

# THE RECORD

SPRING 2024



## CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

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

Superintendent Minister: Revd Stuart Wild  
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*Church Road Methodist Church Registered Charity No 1134109*



An Upper Room did our Lord prepare  
for those he loved until the end ;  
and his disciples still gather there  
to celebrate our Risen Friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own —  
to share his bread, his loving cup ;  
whatever burdens may bow us down,  
he by his cross shall lift us up.

And after supper he washed their feet,  
for service, too, is sacrament ;  
in him our joy shall be made complete —  
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is ! We depart in peace ;  
he loves beyond the uttermost ;  
in every room in our Father's house  
he will be there, as Lord and Host.

*Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)*

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## Letter from our Superintendent Revd Stuart Wild

Dear Friends,

One of the most controversial Sundays of the year is Mothering Sunday. It is held in great affection by many, but for all sorts of reasons, others are less enthusiastic. Mothering Sunday has transformed over the years. Now it is largely a secular occasion where cards, flowers and gifts are exchanged.

However, it originated in the 16th century to encourage people to return once a year to their 'mother church' on the fourth Sunday in Lent in order to renew their faith. Refreshment Sunday as it became known developed because the visit to church was often followed by a visit to the family home after church, with a 'mothering cake', wayside flowers and other small tokens.

In the USA, Mother's Day originated in 1908 after an American woman called Anna Jarvis chose to honour her own late mother. In 1914, US President Woodrow Wilson made a proclamation establishing the second Sunday of May as the official date for the observance of a national day to celebrate mothers. Having heard about this, Constance Penswick Smith established a movement to promote Mothering Sunday in England, collecting and publishing information about the day and its traditional observance throughout the UK. The movement established Mothering Sunday as a widely observed day throughout the British Empire

There is a rather different celebration of Mother's Day in Serbia where it is marked in December, and forms one of a trio of commemorations including Children's and Father's Day on consecutive Sundays. On each occasion, the subject is tied up with rope - Majka (mum) stays tethered until she agrees to supply treats to her children!

Whatever your view on the 2024 version of Mother's Day, it is surely right to give thanks and pray for those blessed with the calling of motherhood; to commend to God those for whom it is a difficult time because they have not been blessed in this way and for those who mourn their mothers and their children. Above all it is a time to give thanks and celebrate the churches and communities who nurture us and our faith as we seek to grow as disciples.

God bless you

*Stuart Wild*

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### **BENEDICT'S RULE FOR LENT**



St. Benedict was a 6th-century monk who wrote a rule of life for his monastic community, which is still followed by many religious orders today. It offers guidance for anyone who wants to live a more spiritual and disciplined life.

During Lent, St. Benedict encouraged his followers to practice prayer, fasting, charity, and reading. He taught them to offer their Lenten sacrifices with joy and gratitude, not with gloom and resentment; with moderation and prudence rather than with excess. *The Rule of St. Benedict*, offers a splendid piece of advice to live our Lent joyfully: “We should stop thinking of our own sufferings and remember what Jesus suffered.”

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*“We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.”*

**Psalm 33:20-22:**

# WORSHIP SERVICES



## MARCH

3rd March  
9.00 a.m.

ACTIV8 led by David Turner

10th March  
10.30 a.m.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
Fred Jackson

17th March  
10.30 a.m.

Revd Stuart Wild  
including the celebration of Holy Communion

24th March  
10.30 a.m.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
Sue Leach

28<sup>th</sup> March  
6.00 p.m

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
Service of Reflection

29th March  
10.30 a.m

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
United Ecumenical Service at The Drive

31<sup>st</sup> March  
**9.30 a.m.**

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
Revd Stuart Wild  
including the celebration of Holy Communion  
*(please note the earlier start time for this service)*

# WORSHIP SERVICES



## APRIL

7th April  
9.00 a.m.

Activ8 led by Judith Smith

14<sup>th</sup> April  
10.30 a.m.

Revd Stuart Wild  
including the celebration of Holy Communion

21<sup>st</sup> April  
10.30 a.m.

Revd David Tidswell

28<sup>th</sup> April  
10.30 a.m.

Heather Draper

## **ACTIV8**



Our monthly informal service of early morning worship is on the **first Sunday of each month** at 9.00 a.m. A time of warm fellowship with associated activities for children followed by breakfast. There will be **no** service at 10:30am at Church Road, but those wishing to attend a traditional service are encouraged to go to The Drive.

# WORSHIP SERVICES



**MAY**

5<sup>th</sup> May

9.00 a.m.

ACTIV8 led by Revd Stuart Wild

12<sup>th</sup> May

10.30 a.m.

Clare Harris

19<sup>th</sup> May

10.30 a.m.

**PENTECOST**

Local Arrangements

26<sup>th</sup> May

10.30 a.m.

Revd Janet Pybon

Service includes Holy Communion

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him  
must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24

# FLOWER DEDICATIONS

## DECEMBER

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



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

## JANUARY

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

17<sup>th</sup> Loving memories of Derek Rigby

24<sup>th</sup> Loving memories of Len Wild from Joan, Steven and family

## FEBRUARY

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

14<sup>th</sup> Anne & John Mayes in memory of Anne's parents







## **MANDY LAIRD-HALL**



We also heard recently of the passing in 2023 of both Dennis and Jean Grundy, former members of Church Road who moved to the Isle of Man several years ago.

**We remember all those in our community who have recently passed away and offer our prayers and sympathies to all those experiencing bereavement and remembering loved ones.**

*“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.



## MANDY LAIRD-HALL

We have been shocked and saddened by the sudden and early passing of Mandy Laird-Hall. Mandy had attended Church Road since her childhood, growing up in the Sunday School and Youth Fellowship and later participating in our church life with her son Oliver. In 1993 she established the Emily Laws School of Acting (ELSA), encouraging confidence and love of performance in generations of young people in the town. Recently, she had been fulfilling the role of lay worker at South Shore and The Drive Methodist churches, where she had been bringing her natural enthusiasm, her faith and her care for other people to those communities.

With her larger-than-life personality, her infectious laugh and often ridiculous sense of humour, Mandy has contributed so much, not only to our churches in this circuit, but to the wider community through her talent for amateur dramatics and her encouragement of young people.

Over 300 people attended her funeral at Church Road on 12 February in a moving tribute in words and music to a remarkable person.

We remember Mandy with affection, remembering also in our prayers at this sad time all her friends and family, especially Mandy's wife Stacey, son Oliver, brother Gary, sister Yvonne and all their families.

Save the date....

**SATURDAY 31 AUGUST at 2.30 p.m.  
VICTORIA HALL BOLTON BL1 2AS**

This event is an opportunity to celebrate as five Methodist Districts join to form the North West England District. The event will include the welcome service for the Revd Dr. James Tebbutt, the District Chair (subject to confirmation at the Methodist Conference) and the wider District Team will also be welcomed. The preacher will be the President of Conference.

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## **PREPARING FOR THE NEW DISTRICT**

### **THE EQUIP SERIES**

Everyone is welcome to join this webinar and be fully informed as we move towards the launch of the North West England District.

**FIRST SESSION ON  
TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024  
7.30PM to 8.30PM**

*(Log On from 7.20pm for a 7.30pm start)*

The evening will include:

- Devotions Space to be equipped spiritually
- An update from Revd Dr James Tebbutt, our new District Chair (subject to Methodist Conference)
- An update from each sub group, to increase our knowledge and understanding of how the new district will look and feel
- A question and answer session

Joining details and dates for future events will be available shortly from [nwedcommunications@outlook.com](mailto:nwedcommunications@outlook.com) or speak to Janette Farley

## LIVERPOOL DISTRICT

### Becoming a Justice Seeking Church



The Liverpool District is pleased to announce that Rachel Lampard, a former Vice-President of Conference (and of course the daughter of our former Minister, the Revd John Lampard) will be leading two sessions on Zoom entitled *Becoming a Justice Seeking Church*. Rachel is passionate about social justice and is an excellent speaker, so this is an opportunity to hear more about her views and ideas from the comfort of your own living room.

These will be on Wednesday 28th February and Monday 18th March 2024, between 7.00 and 9.00 p.m.

The titles of the two interactive sessions are:

1. What is the relevance of Micah 6.8 for the 21st century?
2. How do we become a justice seeking Church?'

Here are codes and link to join the event

Topic: Becoming a Justice Seeking Church

Time: 7pm to 9pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99510019385?pwd=OUU1SmZqdU5xbUgvZ2x6WEsxOEpmZz09>

Meeting ID: 995 1001 9385

Passcode: 201504

#### ***Micah 6:8 NIV***

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

## **BLACKPOOL & SOUTH FYLDE CIRCUIT NEWS**



We are delighted to announce that Rev Michaela Barker will be join the circuit team from Sept 1st . Michaela is completing her ministerial studies at Queen's College, Birmingham and will have pastoral charge of Kirkham and Fairhaven Methodist Churches.

Please pray for Michaela and her husband Gary as they prepare to join us here in Blackpool and South Fylde Circuit



### **A prayer from the President and Vice-President of Conference for Israel and Palestine**

God of peace and compassion,  
We pray for all impacted by the escalation in conflict in Israel-Palestine  
For all who are mourning  
For all who are fearful, today, and for what may lie ahead  
For all traumatised and re-traumatised by what they have experienced.  
Enable us to stand in solidarity with people of peace  
May your Spirit bring peace and healing to your troubled world

**Amen**

## LENT BIBLE STUDY 2024



**Monday afternoons at 2 p.m.** at The Drive Methodist Church, continuing weekly until Monday 25 March.

**Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m** at Fairhaven Methodist Church, continuing weekly until Wednesday 27 March.

## TRUE FREEDOM

True Freedom, a six-week course for Lent, draws on themes from the book of Galatians, and encourages individuals and churches to respond to modern slavery in their communities.

True Freedom includes:

- a short Bible study on the book of Galatians
- a reflection written by Revd Dr Kenneth Mtata (WCC Programme Director for Public Witness and Diakonia) and Bishop Alastair Redfern (Chair of The Clewer Initiative)
- questions for group discussion or personal reflection
- victim stories
- a prayer
- art work to contemplate and discuss
- case studies from churches in the UK, Italy, Tanzania, Hong Kong, Ghana, Uruguay, Jamaica and the Cayman Island.
- information and statistics about modern slavery
- action points that are appropriate for different contexts.

The material is available on <https://www.truefreedom24.com/>

**Everyone is welcome to attend any of these sessions as  
the series progresses**

# Paws for thought 11

*by Judith Smith*

## Proverbs 3 v 13-18

I'm sure you've experienced opening your Bible and thought you might find a verse to offer some wisdom. In my case, a piece for the church magazine. Well, mine opened in Proverbs, a book full of wisdom so let me share what it says today; 'She (Wisdom) is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her'. (v 18)

I've just bought two trees this morning, a cherry and a plum but it is far too wet and threatening snow as I write this to go out planting. However, spring is on its way and I am ever hopeful that in time they will give me a bountiful harvest, with a bit of love and care. Which, I think is what the writer of Proverbs is trying to tell us when he says true wealth and happiness doesn't come with riches and jewels but with love and care, which are lifelong companions to the way we live our lives.

We meet many companions in our lifetime, family, friends, pets, and strangers and they make up part of the root and branches of our tree of life. I like that word companions, it somehow lends itself to that togetherness, which means we are not alone on life's journey. In all our relationships we need to be open to Christ and allow him to change and transform us so that we might grow both physically and spiritually, bearing good fruit.

We plant and grow in so many ways, they are the things we should hold onto and treasure for they will make us happy.

StF 619 by Gary Hopkins

*Thanks for friends who keep on loving,  
Finding ways to help us grow,  
celebrating our achievements,  
sharing in our pain and woe,  
God is glimpsed where love is faithful:  
Mirrored here in time and space.  
Thanks to God for friends that love us  
Christ revealed in every face.*



*Judith with friends, Barnaby and Fimber*

## Christmas Light Project 2023 and Beyond



A sub group of the Church Life committee prepared 300 “light bags” containing details of our Christmas services, a tea light, prayer card and information explaining the bag!

Following the Activ8 service on the first Sunday in advent, members of the congregation delivered approximately 80-100 bags to the Hub for distribution via Wesley’s and the remainder to homes surrounding the church boundary. A big thank you to all who ventured out to complete the deliveries, those who prayed for the people receiving the bags and those with the hot chocolate and pastries awaiting our safe arrival back at church!



On December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm in the dark and rain members of Time Out and their families gathered outside the Hub, to launch the project. They lit their own tealights and read together, the prayer that had been distributed.



The impact of a project of this kind is never truly known we can only step out in faith, however we do have some examples of how people responded. A message was received via social media on Christmas Eve with this photo attached that read “...thank you to the Methodist Church for our little candle to light

at 7pm on Sundays (at least for December ...) Merry Christmas to all”

The Christingle service itself continued the theme of light and was shared by an amazing 144 strong congregation, friends of old, familiar faces as well as new faces, some responding directly to the invite from the Light project -alleluia!

*So what now? How does the Church Road family fan these sparks into flames .....*



**Church Life “Light Project”  
Sub Group**

**“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by the spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”**

-Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), theologian & medical missionary



**Come  
and  
Sing**

**THE**

**ST ANNE'S  
PARISH  
CHURCH  
FY8 3BA**

# **Crucifixion**

*supporting*



**Save the Children®**

Join the choristers-  
Registration: 1.45pm  
Please pre-book:  
[crucifixion.aid@gmail.com](mailto:crucifixion.aid@gmail.com)  
Rehearsal: 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Please bring as many  
supportive friends as  
possible to our 7pm  
performance.

**Save The Children**  
Registered Charity  
no:213890

Refreshments available  
along with additional  
collection points for Save  
The Children.

**Sunday 17th  
March 2024**

**For more details  
please contact  
07922 826 571 or  
01253 722366**

**Choristers'  
Donation £10.00  
Audience  
Donation £5.00**



### **PALM SUNDAY** – Jesus enters Jerusalem

*“The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’”*

(Matthew 21:6-9).

### **MONDAY** – Jesus in the Temple

*“And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers”*

(Matthew 21:12-13).

### **TUESDAY** - Jesus talks with His disciples on the Mount of Olives

*“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him”*

(Matthew 24:42-44).

### **WEDNESDAY** - Judas makes an agreement to betray Jesus

*“...the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present”*

(Luke 22:2-6).

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY** - The Last Supper

*“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take it; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,’ he said to them. ‘Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.’ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives”*

(Mark 14:22-26).

## **GOOD FRIDAY** - Jesus is condemned to be crucified

*“It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews ... With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, ‘Surely this man was the Son of God!’”*

(Mark 15:25-26, 37-39).

## **HOLY SATURDAY** - The Sabbath is observed

*“The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment”*

(Luke 23:55-56).

## **EASTER SUNDAY – HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

*“Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, ‘Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?’ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ‘Don’t be alarmed,’ he said. ‘You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him’”*

(Mark 16:2-6)



**Celebrate the Risen Lord!**

## *EASTER SUNDAY*

**MARCH 31 at 9.30 A.M.**

led by Revd Stuart Wild

*including the celebration of Holy Communion*

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## **A Sunday in the Life of Church Road Methodist Church**



It is early on a winter's Sunday morning and all is peaceful and quiet.

If we look around, we see one of the **flower ladies** has been in yesterday, and arranged some beautiful fresh flowers at the front of the church, to enhance our worship. If it is a Holy Communion service, the **Communion Stewards** will also have been in the day before to prepare the elements – crisp

white cloth on the table, wine in glasses, chalice and plate at the ready, and baskets for the used cups at each side.

At the back of church, the window display is looking lovely, and so is the Prayer Transept, thanks to our creative '**Display Team**' (not the sort who ride motorcycles in breath-taking formations...)

The silence is broken by a ping and several whirrs as the heating system kicks into action. This is because **somebody** has programmed it to do so – and changed the settings when necessary.

Around 9.30am, the **Duty Steward arrives**, via the Hub. The **rota person** has already drafted the Stewards rota, having sought information from the stewards as to when they are or are not available. If the **Stewards** haven't

already been in to move the chairs from 'Bumblebees' configuration into worship set-up, they do it now, possibly by themselves until the **Assistant Steward** comes.

The **coffee rota person** arrives at the front door and the Duty Steward lets them in. The Steward has also put the refreshment tables and chairs out if there has been time. The coffee person sets out all the cups, ensures there is enough milk and prepares the biscuits etc. Oh - and switches the boiler on!

In come the **door stewards** to welcome all those coming to worship with a smile and a greeting. That person is unfamiliar – they had better alert the stewards to a newcomer!

Meanwhile the **Stewards** have checked the toilets are clean and supplied with sufficient 'consumables', set glasses of water out for preacher and reader, and switched the required lights on. As worship time draws near, they light the candle on the table.

The **sound engineer** wheels the console out of storage and wires it up. (This will continue until we have the money to build it into a proper sound desk) They prepare the mics for the preacher and reader and carry out 'testing, testing, 1,2,3'.

As the congregation arrives, they may find some copies of the monthly notices or quarterly Record available. These will have been compiled and edited by our **Publications Team** (yes I have just made that name up – they know who they are!) mainly from material passed onto them by **others**.

The **projectionist** sets up their laptop. They have already prepared the slides for the service, including hymn words, Communion service words as required, and any additional images, videos or sound clips required by the preacher. The **rolling news person** has already updated those slides, including any relevant notices, and sent them to the projectionist.

The **JKids Teachers and Helpers** enter, possibly via the Hub, to set up the material and activities that they have prepared in advance for an unknowable number of children and young people!

The **Reader** arrives and ensures the right Bible or their own printout is ready for them on the lectern.

**(Others** have already drafted rotas for sound, projection and readers.)

The **organist** arrives, or the **band**. We don't have a resident organist so the **organ rota person** has already scoured qualified people they know to fill all the

vacant slots. If it is a week for the band, the **musicians** have already been in to set up their kit. Both will have practised the songs we are to sing.

The **preacher** arrives (**Duty Steward** breathes a sigh of relief – if the preacher doesn't turn up, it's down to them to lead worship!). The Stewards welcome them and show them into the Vestry, if they wish. They resolve any last minute queries about the arrangements.

At about 5 minutes before the start of the service, the preacher and Duty Steward go into the Vestry to pray.

Then the service starts, and it all proceeds as if by clockwork (hopefully!), including a Steward bringing the offertory forward for dedication, and the Communion Stewards showing people, row by row, when to walk up to receive the bread and wine.

At the end of the service, the **tea/coffee servers** spring into action. A **steward** asks the preacher what they would like to drink, and the rest tuck in.

The **flower person** wraps them up and identifies a deserving person to receive them this week.

After the service, the **Duty Steward** collects the offertory and any other donations. Later, the **counting and banking team** will input the amounts onto spreadsheets under the appropriate headings and take it all safely to the bank. (Fingers crossed the cashier comes to the same total!). They then send the completed spreadsheets to the **Treasurer**. (*Our Treasurer is not even a member of this church. They are also Circuit Treasurer. We need our own Treasurer to take over in the next few months*)

If anyone has noticed an issue with the fabric of the building, a Steward will notify the **Property Steward** as soon as possible. (*Our Property Steward is not even a member of this church; he is also a Circuit Steward. We need our own Property Steward to take over in the next few months*)

As people finish their refreshments and chats, and the cups and glasses are being washed up by the **coffee servers** - usually **many people** help put the chairs back ready for the **Bumblebees Team** and their customers, and put the coffee tables and chairs away, so the cleaners (external) can do their job properly. Thanks folks!

Finally, the **Duty Steward** extinguishes all lights, checks the toilet again and bolts the main doors. They exit via the Hub, checking lights and toilets etc there.

The heating has clicked off. After all the bustling activity, some seen - some behind the scenes, peaceful silence returns to the church.

Would you have imagined that so many different people were involved in our regular Sunday worship? A small army is engaged in both preparation and delivery – but there are gaps in the ranks. Could **YOU** join up to help sometimes?



**If you feel you can help us to maintain our worship here at Church Road, please speak with Revd Stuart Wild or Janette Farley, to find out more.**



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## **CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE**

At the recent Church Council meeting, it was decided to re-convene the Church Life group and a meeting is planned for **Monday 11 March at 7pm.**

We will be paying particular attention to social/church activities that can help to raise some funding for the church. Like everything, prices have been going up recently and as a church we are struggling to meet the running costs at this time.

Please think prayerfully about how you might be able to support the work of this group and if possible, come along to the meeting. If you can't come but have any ideas, please let us know about them. Just have a word with a Church Steward or myself. Thank you.

*Judith Smith Tel 07586 842846  
Church Life Co-ordinator*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW LAYWORKER IN WESLEY'S



**Hello everyone.....**

My name is Bernice Smith, I am a local preacher on trial within the North Fylde Circuit. My home Church is Thornton Methodist, where I have been a member for over 12 years. I have 3 adult children who between them, have blessed me with 5 grandchildren.

Late last year I applied for the role of “A Lay-worker-Befriender” within the Blackpool and South Fylde Circuit and I was thrilled to have been successful. I now work 10 hours in Wesley’s Community Hub and 10 hours in New Central and I would like to share my experiences to date.

For me, being a “Befriender” for our Churches is a great privilege. To be able to sit alongside those who may be lonely, struggling, or in need of support is both rewarding and challenging at the same time. My day involves, building relationships, with not only those who walk through the doors but also with the volunteers. It is a two-way process and building trust does not come easy to those who find themselves in vulnerable situations, or who may have felt betrayed by those they have trusted in the past. They could have been wary of me being employed by “the Church”; they could wonder if I am going to try and “convert them”. But don’t get me wrong, that would be amazing!

Whilst I have been in post, I am learning the importance of the art of “listening” to show empathy and compassion and over the weeks, I am seeing that the clients are now coming over to sit with me and are sharing some very difficult conversations. I have also realised in such a short time that these facilities are much needed; they create a warm and safe environment for all who come through our doors.

Should anyone like to come and have a cup of tea/coffee with me, I am in Wesley’s on Tuesdays and Friday from 9 am till 2 pm. I would love to see you!

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as a “Befriender” and look forward to continuing to serve the Church in this way. For me, the chorus from Singing the Faith 699: God of Justice, says it all:

*We must go, live to feed the hungry,  
Stand beside the broken, we must go.  
Stepping forward, keep us from just singing,  
move us into action  
We must go.*

Thank you, Bernice



## Time Out



*“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”.*

At our last time of writing, our autumn term was nearing an end and we were heading into our winter activities.

Preparation was soon underway for Time Outs contribution to the church Christmas Fayre. The Christmas tree center piece had been in the making for some time – were you at the harvest lunch, was your outline of a Christmas tree chosen for the final template – did you recognize your handy work?! The Time Out elves continued to work hard to prepare the gifts to hang on the tree and were thrilled to completely sell out, raising £150 towards the grand total! Plans for 2024 are already in progress and the elves have already been hard at work in the workshop .....quite literally!



November led to escape room adventures based on the theme of advent. Thankfully all escaped unscathed, although some definite cheating went on amidst the noise and the chaos! In their defence, some of the challenges and clues were more complex than even we had first anticipated and had taken several hours for us to decipher even with the answers to hand! Great perseverance and resilience all round!



Continuing into advent, Time Out members helped to deliver approximately 200 bags around the church boundary as part of the Christmas Light project. It was therefore a great privilege for the group, to launch the event at 7pm on 10<sup>th</sup> December –

*Please see earlier article about the project in this edition.*



The annual Christmas Social for Time Out members and their families was attended by 30 guests in total. The movie theme seemed to go down well, as did the buffet! Picture and music rounds, cryptic quizzes, action games and taste challenges were all thrown in the mix. This evening of shared fellowship is always such a special time, allowing us to draw together afterwards in a time of quiet prayer before the usual chaos resumes!

We are so grateful to all the families involved for their ongoing support and encouragement: provision of resources, sharing of their time and talents, taxi driving..... we could go on .... put simply “thank you” for helping us to help these wonderful young people to grow and enabling their light to shine.



A short time later and it was time for the



young people to share the light, as they met together on 23<sup>rd</sup> December to prepare the Christingles and compete in more games over hot chocolate before returning on Christmas Eve to distribute the Christingles during worship.

The theme of Light in the Darkness carried through last year’s advent liturgies, the Light Project and the Christingle service, being further carried forward into the new year as we visited the Chapel in the Fields, Altrincham for a day’s retreat led by Rev Kevin and Jane Johnson. 7 of our 12 young people were able to attend and fully participated in all that was asked of them with caring and open hearts and minds. They shared in time of personal reflection and prayer within the Chapel, outdoors on the Trans Pennine Way and through creative medium within



the workshop. Outreach in terms of preparation for the 2024 Christmas Fayre was also thrown in the mix (*nothing like a bit of advanced planning!*).



The day drew to a close as we gathered together, using the products they had created in

worship and prayer.

*Due to technical difficulties, there has been a delay in releasing the short movie style trailer of the day – look out for the link in electronic notices and on the church website!*



We cannot thank the congregation and church members enough for this opportunity. It was a very emotional and uplifting day that no amount of words could give justice to. As a church we should be so proud of each and every one of them and give thanks for the true blessing they are to our church family.

As for the spring and summer what's to come .... our theme continues to build from Christmas as we move from darkness and light to explore peace, love, hope and joy... through movies, creative expression, intergenerational work, sport and more!

*Sharon and Caroline*  
Sharon Hird and Caroline Livesey  
TIME OUT LEADERS



**St. Annes  
United Reformed Church  
at 2.00 p.m.**

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. This year the service was prepared by Christian women of Palestine and will be held at St Annes United Reformed Church at 2.00 p.m, followed by refreshments in the hall

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## **BUMBLEBEES**

*Baby and Toddler Group*

We now have a slightly earlier starting time at Bumblebees. Doors are open from 9.15 a.m. This is to make the timing better for parents/carers who drop older children off at school on their way. We now meet in the church from 9.15 a.m.- 11.30 a.m. every Tuesday in term time. Please note, we will be closed on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April for the Easter Holiday and we start again on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Activities for the children include: slides, playhouse, train set, dressing up clothes, crafts, sand tray, puzzles and baby toys.

Anyone interested in joining us, is welcome to come along with their baby/child any Tuesday morning to meet us and to find out more about the group.

Refreshments available for adults and toddlers.  
Cost £2 for an adult with one child (plus £1 per extra child)

*Lesley Turner*

# Churches Together in St Anne's

## Future Events - Spring / Summer 2024

**GOOD FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March** - All churches are again encouraged to form a **procession** from their building, with a cross, to meet in St Anne's Square by 12 noon. A **joint service** will be led by Fylde Christian Service Church, with support from other churches.

### **THY KINGDOM COME 2024 – (9<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May)**

**Prayer Stations** will be organised at one or more of our churches. Stay tuned for details!

**PENTECOST Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May** - The successful '**Walk of Witness**' around Ashton Gardens will be repeated again this year, with banners and singing and a following service in the garden of the United Reformed Church.

**ST ANNES CARNIVAL WEEKEND Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June** – We plan another '**walking float**' for the Saturday procession, and maybe repeat our triumphal first prize win (The Clifton Trophy) in the 'charity and faith' section!

The **stall** in Ashton Gardens will be manned on both afternoons, with information and activities.



***Please join in and help make these events a source of blessing for the people of St Anne's!***



Each year, the Methodist Church holds an Easter Offering dedication service. This tradition dates back to 1883, when women in Manchester collected £32 for missionary work overseas from 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas Day. Since then, each successive Methodist women's movement has encouraged donations in support of God's mission, recently by way of an annual service of dedication, often used widely around the Connexion as a circuit service.

All the money raised through the Easter Offering goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Great Britain for work in our Partner Churches around the world.

**“But let justice roll on like a river,  
righteousness like a never-failing stream!”**

Amos 5:24

Methodist Women in Britain, as a justice-seeking charity, has chosen the theme 'Let Justice Roll' for this year's Easter Offering Service.

This **Easter Offering 2024** service tells stories of people standing for justice, persisting in the face of setbacks and taking up the challenge anew as circumstances change. Some stories show how people now have hope because justice has 'rolled' into their lives.

**Let Justice Roll** offers churches, circuits and districts a celebration of God's just purposes across the wider world. It includes the dedication of the Easter Offering, all of which goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain, supporting and working with over 100 Partner Churches and organisations around the world.

### Looking for some Lent reflections?

Methodist Women in Britain have produced seven reflections for the seven weeks of Lent.

You can use these Lent reflections as they lead towards the Easter Offering 2024 service and its resources. Find the Lent reflections at [mwib.org.uk](http://mwib.org.uk)

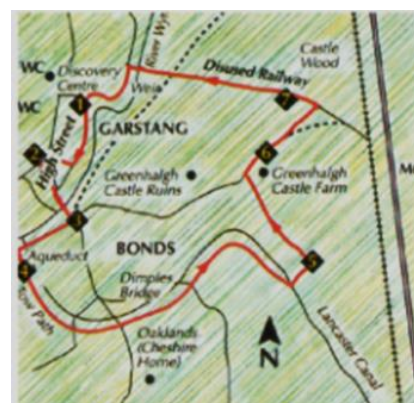
The circuit Easter Offering service will take place in May. **Watch out in the notices for more information about this year's theme and the date of the service.**

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## ACTIV8 WALKS ARE RESTARTING!

The next one will be on **SUNDAY 3 MARCH**  
An easy 3.3 mile walk taking in Garstang and the Lancaster Canal.

**Meet at the Car Park behind the Discovery Centre, off Garstang High Street at 12:30 p.m.**



Remember – all ACTIV8 walks come with a rain-free guarantee !! 🤔  
So why not come along and join us and bring your friends.

Further information from Bill Ellison, telephone 07969 168205

**LOOK OUT FOR DETAILS OF FUTURE WALKS**



## LADIES FELLOWSHIP AT THE DRIVE

The Church Fellowship meets on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 2.15p.m. in the Community Room at The Drive Methodist Church. All ladies are welcome to join the sessions and enjoy an interesting afternoon, a chat followed by a cup of tea.

### MARCH

6<sup>th</sup> Six months in Kenya – Jenny Butcher

20<sup>th</sup> Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) – Stan Chedzoy

### APRIL

3<sup>rd</sup> Recycling Lives – Brian Mayne

17<sup>th</sup> Quiz Afternoon

### MAY

1st An afternoon with Stuart Wild

15<sup>th</sup> A.G.M.

For more information, please contact Elaine Watts – Tel: 722302.

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### THE REAL EASTER EGG

Once again, the Fylde Fairtrade Steering Group would like to raise money to purchase Fairtrade “Real Easter Eggs” which they hope to distribute to Fylde Coast Women’s Aid and Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Home Start.

The Easter Eggs are made with Fairtrade chocolate and a 24-page Easter Story Activity book is included with each one. The cost per egg is £4.50 and for every 10 eggs sold the group can donate an extra egg.

**Please see Elaine Watts by 10 March if you would like to place an order.**





**THANK YOU** to all AFC box holders for supporting this worthwhile charity. With your donations, the total collected for 2023 was £314. Your support is greatly appreciated.

If anyone would like a box for your loose change to help support children and families in need, please see Shirley Eade, or contact her on 01253 789217

- *No child should go hungry.*
- *No child should be cold in their own home.*
- *No child should have to go without the essentials*

For every £1 **Action for Children** spend, 86p goes directly towards helping children, young people and their families. Our supporters help fund a huge range of programmes – from schemes preventing neglect to mental health support.

**Thank you for your support.**



## **Christian Aid Week Appeal 12 - 18 May 2024**

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 and 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.

This year, Christian Aid Week will focus on the cost-of-living crisis faced by many people around the world. The focus is on how rising food costs affect people living in Malawi, and how Christian Aid partners are supporting farmers and their families with the pigeon pea: a low-cost, resilient crop that can help defend against drought and other dangers of climate change.

However we fundraise, act or pray this Christian Aid Week, remember that together, we **will** beat extreme poverty.

**Envelopes for your donations for the work of Christian Aid will be available in church on Sunday 12 May.**

**Please pray for the work of Christian Aid and give as generously as you can.**



***WESLEY'S COMMUNITY LARDER*** are in urgent need of more tins to strengthen their supplies to enable them to continue offering support for local people in food poverty.

***If you can slip a few extra items into your shopping, please drop off at Wesley's on Monday – Friday mornings or leave at the back of church on Sundays.***



**FOR ANY YOUNG PEOPLE THAT YOU KNOW.**

**PLEASE PASS ON THIS INVITATION.....**



**INVITE YOU TO**

# **STEP INTO EASTER**

**A VISUAL, INTERACTIVE, IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE  
FOR ALL AGES 9+**

**JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY JESUS TOOK TO THE CROSS**

**Thursday 21st March 7.15  
Fylde Christian Service Church  
46 St Andrews Road  
Lytham St Annes  
FY8 1PS**

**TELLING THE NEXT GENERATION THE  
PRAISEWORTHY DEEDS OF THE LORD**

**For more information contact Sue Richards:  
sue4bsyw@yahoo.co.uk**



# CHURCH DIARY

**WESLEY'S CAFÉ:** Every MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY from 9.30am to 2.00pm.

**BUMBLEBEES:** Every TUESDAY in term-time, 9.15a.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

**LADIES FELLOWSHIP AT THE DRIVE:** Alternate WEDNESDAY afternoons at 2.15p.m. in the Community Room at The Drive Methodist Church. Contact 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.

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**THANK YOU** to all those who have contributed to this edition of The Record. We aim to keep you up to date with what's going on in the Church and to offer other items of interest. Contributions from members of the congregation are always gratefully received.

*Stuart Wrigley, Editor*

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The Summer 2024 edition of the Record will be published at the beginning of June. The deadline for contributions will be

**Sunday 26 May 2024**

Please send articles to the Church Office, by email if possible.

[churchroadmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:churchroadmethodist@gmail.com)