

THE RECORD

SUMMER 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

FATHER OF EVERLASTING GRACE,
your goodness and your truth we praise,
your goodness and your truth we prove ;
 you have, in honour of your Son,
 the gift unspeakable sent down,
the Spirit of life, and power, and love.

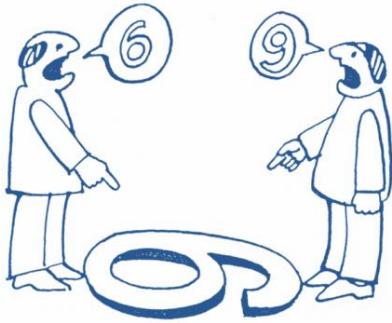
Send us the Spirit of your Son,
to make the depths of Godhead known,
 to make us share the life divine ;
send him the sprinkled blood to apply,
 send him our souls to sanctify,
to bless and seal us with this sign.

So shall we pray, and never cease,
 so shall we thankfully confess
your wisdom, truth, and power, and love,
 with joy unspeakable adore,
and bless and praise you evermore,
and serve you as your hosts above :

Till, added to that heavenly choir,
we raise our songs of triumph higher,
 and praise you with a bolder voice,
out-soar the first-born seraph's flight,
and sing, with all our friends in light,
 with everlasting love rejoice.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

A word from Louise....



Who is right? Of course, they both are, from their own point of view. It shouldn't need to lead to an argument or a falling out. Should it?

Jesus never argued with anyone, if you don't believe me look it up, I did, in the 23 references to argument in my concordance, often scribes or Pharisees tried to argue with him but in all cases Jesus had the kind of answer that pointed out their problems. The disciples argued a lot and Jesus was always there to intervene. Paul had much more to say about arguing, in fact most comments about arguing come from his letters when he is trying either to curb congregations arguing.

"Do everything without complaining and arguing" . Philippians 2:14

Or explaining to people like Timothy why it was important that they try to prevent arguments.

"Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen" . 2 Timothy 2:14

When I was training as a minister as part of a module in Judaism, we were introduced to the way Jews study and argue about different interpretations of the scriptures, they even have a special word for it *"Machloket"*. *Scholars with opposing views sit in front of each other and argue, they listen, they respond, it can get quite rowdy, and they might not succeed in convincing each other but at the end they are still friends.*

There is nothing wrong with a good robust debate, where people set out their views, and are heard. We had this, when we discussed whether to register the church for same sex marriage. And we modelled how to disagree and to live with contradictory convictions when we voted. And

while the churches have all voted in favour we recognise that there are a number of people who do not agree.

“But avoid foolish controversies, arguments about genealogies, quarrels, and fights about the Law. These things are useless and worthless.” Titus 3:9

John Wesley wrote a sermon on it “The catholic spirit” which at 14 pages is a very long winded way to say, we may not all think alike, but if we are all disciples, we can journey together, even if we don’t all agree about everything.

I know I can be pretty blunt about things, I’m a Yorkshire woman, and a spade is a spade... unless it’s a shovel. Coming into a new situation I often see things differently to people who have got so used to things the way they are, they have stopped noticing. Some people find me, very difficult to deal with because I will point it out. But I’m not looking for arguments, I’m trying to understand, I need reasons, and I really struggle when people cannot give me a better reason than “because I like it like that” or “we’ve always done it this way” guess what... you haven’t. I understand the fear of change, the comfort of the familiar, but when simpler, more practical, more theological alternatives are laid before you, I don’t get why people would rather argue not to, than try a different way.

I’m not going to argue that a 6 is a 9, I’m just suggesting that maybe you could recognise that both are right from one point of view and be prepared to accept that there is more than one way to look at things, so be prepared to give something different a try. And maybe be a bit more forgiving of someone who doesn’t understand, why something matters to you if you have never explained it to them.

God bless,

Lowise



WORSHIP SERVICES

JUNE

5th June

9.00 a.m.

PENTECOST

Activ8 led by Judith Smith

12th June

10.30 a.m.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Revd Paul Davis, Chair of the Lancashire District
Service includes the celebration of Holy Communion

19th June

10.30 a.m.

Dr Nigel Evans

26th June

10.30 a.m.

6.00 p.m.

David Turner

aLIVE

JULY

3rd July

9.00 a.m.

ACTIV8: Revd Louise Makin

10th July

10.30 a.m.

Local Arrangement

17th July

10.30 a.m.

Chrissie Pierce

24th July

10.30 a.m.

6.00 p.m.

Claire Harris

aLIVE

31st July

10.30 a.m.

Revd Louise Makin - Holy Communion

WORSHIP SERVICES (cont'd)

AUGUST

7th August

9.15 a.m.

ACTIV8: Revd Louise Makin

14th August

10.30 a.m.

Judith Smith

21st August

10.30 a.m.

Revd Louise Makin - Holy Communion

28th August

10.30 a.m.

CIRCUIT SERVICE at THE DRIVE

Revd Stuart Wild

**District Farewell Service for Revd Paul Davis
Sunday 3 July at 3.00pm at Poulton Methodist Church**

**District Welcome Service for Revd Phil Gough
Saturday 20 August at 4.00pm at Wesley Hall Blackburn**

**Circuit Welcome Service for Revd Andy Halstead
and celebration of the new Circuit
Thursday 1 September, time & venue to be confirmed**

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

MARCH

- 7th Birthday memories of Gordon Porter
- 14th Loving birthday memories of Ross Wells
Audrey Porter, Wedding Day memories of Gordon
Birthday memories of Michael from Valerie
- 21st Loving memories of Muriel Maddocks
- 28th Fond memories of Joyce Lightfoot
Birthday memories of Arthur Nicholson.
Loving memories of Margaret Richmond, Wilfred &
Dorothy Lowe
Treasured memories of Vera Pate

APRIL

- 4th Pauline, Tony and Rachel, treasured birthday memories
of Claire
In loving memory of Eric and Jean Currie
- 18th Treasured memories of Conrad Pate
- 25th Treasured Wedding Anniversary and birthday memories of
Derek Rigby

MAY

- 2nd Diana Thompson, birthday memories of a dear Mummy & Daddy
- 23rd Fond memories of Hannah Nicholson
Rosemary Wells – Wedding Anniversary memories
Sylvia Dibble in loving memory of her parents
The birthday of Margaret Joyce Knight

CHURCH FLOWERS

Any contributions to church flowers should be sent to the Flower Secretary, Miss Elaine Watts. Please make cheques payable to Church Road Methodist Church Flower Fund and include the wording for any dedication that can be inserted in the Church Record.

Thank you to everyone who helps with the arrangement and distribution of flowers each week. After Sunday morning service the flowers are given to the sick, bereaved or someone in need who might appreciate them. If you know of anyone who we should remember with flowers one week, please have a word with Elaine Watts.



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



REVD TERRY HUDSON

We have been saddened by the passing of our former minister Terry. He and Dawn had returned to St. Annes in their retirement and continued to make a contribution to the life of our church.

Terry grew up in Glasgow and was active in the Salvation Army. He served the Methodist Church in many areas of the country, arriving at Church Road in 2005. He was minister here for four years before moving on to Southampton.

His style of preaching projected a deeply personal faith, which together with his use of more modern music and informal worship, provided new inspiration for our congregation. We shall always be grateful to him for sowing the seeds for the redevelopment of the church space and although it was left to his successors to actually see the work to fruition, the open worship space that we now appreciate most certainly started with Terry's vision for Church Road.

Terry was always personable and easy to chat with, always demonstrating his care for his congregation, for their health and their wider spiritual needs. He lived his faith in his concern for others and even in his retirement he continued to visit people and offer friendship and encouragement.

We send our deepest condolences to Dawn, Andrew and Paul and the wider family and pray that they will find strength and comfort in his memory and in the esteem in which he was held by so many people. We shall all miss him, but we thank God for his ministry and his friendship.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Paws for thought

Numbers v 23 – 26

What is retirement? I came so close to it but yet again it has passed me by. The idea of endless days of time on my hands, doing what I want, when I want to do it. Going to bed late and getting up late, but there again Fimber's internal clock seems say it's 6am lets get up, please don't turn over! In fact, Fimber was the



reason I did retire once upon a time as I said to my boss, I can't work and look after a dog so off I went to find the most adorable puppy who in fairness is the most adorable and loving creature I know, but then I am biased.

Many will tell me you'll have no time for doing anything when you retire, you will find you are so busy the days just disappear. Well, I can't think of anything worse so here I am again doing another year as a Lay Worker in the South Fylde and (soon to be) Blackpool Circuit. One day I will retire but I'm afraid retirement at 50 years of age like the Levites just passed me by, it was all a dream.

(I did try knitting!)

Let us pray:

Lord we pray for all older people, in the workplace that they may feel happy and supported.

We pray for those who have to retire early through ill health, and for those who aren't able to see out retirement in the way they had planned.

We thank you for the wisdom, the skills, and talents they bring to working life and thank God for their years of experience.

Be with those who are house bound, in nursing homes and in need of care, those whose lives have born out their faith and love in your service.

In Jesus name, Amen

Judith Smith South Fylde Lay Worker.

MARRIAGE CELEBRATION



Mandy Hall and Stacey Marie Laird

Saturday 21 May 2022

at

Clitheroe United Reformed Church



Congratulations to Mandy and Stacey on their marriage and we send them our very best wishes for their future happiness together.



FORTHCOMING WEDDING

The marriage of Laura Irving and Isaac Moore will take place here at Church Road on **Saturday 27 August at 12.30pm.**

The ceremony will be conducted by
Revd Stephen Heath

The family would like to invite church friends to join them in this service of celebration.

Farewell Service for our retiring District Chair Revd Paul Davis



A final service to mark Paul's retirement will take place at

**Poulton-le-Fylde Methodist Church
Sunday 3 July at 3.00 p.m, followed by a tea.**

We hope as many people as possible will join this celebration of ministry.



Methodist Conference

Summer is conference time!

A conference first met in 1744 under John Wesley, who gathered together his assistants (both ordained ministers and itinerant lay preachers) to confer together about 'what to teach, how to teach, and what to do, i.e. how to regulate our doctrine, discipline and practice.'

Today, the Conference is a gathering of representatives from each Methodist district, along with some who have been elected by the Conference and some ex officio members and representatives of the Youth Assembly. There is a mixture of lay people, ordained presbyters and deacons. Presbyters and deacons also have their own separate gatherings before the main, decision-making session. It is the governing body of the Methodist Church under God. It has responsibility for the government, discipline, management and administration of the life of the Church.

This year, the Methodist Conference will take place in Telford, Shropshire, from 23 -30 June



New President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference for 2022/23

The Revd Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng

The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Graham Thompson to serve as President and Anthony Boateng to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference opens in Telford.

Graham Thompson, said:

"I am overwhelmed by the designation and humbled by the belief that Conference has in me. I will do all I can to serve God and the Church as we discern our path, emerging from the pandemic."

Graham Thompson serves as Chair of the Plymouth and Exeter District, a role which he assumed following his service as Chair of the East Anglia District. Before offering for Methodist ministry, Graham worked as an accountant. He has served in a variety of Circuits, urban and rural, both as Presbyter and Superintendent as well as serving on a variety of Methodist trusts, boards and Connexional committees. He has broad ecumenical experience and is an ecumenical Canon of Exeter Cathedral.

Anthony Boateng is a Local Preacher from the London District, with a passion for social action, politics, church unity, spiritual revival and creative ways of worship. He has been a member of the Conference since 2014. Anthony serves on several committees across the Church including as a convenor of the London District Social Responsibility Commission and member of Church Action for Tax Justice management committee. In his 'day job' Anthony is a caseworker for Ingeus - a government Work and Health Programme.

Anthony Boateng said:

"As a young Ghanaian immigrant who has spent all his life in the Methodist Church, it is an honour and privilege to be given this opportunity by my siblings to serve the church at such a challenging time. I am enthusiastic about stepping into this leadership role, and working alongside the whole Church to discern and move towards God's vision for us in the year ahead."

The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.

CIRCUIT PICNIC

South Fylde and Blackpool churches



SUNDAY 7 AUGUST AT 1.00 P.M.

St. Annes Promenade

on the green between the Beach Café and Denford Avenue

Please bring your own seating and picnic.
Come ready to make friends and have fun!



LANCAHIRE METHODIST DISTRICT

WELCOME SERVICE

Saturday 20 August 2022 at 4.00 p.m

Wesley Hall, Feilden Street, Blackburn

**Please join us as we welcome our new
Interim District Chair Revd Phil Gough**

Presiding Minister – Revd Michaela Youngson

Assistant Secretary of Conference

Preachers – Revd Stephen and Deacon Myrtle Poxon

Former President and Vice President of Conference

CELEBRATION SERVICE FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY & GIFT DAY

**SUNDAY 12 JUNE
at 10.30 a.m.**

We will be celebrating our Church Anniversary and Gift Day on Sunday 12 June with a special morning service at 10.30am, which will include Holy Communion. We are delighted that Revd Paul Davis, the outgoing Chair of the Lancashire District, has agreed to lead us in worship on this special occasion.

Following the service, there will be a Jacob's Join lunch in the restaurant. Contributions of food can be brought to the restaurant before the service - where possible please bring food that is ready to serve.

Everyone is welcome, we do hope that you will be able to attend and share this memorable celebration with us.

GIFT DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Special envelopes (and Gift Aid slips) will be available in church from 5 June and for the following few weeks, to enable members to make an extraordinary donation. If you prefer to make a donation by cheque, please write 'Gift Day 2022' on the reverse, or if making the payment electronically, please input 'Gift Day 2022' in the 'Reference' field.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

We will be offering a Bible Study following the Bible Month material on Isaiah over June and July on a Thursday morning at 11.00 a.m.

These will take place on

Thursdays 16 June, 23 June, 30 June and 7 July.

Everyone welcome.



THANK YOU to all who helped and those who supported our Coffee and Cake morning on Carnival Day Saturday 4 June.

Funds raised will be going towards the purchase of a defibrillator outside the Community Hub entrance.

This will be a useful piece of equipment for church members and those using Wesley's and the Hub, as well as a facility for the local community.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship will be meeting at the Ashton Gardens Café every Wednesday afternoon throughout the summer. All welcome to join us for a drink and a chat between 3 00 pm and 4 00 pm every Wednesday.



VESTRY TEAM

At the General Church Meeting in May, Bill Ellison was appointed as a Church Steward to join the Vestry Team. We are grateful to Bill for volunteering for this role and it will be the second time that he has served in this way.

The team is now Ben Derbyshire, Bill Ellison, Janette Farley, Marie Hawkins, Catherine Irving and Jonathan Livesey

We pray for support for Bill and all the team as they fulfil their duties of leadership in the church. Together, they bring a range of talent and experience to act on our behalf.

Please speak to any of them if you have suggestions or concerns about any aspect of our church life together.

TIME OUT UPDATE SUMMER 2022



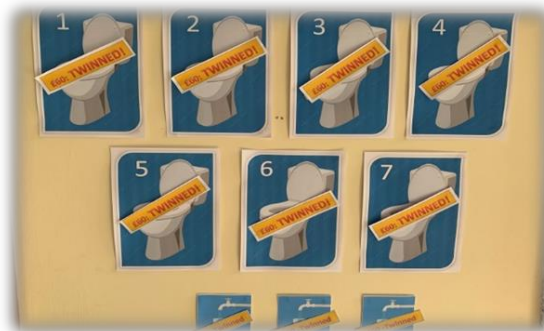
“Time Out is a faith based fellowship group for secondary school aged young people, encouraging them to explore their faith, what it means to them, how it relates to their daily lives and those of the local and worldwide community in which they live”.

Spring is over and the summer term is underway despite what the weather may suggest!

When we last wrote, we were preparing to lead Church Roads “Blue for the Loo” week- long event to raise money for Toilet Twinning. The young people prepared fliers, displays, quiz sheets, baked, with the week brought to a close during an act of Worship led by Rev Louise.



Congratulations to Lesley Turner who won the quiz – never have we seen anyone so excited with a box of chocolates and some toilet cleaner! If you weren’t able to complete the quiz on the day, have a go, it’s quite educational!



The cross generational support from all groups who use the Church and the Hub during the week was amazing! The event was an outstanding success, bringing people together in fellowship and raising a staggering £626! Not only were the 7 toilets twinned as planned but 3 taps as well!



The Church has therefore been awarded the Toilet Twinning Community Award and cloth badges are being made available from the back of the Church for anyone who participated and would like one! The framed pictures, determining where the toilets and taps have been twinned with will be displayed across the premises in the various toilet and kitchen facilities. Have a look at the coordinates – maybe you can spot our toilets / taps on google maps or google earth!

For more information about the invaluable work of Toilet Twinning, please visit

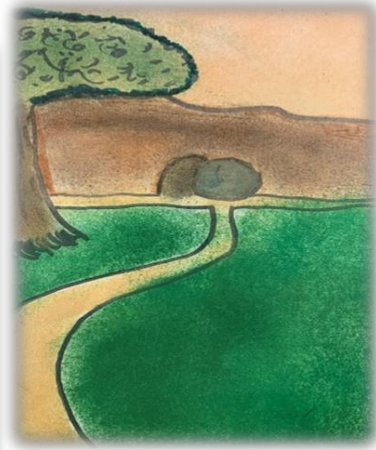
<https://www.toilettwinning.org/>. If you're looking for a special gift for someone, you may want to twin a toilet for them, so we keep spreading the news of their work even though our Blue for the Loo event is over.

Following on from this faith in action project, Time Out has been busier than ever with our core group of 10 young people continuing to meet and journey together.



We shared a film night exploring “love” and Gods unconditional love for each and everyone of us and spent an evening based on creation, exploring “Climate Change and Christianity”. During lent, the young people then spent an evening

Bible journaling as they reflected on the relevance of lent in their own lives. Thank you to the congregation for the Easter Eggs!



Bible journaling was swiftly followed by the long awaited ten pin bowling at the YMCA in Thornton—delayed 3 times due to covid19 - *thank you Colin and Jonathan for supporting us on the night!*



A rather competitive evening of bowling was enjoyed by all—amazing how sport brings out a different side in everyone! Standing in a circle, in glorious sunshine in the YMCA car park, to conclude the evening in prayer was a definite red letter moment.....

Forthcoming sessions are looking equally challenging as we “Step Out in Faith”, exploring Nehemiah, whilst tackling an escape room activity and of course our end of year social – details yet to be revealed!

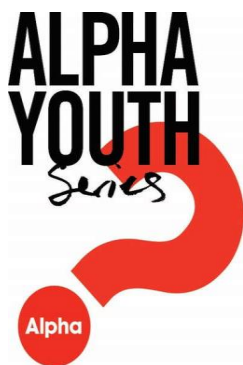


The autumn/ winter term is already looking positive as with the support of the Church, Circuit and District, we are thrilled to be taking 7 of our young

people to 3Generate in Birmingham (MAYC of old!) as part of the Blackpool and South Fylde group.

We also have plans afoot to explore “Personal Relationships with God” and are thrilled that members of the congregation have agreed to join us at Time Out to share their personal faith testimonies.

Thinking caps are also already on, as preparations get underway for our stall at the Church Christmas Fair!



In the meantime, as we previously reported, running alongside the regular Time Out meetings, we have been offering the 13 session Youth Alpha course to the newer, younger members of Time Out. Five young people regularly attend, sharing a meal together before actively engaging with the course programme.

We continue to hope and pray that this may act as a stepping stone in their faith journey and at their request have now arranged an evening with Reverend Louise to explore church membership and public declaration of their faith.

We ask for your continued prayers, support and encouragement for these wonderful young people who are such a vital part of our church family here at Church Road as well as Gods wider family. We ask that you hold up in prayer: those engaged in the Alpha Course who are critically exploring Gods word and what it means in their lives, those facing the challenges of national exams and all the preparation, challenge and anxiety that this can bring and those facing the next step in their educational journey as they move to sixth form college or leave home to commence university.

So that’s us in a nutshell, we may not always be visible en masse but we are here and very much alive and active as part of the Church Road faith community! If you would like to know more about the work of Time Out do not hesitate to contact us, or visit the Church Road Methodist website (*we aim to keep up to date as best we can*)!

Sharon and Caroline

TIME OUT LEADERS





TOILET QUIZ

If you didn't try it the first time, and with apologies to those of a sensitive disposition, here's another chance to test your knowledge of toilet related matters.

1. Over a lifetime, the average person spends how long sitting on the toilet?

- a. 6 months
- b. 18 months
- c. 3 years

2 Who invented the modern toilet in the 16th century?

- a. Sir John Harrington
- b. Queen Elizabeth I
- c. Alexander Cummings

3 Roughly what proportion of your poo, by weight, is made up of water?

- a. a quarter
- b. half
- c. three quarters

4 Who commonly used a sponge on a stick to wipe their bottoms?

- a. the Vikings
- b. North American Indians
- c. the Romans

5 Which of the following is not an alternative word for a potty?

- a. chamber pot
- b. thunder box
- c. plant pot

6 In times past, human wee and dog poo were used in the tanning industry to:

- a. remove hair from animal hides
- b. mask the smell of rotting
- c. animal flesh
- d. colour the skins yellow or brown

7 World Toilet day is on

- a. 17 November
- b. 18 November
- c. 19 November

8 In medical terms, poo can be sorted into 7 types, ranging from Type 1 (separate hard lumps) to Type 7 (entirely liquid). This is known as:

- a. the Bath Chair Scale
- b. the Bristol Stool Scale
- c. the Taunton Throne Scale

9 What's the average number of times per day that people pass wind?

- a. 3
- b. 15
- c. 25

10 Who would meet in loos to discuss business whilst doing their business?

- a. Vikings
- b. Romans
- c. politicians

11 What might happen to your wee if you eat beetroot, rhubarb or blackberries?

- a. it might smell very sweet
- b. it might turn a pinky-red colour
- c. the amount of wee might double

12 The term WC, used as an alternative name for a toilet, stands for:

- a. wee cupboard
- b. water closet
- c. water chamber

13 How many sheets of toilet paper does the average person use in one day?

- a. 29
- b. 57
- c. 76

14 The 'Big Stink' is the name given to:

- a) the time in the 1850s when Parliament had to shut down in the summer because of the smell from the poo in the River Thames
- b) the time in 1936 when a sewage works in London exploded, sending 15 tons of poo over the surrounding houses
- c) the time in 1967 when it was so cold in Scotland that all the pipes froze, causing poo to flow back through the toilets into people's houses

15 2 billion people worldwide don't have anywhere safe, clean or hygienic to go to the loo. This is:

- a) 19% of the world's population
- b) 26% of the world's population
- c) 33% of the world's population

Answers on page 33



BUMBLEBEES

Before breaking up for half-term, the children enjoyed decorating crowns (and wearing them!) in readiness for the Jubilee weekend!

We restart after the break on Tuesday 7 June, meeting in the church at our usual time of 9.30a.m. – 11.30a.m. Activities include toys, slides, playhouse, singing and craft.



We then continue each Tuesday through to 12 July, which will be our final session before the summer holidays.

The group is for 0-4 year olds and their parent/carer. At the present time there is a waiting list and anyone wishing to add their name to the list can call in to see us on a Tuesday morning or text me on 07840 924882.

Lesley Turner



WESLEY'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ & LARDER NEEDS YOUR HELP

Wesley's Community Café and Larder is growing each and every week. We need more volunteers to be able to look after our local people, some of whom are in hunger and some who are deprived of company and conversation.

Wesley's Community Café.

We need volunteers to welcome people into the café and encourage them to get a coffee, a breakfast and even lunch. No special skills required, just the ability to encourage people to come and meet others and also to sit and chat to those who need someone to talk to. If you feel you could help, please speak to Sue or Darren at Wesley's

Wesley's Larder

Stock rotation and storage. Receiving all manner of items on a daily basis from food products to toiletries, to other household items. Unpacking, Organising and stacking so that everything is accessible and relevant to the service to customers at the door.

The Larder "Front-Line". Our customers invariably are needing us to supplement their households with food items to ensure they can feed themselves and their families. The role is the front of Wesley's and we deal with a wide range of people here. The person working here needs to be compassionate and caring and above all to be able to recognise those who are having a difficult time.

In both these situations, if you can help, see Julia and or Elaine

Wesley's Kitchen, is where this all started and Nutrition was the only factor being provided. Now it is a teaching facility, a professional standard cooking facility and a place where team-work is vital.

We need people to help keep the kitchen clean and tidy, to simply operate the Dishwasher, without which the Café would close, due to lack of cups and saucers
People who can or want to help to cook good wholesome food for local people.
SO :- Can't cook ??? Jayne will teach you !!!!
If you want to help cook for the local community, see Jayne.

Tesco collections We collect food every weekday morning from local Tesco stores and always need volunteers to join the "Pick-up Team". So, if you have a car and would like to help in this way, please contact Stewart Franks

If you would like to chat to me personally at any time about getting involved, please contact me: Paul Caddy 07946715246

or speak with Linda Butcher



NORTH WEST & ISLE OF MAN REGIONAL REVIEW

Over recent years, the Districts in the North West have been working more closely together to share resources in support of mission, training and opportunities.

Across the Methodist Connexion, a smaller denomination cannot sustain the current number of District Chairs and regions are being asked to respond creatively to this need to reduce these posts considerably. At a local level, there are also ever-increasing resource pressures.

Proposals are emerging for a regional structure, with work divided between three hubs: a Mission Hub for spiritual leadership, a Service Hub for statutory matters such as property, finance, safeguarding etc and a Ministry Hub for worship and discipleship matters. Work is continuing to develop these new structures. Progress will be reported to the September Synod with a view to a decision at Conference in 2023 for implementation from September 2024.

We will keep you informed of how these proposals progress.

Statement on the Nationality and Borders Act 2022

A statement on behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain, Baptists Together and the United Reformed Church

“We lament the passing of the Nationality and Borders Bill into law. Compelled by the Biblical call to welcome the stranger, our denominations were outspoken in our criticism of the Bill, arguing that it would unjustly remove the rights and threaten the dignity of people who are in need of our nation’s care and protection.

Over the last year, members of our churches have come together with a wide range of people to raise concerns about the government’s proposals, and to stand alongside refugees. Many have also signed up to host refugees from Ukraine, and continue to be involved in welcoming people seeking sanctuary in their own communities. This legislation will not diminish that spirit of compassion, hospitality and solidarity. We know that through such encounters we will learn more about ourselves, each other, and God.

Alongside the practical work of welcome, our Churches will not stop advocating for love to be shown to our neighbours through the policies and practices of our asylum system. We will continue to push the government to open up more safe and legal routes for people who are in need of the sanctuary we can offer here in the UK. Our denominations have also joined hundreds of other organisations and charities in pledging to work towards the repeal of the UK’s ‘anti-refugee’ laws. We remain committed to working with others towards a refugee protection system that treats all people with dignity and compassion.”



THANK YOU

A big thank you to all AFC box holders for raising £227.00 to help support our work during 2021. Unfortunately, for various reasons, the number of box holders has dropped and it would be great to encourage new people to have a box to take their spare change – it soon adds up!

Action for Children works hard to support families living in poverty, vulnerable and neglected children and young people. If you would like to help them with this work, please speak to me at church or contact me on 01253 789217.

*Thank you
Shirley Eade*

News from Action for Children

In March, we launched a new campaign, 'Star in Every Child', which shines a light on the ways we can make a positive difference so that every child has the bright future they deserve. To learn more about it and how you can get involved visit actionforchildren.uk/glowingstars or watch our YouTube video https://youtu.be/HeEicuB_8mw



Brighter Future Ahead?: Three-generational report into top challenges children face

To mark the launch of our 'Star in every child' campaign, Action for Children published a report exploring childhood across three generations.

The report, [Brighter Future Ahead?](#), showed the top challenges and worries children face growing up in the shadow of the pandemic amid a growing cost of living crisis.

Many children are worried about ‘adult issues’ including family finances. Among children surveyed from low-income homes, nearly half (47%) worry about their family’s finances. Children are also now much more worried about their own mental health – up from 29% in 2019 to 42% today, with a sharp rise in parents and grandparents recognising this as a growing issue. Most UK parents and grandparents fear childhood is getting worse – and just over a third of children agree.

Read the report <https://bit.ly/BrighterFutureReport>

The cost of living crisis

Following cuts to Universal Credit, soaring energy bills and prices rising at their fastest rate in 30 years, low-income families are enduring a miserable time.



We've written an open letter to the government ministers asking them to act urgently before this crisis becomes a catastrophe.

Join us; add your name to our letter here: actionforchildren.uk/livingcosts

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

JAMES 2:14-17



How MHA supports older people at risk of loneliness and isolation

“Being members and part of this group has encouraged us to be part of things again following the isolation of the past 2 years.”

The Methodist Church partner charity, MHA, supports 18,000 older people across the UK every day. As the only national care provider to offer connected care and support through specialist care homes, retirement living and community groups, MHA is a leading light in later life care.

Here, Jonathan Mace, Director of Communities for MHA, explains how mental health and wellbeing has been a priority during the pandemic:

“When face-to-face MHA Communities (formerly MHA Live at Home) meetings weren’t possible during the pandemic, we sadly saw a decline in the wellbeing of our members. But this also led to an opportunity for MHA to reach even more older people at risk of loneliness and isolation. We developed Digital Communities, a virtual community created for people aged 55 and over.

This online community is designed to support people feeling isolated or lonely within their own home through a variety of activities promoting social inclusion. Activities include arts and craft, advice around looking after your health, and wellbeing as you get older.

Over the past year the team has created more than 300 pieces of video content, totalling over 200 hours. We have had over 6,000 views on YouTube alone and featured in the social media feeds of more than 47,000 people. This all goes to back up the more traditional face-to-face activities which have been running for a little while now, as well as the continuing befriending services to support older people.

And you don't just have to take MHA's word for how activities provided by its Communities services can help people. There is research to back this up.

Over in MHA Communities North Staffordshire, evaluation of the *Better Together* project showed over 70% of members felt less lonely and isolated. 22 new social groups were set up during the four years of the project. Additionally, over 80% of volunteers felt they had been able to make a difference through their volunteering.

And in the words of some of our members:

"During Covid it was a wonderful boost to receive a phone call or a surprise pack of puzzles etc. Those kept me from feeling too isolated."

"Being members and part of this group has encouraged us to be part of things again following the isolation of the past 2 years."

"Before finding MHA I was depressed, lonely and only went shopping once a week; now I am out all the time. I love being a member."

To find out more about how MHA Communities could help you or someone you know, go to www.mha.org.uk/communities

SUPPORT THE WORK OF MHA

On Sunday 19 June we shall have a collection in aid of MHA, when envelopes will be available for donations towards their work. The money raised will provide extras for residents and helps to improve their quality of life.

The theme for MHA Sunday 2022 is 'Growing together' inspired by Isaiah 43:19

'See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the waste land'.



Over the last couple of years a connection with nature has proved beneficial, which is the reason that MHA has taken it as the theme for this year's MHA Sunday. Gardens have a positive impact on the mental and physical wellbeing of

residents. For people who are wheelchair-bound, for example, the sensory experience of being able to see, touch and smell flowers, plants and to see the change of seasons brings joy and serenity.

Your donation will make a big difference to MHA's life-enhancing services including chaplaincy, music therapy and our community groups.

*Elaine Watts
Church Road Representative for MHA*



80 years of Methodist relief and development

All We Can has served the most marginalised on earth for the last eight decades – since a group of Methodists answered the call of refugees in Europe, in the 1930s.

Our story is about the inherent value and potential in all people. Whether children fleeing tyranny; communities facing extreme poverty, or families hit by disaster, we answer through partnering local innovators, projects and churches to unleash inherent potential.

1930 All We Can traces our roots back to the 1930s, when Methodist minister Henry Carter felt the church had a responsibility to respond to the refugee crisis in Europe. He pioneered the Methodist Refugee Fund as a personal initiative to raise money and collect supplies to relieve hunger and improve conditions among refugees, particularly in Austria and Germany.

1985 The Methodist Relief Fund and World Development Fund were merged to form the Methodist Relief & Development Fund (MRDF). One of our first tasks was to respond to a catastrophic famine in Ethiopia. However, our main work was increasingly about meeting longer-term needs, particularly by supporting adult literacy, basic healthcare, and agricultural training.

2014 On the 8th April 2014, MRDF became All We Can – a new name reflecting our Methodist heritage, as it echoes the famous ‘do all the good you can’ quote attributed to John Wesley. We embraced a new [partnership approach](#), walking alongside our global neighbours in collaboration.

2022 In late February, All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain launched the Ukraine Emergency Appeal, to respond to the urgent needs of Ukrainians following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Since the launch of the appeal, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people from all over the UK. In what was an unprecedented response to an appeal, we received donations from individuals, churches, and community groups and we are so thankful to everyone who donated

Quiz Answers

1.c 2.a 3.c 4.c 5.c 6.a 7.c 8.b 9.b 10.b 11.b 12.b
13.b 14.a 15.b



Flying for Life for 75 years

A milestone in our lifesaving mission

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) was born out of the ashes of WWII when a handful of RAF men dreamed of using aviation to help those living in the most isolated places. Founded in 1945, MAF's early assets were the vision, passion and determination of a handful of pioneers, who shared a love of aviation and strong Christian faith. After rallying funds for MAF's first aircraft in 1948 – a Miles Gemini – Flight Lieutenant Stuart King and former Squadron Leader Jack Hemmings began a six-month mission to explore how aircraft could assist the work of humanitarian missions dotted across Africa. With little more than a map, compass and wartime RAF experience, they encountered hazardous terrain, blistering heat and unimaginable needs.

Since establishing its first mission base in Sudan in 1950, MAF has faced turmoil, hostility and rapid change in Africa, yet has continued to expand to meet growing needs around the world.

Now operating 131 light aircraft in 26 developing countries. Over the last 75 years, MAF has constantly advanced the scope of its operation by modernising its aircraft, equipping its staff and improving its capabilities to become a global leader in humanitarian aviation.

Today MAF is the world's largest humanitarian airline flying to more remote destinations than the top three commercial airlines combined. Every four minutes, an MAF aircraft takes off or lands somewhere in the world.

Please remember, there is a box at the back of church for postcards. These can be sold to help the work of MAF.

If you're shopping on-line at the moment - from your weekly shop to home improvements, or even a future 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, the trainline and thousands more – and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

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 Linda Butcher

BUMBLEBEES: Every TUESDAY until 12 July, 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: Every WEDNESDAY in Ashton Gardens Café
during the summer. All welcome to join us for a drink and a chat between
3 00 pm and 4 00 pm. Contact Valerie Ball or Elaine Watts

TIME OUT at 7.00 p.m. every THIRD SUNDAY of each month. 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

aLIVE at 6.30 p.m. every FOURTH SUNDAY of each month. Explore God's
word through discussion amongst friends and discover new Christian music
styles.

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