **hand sanitiser** for everyone to use

FLOWER DEDICATIONS



DECEMBER

6th Loving birthday memories of Marion Holland
Loving Birthday memories of a dear husband
Arthur, and of my son, David Milnes, from Myrtle

20th Treasured memories of Claire Berwick
In loving memory of John & Clarice Hughes from Margaret Wrigley

JANUARY

10th Birthday memories of Mrs Gladys Ball
Treasured memories of John from Barbara, Caroline & Samantha
In memory of Stanley, Fred and Annie Richmond

17th Loving memories of Derek Rigby

24th Loving memories of Len Wild from Joan, Steven and family

FEBRUARY

7th Loving birthday memories of my dear sister, Audrey, and my father;
ever in my thoughts, Sylvia

14th Anne & John Mayes in memory of Anne's parents

FLOWERS

We are grateful to those who continue to contribute to the displays of flowers in church each week in memory of family members or someone special to them. It is important for us to recall these special memories and to remember these people in our prayers.

Any contributions to church flowers should be sent to the Flower Secretary, Elaine Watts, with cheques payable to Church Road Methodist Church Flower Fund



IRENE BARKER

*"I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord:
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."*

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Names of departed loved ones may be entered in the Book of Remembrance, on the day when loved ones are especially remembered. Please complete the details on one of the slips in the Church Foyer and hand to one of the Stewards if you would like a name to be included.

LENT GROUPS 2022



Lent is fast approaching and both groups and Zoom meetings will be taking place around the Circuit as they did in Advent. This year's theme is '**Here – and there**', reflecting on the global pandemic in the context of Jesus' journey to the cross.

The Circuit is offering various days and times, in the hope that you will be able to join at some point during the week.

Monday afternoon-	2.00-3.00 p.m.	-	The Drive
Monday evening -	7.00-8.00 p.m.	-	ON ZOOM
Wednesday afternoon -	1.00-2.00 p.m.	-	Freckleton
Thursday morning -	11.00-12 noon	-	Church Road
Thursday evening -	7.30-8.30 p.m.	-	ON ZOOM

Week 1 – w/c February 28th -	Healing presence.
Week 2 – w/c March 7th -	Provision
Week 3 – w/c March 14th -	Isolation
Week 4 – w/c March 21st -	Living with tension
Week 5 - w/c March 28th -	Anguish
Week 6 - w/c April 4th -	Hope

If you would like to join a study group on Zoom, please contact Deacon Kim - kim.gabbatiss@methodist.org.uk for the Zoom link for sessions taking place on a Monday evening and Andrew Barratt andrcbarratt@aol.com for sessions taking place on a Thursday evening.

If you would like to join a group running in one of the churches, then please just come along for discussion and coffee.

In the meantime, if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Staff Team.

Deacon Kim Gabbatiss
01772 635858, or 07769 293763

Judith Smith - South Fylde Lay Worker
01253 720986 or 07586 842846

Paws for thought

*For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.
(Ecclesiastes 3 v 1)*

I suppose one of the first things I do each day is go for a walk with Fimber, my poodle. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the seasons changing. For weeks I was watching for the snowdrops and then the crocus seemed to arrive at the same time, and daffodils are out. Time passes by and Lent and Easter are upon us.

Time goes by and we sometimes wonder just where it has gone. If we could just harness a bit of that day and a bit of another, life would be wonderful, not having the bad bits, the things that slow us down, the frustrations and the anxieties - but life wouldn't really be the same. Jesus too had good days and bad days, he came upon the pharisees and trouble would brew, he thought his disciples could take a bit more care with their listening skills and just understand where he was coming from – and going to. Other days were good days, feeding the five thousand, healing the sick, eating with his friends, praying with his Father.

That's it though, in a nutshell, praying, keeping in touch with God and his kingdom. There is a season and a time for everything, if only! Certainly, no time when Fimber goes rolling in something indescribable and needs a bath when he gets home. Yuk.

*We praise you God for the colours
of spring, and the seasons reminding
us of your creation.*

*We praise you for our family, friends,
neighbours and four legged friends.*

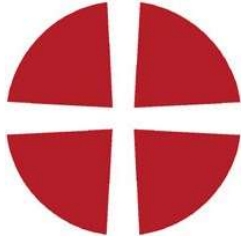
*We praise you for this season of Lent
as we prepare for Holy Week and
Easter.*

*Give to us the time we need to
prepare your kingdom, for all people.*

Amen



Judith Smith- South Fylde Methodist Lay worker



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

GOD IN LOVE UNITES US



In July 2021, the Methodist Church became the largest religious

denomination in Britain to permit same-sex marriages after the Conference voted to change the definition of marriage as set out in the ***God in Love Unites Us*** report into marriage and relationships.

As a result, same-sex marriage can be permitted within Methodist buildings where the local church council is agreeable and applies for registration to do so. Methodist ministers may preside at same-sex marriage services, but a freedom of conscience clause allows them to opt out of conducting such ceremonies should they so wish.

At the Church Council meeting on 22 February, three resolutions were voted on:

1. To consent to the solemnization of marriages of same-sex couples and resolves to apply to register the building for the solemnization of such marriages.

Resolution **agreed** by a majority of 80%.

2. To consent to services of blessing for same-sex couples who are already married taking place in a Methodist church building.

Resolution **agreed** unanimously.

3. To resolve that Revd Louise Makin be certified to the Registrar General and the Superintendent Registrar as the Authorised Person to be present at the marriages of same-sex couples.

Resolution **agreed** by 80%+.

OTHER NEWS

Those who attended the **General Church Meeting** in the autumn had been invited by Louise to jot down their hopes and fears and future vision for Church Road. She has now collated all the responses received and will soon be sending them out to all those on the email list. She comments that we are 'not lacking in vision'!

Treasurer – Andrew Whitley has indicated his intention to retire from this post in the not-too-distant future. Andrew has held this position for many years and has served the church dutifully as custodian of our finances. Anyone interested in serving in this way should speak to Louise.

The Interim **District Chairman for Lancashire** – to replace Revd Paul Davis when he retires in August – has been announced as Revd Phil Gough, currently Superintendent of the Chorley and Leyland Circuit.

Rev Paul Davis has accepted our invitation to lead our **Church Anniversary and Gift Day service on 12th June**.

A new **Pastoral Carer** has been appointed – Nancy Steele.

Fuel prices increase – the church will suffer from these increases, like domestic households. Louise asked that people be conscious of this when they book rooms, and ensure that if radiator controls are turned up for their meeting, they are returned to '2' at the end.

Policies **for Lone Working, and acceptable use of Social Media and Wi-fi** were agreed, and will be circulated. They need to be followed by all!

NOTE TO ALL KEYHOLDERS

All key holders are required to re-register their keys **before the end of March**. If you hold a key to the premises, would you please see Monica Bissett, with your key, so that you are able to sign for it.

A fob system for entry to the premises will become operational at the start of April and keyholders will also need to be issued with a fob.

LATEST FROM WESLEY'S

Mayors Visit and Fantastic Fund-raiser Event



Katrina Kelly always knew 22/02/2022 was going to be an important day in her life, it would be her birthday on that day, a date never to be repeated (*it reads the same front to back, back to front and upside down! - 22022022*). So she set herself a mammoth challenge, to raise £1222 for charity by running 22.2Km, completing 222 press ups and cycling 222Km on an exercise bike all within 12 hours!!

Katrina's mum, Jayne, works for the NHS with patients with mental health issues and has over a number of years worked closely with Wesley's, meeting clients there for coffee and helping them to regain confidence and socialise and several of these, including 5 at the moment, have become volunteers here at Wesley's. So Katrina decided to split any money she raised between her mum's two favourite charities, Wesley's and the Connect Community Choir (which Jayne set up) based at Our Ladies Parish Centre in St Albans Road. Wesley's offered to help on the day by providing a venue, refreshments and any other support needed on the day. At the time of writing this Wednesday, 23/02/22, Katrina had surpassed her target and had raised a total of £2,038 to be split 50/50 with ourselves and the choir.

Wesley's are fortunate in having a number of Councillors, especially Councillor Brenda Blackshaw, supporting us and it was thanks to them we managed to arrange a visit by the Mayor of Fylde, Councillor Elaine Silverwood to both recognise the work we do and support Katrina in her fund raising challenge. The Mayor visited Our Ladies Parish Centre to watch Katrina doing her 222 press ups whilst being supported by the Community Choir singing rousing songs of encouragement before visiting Wesley's at 12.00noon where she enjoyed lunch and chatted to our customers



and volunteers for an hour before departing. All in all, a great day for everyone concerned.

The needs and demands for the work done in Wesley's grows month on month and will no doubt continue to do so as the economic pressures continue for some of society's most vulnerable groups. Wesley's now operates 5 days per week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday for the larder/foodbank that also serves hot take away soup, with the restaurant is open Tuesday and Thursday serving over 100 breakfasts and hot 3 course lunches each week together with food preparation and cookery lessons. Our dedicated and talented head chef, Jayne McLaren, under the supervision and guidance of Paul Caddy, is a very busy, brilliant cook and teacher who now leads a superb team of kitchen volunteers.



Fundraising continues to be very important if we are to protect the long term prospects for this project and we are extremely grateful to all who contribute to these efforts especially the local Soroptimist Society, who recently donated a further £5,000, Marie Hawkins, one of our church stewards, who successfully applied for a grant of £4,000 to replace our ovens, one of the local Masonic lodges who donated £210, a private individual who donated £100 and of course Katrina for her amazing effort in raising over £1000 for Wesley's.

It's brilliant to see God's work in action and may God bless all those who work so hard to achieve these amazing results.

Mike Bennett

From Hanifi, one of the volunteers at Wesley's, in his own words:

"If you ask me what the biggest challenge in your life for an asylum seeker is, I would say: "Living as a burden to others".

I am very happy when I can do something for the benefit of others without being dependent on anyone. I came to England last year; I was a foreigner and did not know how to speak English.

Last year, we met Edyta Paxton, who works for the council. After I stated to Mrs Paxton that I wanted to work as a volunteer, she introduced me to the staff of Wesley Cafe.

First of all, I was afraid if they would treat me with a distance, but I never felt strange at Wesley Cafe. Because the officials and volunteers there spoke to me with the language of the heart. The door of the kitchen and the doors of their heart's wide was opened for me.

To me, Wesley Cafe is not only a place to eat and drink, but also a place where people's social needs are met. People do not consume Fast Food and ready-made foods that threaten our health here. They can eat fresh and healthy food. Thus, they can both test good food and socialize by chatting in this beautiful conversation environment.

The sparkle in their eyes is a sign that they are happy. As a team, we try not only to fill people's stomachs, but also to fill their hearts. Trying to make others happy is actually the greatest source of happiness for us.”

Hanifi is refugee who volunteers in Wesley's and it speaks so clearly about what Wesley's does, not only in feeding people but offering real welcoming love and hope to people.

Wesley's Appeal



Many thanks for your generosity at Christmas!

Please can you continue to help some of our guests by donations of:

- **Toiletries** (soap, shampoo, shower gel, toothbrush, tooth paste, disposable razors etc.),
- **cleaning products** (washing up liquid, surface cleansers, detergent, toilet rolls etc.)
- **new socks!**

Please leave items in the box in church, they will be passed through to Wesley's.



FREE ENGLISH LESSONS.

English lessons are offered to anyone who has come to live in our area and would like help with their English.

We meet on Mondays at 1p.m. – 2.30p.m. at the Catholic Parish Centre in St Alban's Road in St. Annes.

All levels of English available (beginners – advanced)

ALL NATIONALITIES WELCOME!



We are able to provide the lessons free of charge as the tutors are all volunteers. The group is friendly and informal. We can help with conversation or grammar as required.

If you know anyone who would benefit from these lessons, please help by passing on this information to them.

Further information from Lesley Turner or Anne Mayes.



Let Wisdom Speak – 2022 Lent Devotional

'Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.'

You are invited to listen to the voices of Joanna Adeyinka-Burford, Dr Selina Stone, Revd Sonia Hicks, Helen Cameron and Chan Kaur-Mann, the stories of All We Can's partners and the reflections of several Methodist Women in Britain, in a devotional resource designed for you to journey with throughout the Lenten season.

If anyone would like a copy of this Lent Devotional, please ask Elaine Watts. Donations can be made to All We Can.

CONGR-EGG -ATIONAL EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

SATURDAY 26 MARCH

Come and enjoy some springtime fun with other members of the congregation, families and friends this Easter.

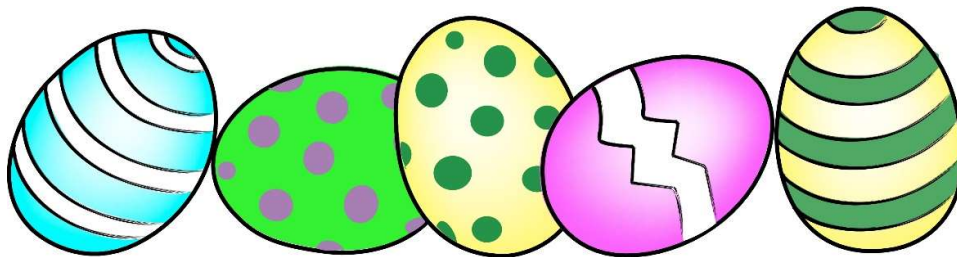


On Saturday March 26th, 6.30-8.30pm, pull up a chair and try your hand at a game of chocolate bingo! Tickets are £3 per adult and £2 per child and must be bought in advance. However, once you are into the swing of things, you may choose to enter an egg-stra special round on the night for a further £1 per person and the chance to win a sp-egg-tacular Easter hamper!

Refreshments will also be on sale during the course of the social.

We hope you can join us for some fellowship and fun – buy your tickets now from any member of the Church Life Committee or the Church Office.

All proceeds will be put towards the purchase of a defibrillator for the Church Road premises.



Congr-egg -ational Eggstravaganza!

Away on holiday so you can't make this egg-stra special event or just keen to offer support to the defibrillator fundraising project – either way we would appreciate all donations of chocolate Easter eggs. These can be Cadbury's traditional eggs, small, medium or large boxed eggs or foil wrapped rabbits / chicks etc. If you stumble across any buy one get one free offers, please keep us in mind! All donations can be left in the church kitchen and will be collected before 13th March 2022.

WELCOME!



Hello! My name is Nancy Steele and I've been asked to write a few words to introduce myself to you all at Church Road.

My husband, John and I moved to St Annes for our retirement in October 2019 which was just before Covid hit. We are from Elland in West Yorkshire, where we have lived since leaving Glasgow (our place of birth) in 1975. We have two Sons, and four Grandchildren. The Grandkids have kept me very busy in recent years. I gave up working in 2017 so that I could spend time with them, and I enjoyed every minute of that special time we shared together.

Moving from a place we've called home for over 40 years was a real pull, especially leaving our family behind, and for me, leaving my Church Family as well. I've been a member of the Methodist Church for over 30 years and during that time have enjoyed the fellowship and friendship of like minded people. I've held various roles within the Church, and also been involved in numerous events involving the local community.

So now, God has other plans for me!!

He's guided me to serve a new Church and Community, and I'm now looking forward to the future, and to building up new relationships here at Church Road, St Annes. It's been great getting to know more of you over these past weeks, and I will try hard to remember your names (it's an age thing!!) Please forgive me if I don't.

"One more step along the world I go, from the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you". Amen.

We also welcome more newcomers to our congregation, Elizabeth Hicks and Steve Harper. If you have recently joined us – welcome! – and if you would like to introduce yourself in a future edition of our magazine, please have a word with Stuart Wrigley or email the Church Office.

REFLECTIONS FROM CHRIS JONES

*“This is the day which the Lord hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.”
Psalm 118:24*

I walk my very energetic rescue dog through town very early each morning when the streets are empty except for newsagents opening up and cleaners preparing businesses for the day.

At this time of the year I watch and welcome the dawn and give thanks to the Lord that I have been granted another day that He has made.

I rejoice and do my best to be glad in it. But I never thought my wife was the kind to get up before dawn and be out walking her small pug and enjoying the exercise. And I was right. She isn't.

However, there must be so many who do not know our Saviour who wake and dread another day of fear and despair, a future without hope. Perhaps the absence of hope is the most unbearable.

The late Desmond Tutu said, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.” Jesus said He was the light of the world. If only those who have struggled through another winter of despair knew Jesus.

It is frequently observed that revivals most often occur in times of deepest distress. I pray that this may be so today, it is so dearly needed.

I had another birthday just before Christmas, I've had quite a few now and they seem to come around more often these days. But the passing of years does not come without consequences. Have you ever experienced entering a room, forgot why you were there, retraced your steps, got distracted on the way back, then have no idea what's going on?

So have I.

It's very hard watching the TV news these days, a stream of politician, pundit, commentator and journalist talking heads droning on endlessly about truth, lies, accusations, denials and deceptions. Most don't listen with the intent to understand, they do so with the intent to reply. I have no patience whatsoever with them and get most annoyed, but I suppose for someone who self identifies as a Klingon, that's to be expected.

‘The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy’. Proverbs 12.22.

I pray that better (and warmer) days are on the way and with the knowledge of Jesus Christ in our lives, we may live life fully and joyfully once again.



World Day of Prayer 2022 FRIDAY 4 MARCH

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It will take place at The Drive Methodist Church on Friday 4 March commencing at 2 pm followed by light refreshments. The theme is "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk".

World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organised and led by Christian women who call the faithful together on the first Friday in March each year. A service for everyone

For more information, please visit the World Day of Prayer website

www.wwdp.org.uk



Grave Talk

Saturday 14^h May at The Drive Methodist Church.

from 10-00 to 11 30am.

Grave Talk is a Cafe space to talk about death, dying, funerals and grieving. The session encourages us to consider death as an aspect of life but it is perhaps one that we don't like to think about too often.

Grave Talk offers an opportunity to talk about those issues we perhaps find difficult or have not thought through until we need to. It offers ideas, peer support and the opportunity to share experiences.

Please come along, bring a friend. This open to all the Circuit, all are welcome. Any questions contact Judith on 07586842846

Judith Smith – Pastoral Lay worker

TIME OUT UPDATE SPRING 2022



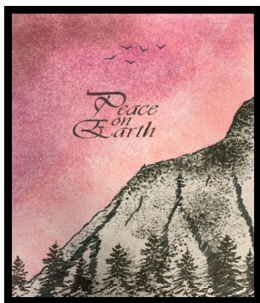
“Time Out is a faith based fellowship group for secondary school aged young people, encouraging them to explore their faith, what it means to them, how it relates to their daily lives and those of the local and worldwide community in which they live”.

The autumn term of 2021 seemed to fly by, with the young people rising to the ever changing challenges and rules of covid19 with great resilience and perseverance.

Our first session back after the summer focused largely on planning and engaging the 11 strong group in different aspects of life at Church Road. Reverend Louise met the young people, introduced herself and then left the group to discuss their preferences in relation to worship styles, times and formats of services which was then fed back via the worship planning group.

It was subsequently agreed at Church Council that a young person from Time Out (who has been confirmed as a member of the Methodist Church) would be elected to represent the young people at Church Council meetings alongside the Time Out leaders. We were delighted that Sophie Hird agreed to be our first elected member and we thank her for her commitment to this role.

We recruited volunteers to be added to the Sunday morning reading rota, the coffee rota and discussed topics they wished to address and projects they would like to tackle in relation to social justice over the winter / spring term.



Over the winter term, we then tackled topics ranging from the “advantages and disadvantages of social media in worship and evangelism”, to Toilet Twinning (see our separate article) and Advent Bible Journaling – some of



you may have seen their artwork during worship or via the church facebook page / website in December.

The planning and roll out of the Christingle Chocolate Orange Appeal quickly followed and the group were thrilled that with the support of the congregation, family and friends, we were able to prepare 200 chocolate oranges with a Christingle message from all at Church Road and an invitation to join us at our annual Christingle Service. These were distributed via Wesley's larder during the two weeks leading up to Christmas and as we were blessed with an abundance

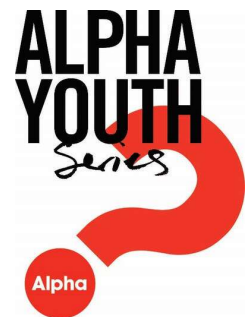


of chocolate oranges, the remainder were distributed to our local neighbours following the Christingle service as we passed the light on Christmas Eve.

We started the New Year with an evening based on the Covenant and the Methodist Covenant Prayer, quickly followed by a movie night as we explored Gods unconditional love. Forthcoming evenings will focus on creation and Bible Journaling in Lent - *keep an eye out for their next creative expressions of their faith!*

Sadly due to ongoing covid restrictions (*coupled with exam revision for some*), our proposed weekend residential was put on the back burner.

However, we have been thrilled that in addition to our regular Time Out meetings, we have been able to launch the Youth Alpha course with the newer, younger members of the group. Five young people have been regularly attending and actively engaging with the course programme. We hope and pray that this may act as a stepping stone in their faith journey, with the potential to explore church membership with Reverend Louise following on from this.



We ask for your continued prayers, support and encouragement for these wonderful young people, the projects they are engaging in and the people these support as well as their own ongoing faith journey as active members of the Church Road family.

*Sharon Hird and Caroline Livesey
Time Out Leaders*

A prayer for peace in Ukraine

Holy and Gracious God, we pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

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

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

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

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ. Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son. Lord have mercy - Amen



Blue for the Loo

Time Out is hosting a week long “**Blue for the Loo Campaign**” at Church Road Methodist from **Monday 28th February until Sunday 6th March.**

Everyone who enjoys social and / or worship activities in the Church and the Hub during the course of the week are encouraged to wear something “Blue for the Loo”, and to “spend a penny” (*suggested minimum donation of £1*).

Cupcakes (50p each) will also be on sale after the service on 6th March and why not buy a quiz sheet for 50p and see how much you know about toilets and poo!?

Although we hope to have fun, our main aim is to raise the profile of the important work of Toilet Twinning and to raise as much money as we can to twin our toilets here at Church Road with villages in need of toilet facilities across the world.

For every £60 we raise, we can twin another toilet. We are blessed with not one but 7 on our premises, so we are aiming high and hope to raise £420 to twin them all!

Have a look at the displays in the Church and the Hub to learn more about the importance of toilet twinning, not just in relation to sanitation and personal hygiene, but for personal safety, especially for children and young women.

We look forward to welcoming you to worship at 9am on 6th March, when we hope that everyone will wear something blue to raise awareness of this important issue, and to share praise and thanksgiving for all our blessings and for monies raised during the course of the week.

For further information / make a donation contact: Sharon Hird or Caroline Livesey: via 01253 738039





- The lack of a toilet makes women and girls a target for sexual attack as they go to the toilet in the open, late at night.
- Every day, over 700 children under five die from diarrhoea linked to unsafe water, sanitation and poor hygiene.
- Today, 1 in 4 people around the world lack safe drinking water. (WHO/UNICEF 2021)
- Children worldwide miss 443 million school days each year because of dirty water and poor sanitation. (UN)
- Every year, women and girls spend 97 billion hours finding a place to go. (World Bank)

<p>1</p> <p>TWIN FOR £60</p>  <p>For just a £60 donation, you can twin your loo with a family's household latrine in a vulnerable community in a country of your choosing.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>GET A CERTIFICATE</p>  <p>Your smallest room becomes the proud owner of a certificate, complete with a photo and GPS coordinates so you can look up your twin's location on Google Maps.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>TRANSFORM LIVES</p>  <p>Toilet Twinning funds the work of international relief and development agency Tearfund. Your donation will be used to provide clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education.</p>
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BUMBLEBEES



Our Bumblebees group restarted in January following the Christmas break. We meet on Tuesday mornings (during term-time) at 9.30a.m. -11.30a.m. in the church. Our weekly activities include play, craft, puzzles and singing for babies and toddlers with their parents/carers.

This term we have also been pleased to support the Church's 'Time Out' group with their 'Blue for the Loo' Campaign. The young people are seeking to raise money for their Toilet Twinning Project. So we asked our members and helpers to help by wearing something blue to Bumblebees on Tues 1st March and by making a donation to this brilliantly worthwhile project.

Some of our helpers and Bumblebees families have benefitted on Tuesdays from the hot meals that are served at lunchtime in Wesley's, as well as the food available in 'The Larder' to take home. Some brand-new school uniform items have also been available to anyone in need of them.

Our group has been gradually growing in size and the decision was made to operate a waiting list. Anyone interested in putting their name down can call in to see us on a Tuesday morning and speak to one of our helpers or else they can text me on 0784092 4882.

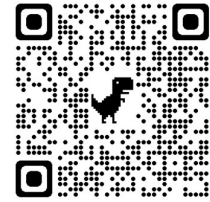
Lesley Turner





Enjoy Traidcraft's carefully curated range of fair trade food and drink, ethical homeware, fashion and crafts – all wrapped up in the new Spring Catalogue.

Copies are available on request from Elaine Watts (tel: 01253 722302) or scan this QR code to download.



Please order from Elaine

FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH , LYTHAM SATURDAY 5 MARCH - 10.30 - 12.30 PM .

Raffle, craft, card and cake stall and a wide range of fairly-traded gifts and foods for sale.
Refreshments. All welcome, please support this event.

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS The Fylde Fairtrade Steering Group would like to raise money to distribute Easter Eggs to various local charities through sales and donations. The price of an individual milk egg is £4.50 and the dark egg £5.50. The eggs contain Fairtrade chocolate.

The 2022 design includes:

- Large 24 page Easter story-activity book
- £200 prize competition
- Super thick milk chocolate egg (150g) with a lovely creamy taste. 35% cocoa.
- Palm Oil free
- Plastic free

Please contact Elaine Watts,(tel: 722302) if you would like to donate one or buy one for personal use.

All proceeds to Traidcraft Exchange.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

The Church Fellowship meets on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 2.15p.m. in Room 2. Other Wednesdays meet with The Drive. All ladies and gentlemen are welcome to join the sessions and enjoy a chat or perhaps play board games followed by a cup of tea.

For more information about the Church Fellowship contact Elaine Watts –
Tel: 722302.

2 March

Favourite poems/stories – The Drive – Community Room 2 p.m.

9 March

Social Afternoon in Room 2 – Church Road 2.15 p.m.

16 March

A Musical Interlude – Andrew Barratt - The Drive – Community Room 2 p.m.

23 March

Social Afternoon in Room 2 – Church Road 2.15 p.m.

30 March

Lancashire Memories – Jim O'Donnell - The Drive – Community Room 2 p.m.

6 April

Social Afternoon in Room 2 – Church Road 2.15 p.m.

13 April

Games Afternoon - Dominoes, Scrabble etc. - The Drive - Community Room 2 p.m.

20 April

No meeting

27 April

An afternoon's entertainment with the Pearsons - The Drive – Community Room 2 p.m.



THE TREK

11th-14th April 2022

In partnership with the Lancashire Methodist District

Join Cliff College as they retrace the route of the last Cliff Trek from 1960. Starting on the Monday of Holy Week in Leyland and finishing on Maundy Thursday in Morecambe, the Trek will cover approximately 10 miles per day. Each evening Revd Ashley Cooper and the Cliff College team will host a celebration worship service. You are invited to walk some or all of the route with the Cliff College team, and to attend any or all of the evening celebration services.

Our local section of the Trek will be on Tuesday 12 April, starting from Lytham Methodist Church at 10 a.m. and walking to Central Methodist Church in Blackpool, with an expected arrival of about 5 p.m.

An intermediate stop will be made at The Drive Methodist Church. The evening celebration service will be held at Central Methodist at 7 p.m.

To join in any part of the Trek, visit
www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/news-events/cliff-trek-april
or scan the QR code below.





Christian Aid Week Appeal 15 - 21 May 2022

Christian Aid is a charity who work with 700 local organisations in around 50 countries in the world. They help poor communities and enable them to deal with hardships, from climate change and the possible threat of natural disasters. Alongside this, Christian Aid also help with the education, sanitation, health, and reconciliation of certain communities.

Christian Aid Week began in 1957, with the aim to encourage public awareness, this led to the Charity adopting the name Christian Aid in 1964. Its aim in the 1960s was to make people aware of the threat of hunger and the possibility of famine.

In 2022, Christian Aid Week will take place from 15th to 21st May.

This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. It recognises that droughts have become more intense and more common because of the changing climate. The impact on the world population is great, as it means that millions of people around the world struggle to get the food and water that they need.

Because of the continuing Coronavirus pandemic Christian Aid Week this year will be a virtual affair. Christian Aid is asking volunteers to host virtual fundraising events such as online bingo, or an online quiz that they are calling Quizian Aid.

Another suggestion from Christian Aid is that people sign up for their 300,000 steps challenge.

Elaine Watts – Church Road Christian Aid Rep

This is Christian Aid

We are a global movement of people, churches and local organisations. We are the changemakers, the peacemakers, the mighty of heart.

PLEASE REMEMBER US WHEN SHOPPING ON-LINE!

Since lockdown, more people have been shopping on-line. If you are too, please remember to support Church Road as you buy. From your weekly shop to home improvements, or even a holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Church Road Methodist Church. There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, Next, B&Q, John Lewis, Expedia, Ebay, Aviva, thetrainline and thousands more – and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

To borrow a well-known marketing slogan – *“Every little helps”*

You can support us by joining at

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churchrdmethodist/



PLEASE REMEMBER

Don't just throw stuff away! We can help others by the simple act of recycling.

OLD SPECTACLES

The charity Vision Aid recycles these and the income generated from them supports their overseas programme



USED POSTAGE STAMPS

These can be sold to raise money for the local branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.



USED OR UNUSED POSTCARDS

These can be sold to raise money for the charity MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship). This is a Christian organisation serving developing countries by using its planes to transport essential medical care, food, water, relief teams and Church workers to those in desperate need.



Please contact Elaine Watts to pass on items for charitable recycling



CHURCH DIARY

WESLEY'S CAFÉ: Every TUESDAY and THURSDAY 10.00am to 1.30pm.
Contact Mike Bennett

BUMBLEBEES: Every TUESDAY in term-time, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for
0-4's with parents and carers. Contact Lesley Turner

MOVEMENT TO MUSIC: Every WEDNESDAY 9.15am to 10.15am and
10.45am to 11.45am. Contact Monica Bissett

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP: Alternate WEDNESDAY afternoons at
2.15p.m. in Room 2. Other Wednesdays meet with The Drive.
Contact Valerie Ball or Elaine Watts

TIME OUT every THIRD SUNDAY of each month at 7.00 p.m. An informal
faith based group for young people 12+. Contact Caroline Livesey or Sharon
Hird

ACTIV8 INFORMAL STYLE WORSHIP on the first SUNDAY of each month. at
9.00a.m. followed by breakfast together. Contact Revd Louise Makin.

aLIVE MUSIC & WORSHIP on the fourth SUNDAY of each month at 6.00 p.m.
Explore God's word through discussion amongst friends and discover new
Christian music styles. Contact Rebekah Derbyshire.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

For up-to-date information about services and church activities, please follow
our monthly news sheet which will be distributed by email. If you do not receive
a copy in this way, please let the Church Office know and we will send you one.
You can also follow us on our website and Facebook.

www.churchroadmethodist.org

Remember you are never alone. We are never more than a phone call or email away.

Rev Louise Makin, Minister, 01253 224232; Judith Smith, Lay Worker 07586 720986