

THE RECORD

SPRING 2023



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



Christ is alive ! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive ! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

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A word from Louise.....



*“Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is
come again like wheat that springs up green.”*

The words of one of my favourite Easter hymns, by John Macleod Campbell Crum, unusual as I am known for preferring “modern” hymns but actually it is relatively modern compared to John Wesley, at least it was written in the early part of the 20th century and only came into common use towards the end.

Though I write this in February and we haven’t even started Lent. I know that by Easter the daffodils will be out if not over, and Spring will be with us. The green shoots will be emerging.

And we as a people can look back on a year where we started to come outside, blinking out into the sunlight after our imposed isolation through the corona virus pandemic and take stock of our situation, learning to live with corona virus as we do influenza. As we emerge from this winter, we have the opportunity to look at what we have managed to achieve in a short space of time and ask ourselves critical questions. Did we need to start this again? Is this needed? We can look into our communities and ask what is needed now? It is a wonderful opportunity to start afresh. Things we sustained for the sake of it can be let go without any feeling of guilt, because we have tried them and the world has moved on, and soon so will I.

*“Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain, Jesus who for three days in
the grave had lain;*

*Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen: Love is come again like wheat
that springs up green.”*

We are an Easter people, death and resurrection is part of our faith, too often though we cling to something long after all hope of life is

extinguished. We say we place our trust in God but too often our trust is in ourselves. It is one of the things as a minister I had to learn to let go right from the start. Methodist ministers are itinerant which means we move on, it's deliberate and stops anyone thinking that a church depends on one person and it prevents us from thinking that we are too important in the grand scheme of things. For me this Easter comes with mixed feelings, it will be my last in Blackpool and South Fylde. This was my second appointment and quickly became clear that I was not a good fit for the appointment, it was a steep learning curve, I made mistakes and some people have been far from forgiving.

"I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121 v1-2

The opening verses of my favourite psalm and something I have struggled with the move to St Anne's and its flatness. Easy to walk but I need to see further than into my neighbours' houses. I need hills, to lift my eyes to. Making the decision to curtail is not an easy one. I have learned a lot in my short time here, our scripture often uses the analogy of one person planting the seed, another watering, but only God makes it grow. Hold on to that thought, whether you are a planter, waterer or harvester, we are all part of God's plan, but we do need to trust and get on board with God's plan, not our own.

*"When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, then your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat that springs up green."*

God bless you this Easter, now, and always

Louise

WORSHIP SERVICES



MARCH

5th March
9.00 a.m.

ACTIV8 led by Revd Louise Makin

10.30 a.m.

Morning Worship at The Drive
led by Revd Louise Makin

12th March
10.30 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICE
Revd Louise Makin
Service includes Holy Communion

19th March
10.30 a.m.

MOTHERING SUNDAY
Mrs.Sue Leach

26th March
10.30 a.m.

Revd Louise Makin
including the Baptism of Ashley Daniel Parr

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



APRIL

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2 nd April
9.00 a.m. | PALM SUNDAY
ACTIV8 led by Revd Louise Makin |
| 10.30 a.m. | Morning Worship at The Drive
led by Revd Louise Makin |
| 6 th April
6.00 p.m | MAUNDY THURSDAY
Service of Reflection led by Revd Louise Makin |
| 7 th April
10.30 a.m | GOOD FRIDAY
United Ecumenical Service at The Drive |
| 9 th April
10.30 a.m. | EASTER SUNDAY
Revd Louise Makin
Service includes Holy Communion |
| 16 th April
10.30 a.m. | Revd Louise Makin |
| 23 rd April
10.30 a.m. | Mr.David Turner |
| 30 th April
10.30 a.m. | Revd Louise Makin |

WORSHIP SERVICES



MAY

7th May

9.00 a.m.

ACTIV8 led by Judith Smith

10.30 a.m.

Morning worship at The Drive
led by Mrs. Adrienne Simpson

14th May

10.30 a.m.

Deacon Kim Gabbatis

21st May

10.30 a.m.

Revd Stephen Heath
Service includes Holy Communion

28th May

10.30 a.m.

PENTECOST

Ms. Laura Green

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

John 4:24

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.

HELP NEEDED: The Church flowers team needs help in the following ways:

- Arranging flowers for the Sunday morning service in vases or a pedestal.
- Dismantling the flowers after morning service and putting into bunches.
- Collecting the flowers after morning service to take out to the sick or people who have other needs.

If anyone can help in any of these ways, please contact Elaine Watts.



MONDAY PRAYERS

People from churches throughout the Circuit meet for prayer every Monday at 6pm to 6.15pm via Zoom. We begin with a Bible reading, then have a time of prayer on the themes of the week. 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!

- Meeting ID: 830 045 4183
- Passcode: 687000
- Or ring in on 01 203 901 7895.

ALL ARE WELCOME

If you have a specific prayer request, please let Stuart Wild know
01722 715134 or email revstuartwild@aol.com



MATTHEW COOKE

STEPHEN HOLT

*"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 BIBLE STUDY 2023



Monday afternoons at 2 p.m. at The Drive Methodist Church, continuing weekly until Monday 27 March.

Thursday mornings at 11 a.m. at Church Road Methodist Church, continuing weekly until Thursday 30 March.

Will You Join in Our Crusade?

The Invitation of the Gospels is unlocked by the inspiration of Les Misérables in this course by Steve Mann, which interweaves the gospel narrative with the themes of Victor Hugo's classic novel.

Steve Mann is a Methodist minister and a regular contributor to religious broadcasting on BBC Radio Kent. He lives in Tunbridge Wells with his wife and two children.

LENT CHALLENGE

Reading the early chapters of the Revelation I have been challenged by the question, "What is the Spirit saying to the churches of the Blackpool and South Fylde Circuit?". If we are to move forward, if we are to grow, then we need to seek answers to this question.

I have also been reading the early chapters of 1 Samuel when God called Samuel and he did not realise at first who was calling him. When Eli told him that God was calling, he answered God thus, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening".

Each day in Lent I will light a candle and pray, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening". Then I will spend five minutes in silence listening for God. I invite the people of the Blackpool and South Fylde Circuit to do the same.

God bless you

Stuart Wild

Superintendent Minister

Paws for thought 5

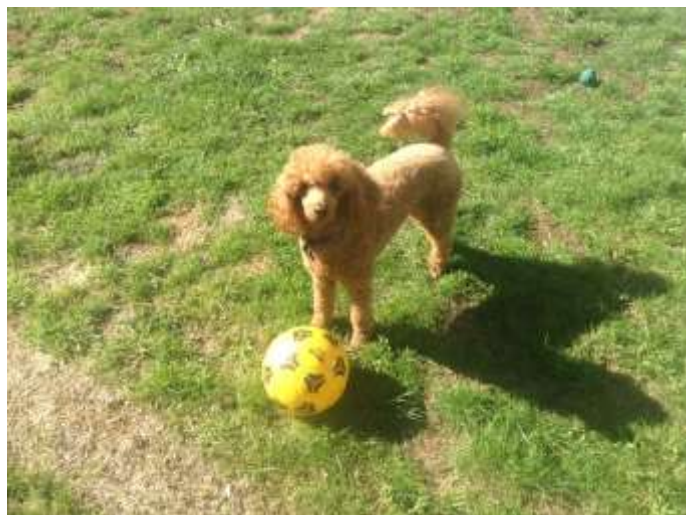
Song of Solomon Chapter 2 v 8-17

In the NRVS Bible these verses are headed Springtime in Rhapsody, an apt passage for this time of year. Many songs remind us Spring is just around the corner, not least Max Bygrave's singing, 'When it's spring again, I'll bring again tulips from Amsterdam.' Tulips happen to be one of my most favourite flowers. So many colours, so many shades, I find it difficult to choose a bunch of tulips.

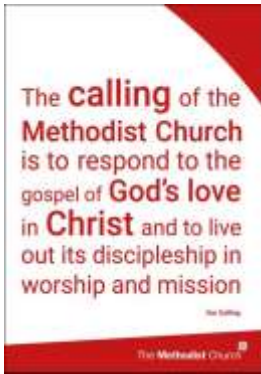
Verses 11 and 12 remind us, 'the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the time of singing has come'. With the recurring thought that 'My beloved is mine and I am his', reminding us of the love of God through his creation that we just want to burst forth like the buds on the trees and flowers springing up all around us. I think the idea of Spring-cleaning these days for many has gone but I remember it from my childhood. Cupboards turned out shelves cleaned, everything left spick and span.

This is really what Lent is all about. Clearing out the cobwebs in our lives, looking at those things in our lives which we can change for the better and to enable us to follow Jesus in the kingdom as the people he would want us to be.

*Glad that I live am I,
That the sky is blue.
Glad for the country lane,
And the fall of dew.
After the sun the rain
After the rain the sun,
This is the way of life,
Till the work be done.
By Lizette Reese*



Judith Smith- South Fylde Methodist Lay worker



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have been delighted that, after prayerful consideration, two of our young people have asked to make a public declaration of their faith and show their commitment to 'Our Calling' in the Methodist Church. Their names were put before the Church Council at the end of the year and unanimously approved.

On 12 March, **Iona Fielding** and **James Livesey** made their public declarations during the 10.30 a.m. Communion Service. Members of the congregation were invited to join in further fellowship after the service as Iona, James and their families shared in coffee and cakes with them.

We ask that you hold Iona, James and all of our wonderful young people in your thoughts and prayers as they continue on their walk with the Lord.



VALETE

The service on Sunday 30 April will be Louise's last preaching service with us, as she will then be taking her sabbatical before formally leaving us to take up an appointment in South Yorkshire from 1 September.

We will be expressing our appreciation for her ministry here in the summer edition of The Record, but in the meantime, following the service on 30 April, we will share a simple lunch to thank Louise for her work at Church Road and to send her on her way with our prayers and blessings for her next steps.

From May, please contact Judith Smith for any concerns or pastoral issues.

PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that Church Road Methodist Church has a Prayer Chain?

You may feel you would like to join the chain and to pray for people in need of prayer.

You may feel in need of prayer for yourself or someone you know and just need others to pray for you.

The Prayer Chain is available 365 days a year 24/7 (although one might need to be cautious calling late in an evening, or overnight!) as the call will start a chain reaction of prayer. That's what a prayer chain does!

If you would like to join the prayer chain, or are in need of prayer, then please contact Anne Mayes (Tel. 01253 727132) or Janette Farley (Tel. 07958 100041)

Please be assured that confidentiality will be respected.



CHRIST WITH US

The love of Christ surround us
The light of Christ lead us
The peace of Christ fill us
The power of Christ aid us
The joy of Christ thrill us
The presence of Christ be with us evermore.

Celtic Prayer

CHURCH LIFE

QUIZ NIGHT



The latest event organised by the Church Life group was a quiz night with hotpot supper on March 11th. This proved to be a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended, with hotpot, apple pie and an assortment of quizzes and games covering topics as varied as cheese and flags of the world, plus a revival of the TV show 'Call my Bluff'.

More pictures on the back page. Many thanks to everyone who made it happen, and we are already thinking about the next one – watch this space!

DEFIBRILLATOR

The defibrillator has been purchased and has now been installed by the Community Hub entrance. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising and contributed towards this vital asset for the community.



FUTURE EVENTS

LOUISE'S FAREWELL SERVICE

Rev Louise Makin will hold her last service at Church Road on **Sunday 30th April** and we are planning a simple lunch after the service. Please note this will be free of charge but is not a Jacob's Join and we will need to know numbers in advance to ensure we have enough to go round.

Please let Linda Butcher (07796 035614) know if you wish to attend.

CORONATION

We decided that there will be no special activity to celebrate the King's Coronation but will arrange for some suitable decoration for the back of Church and a drink (non-alcoholic of course) and cake after the Active8 service on **Sunday 7th May**. We encourage everyone to join us for this.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

After the service on the Church Anniversary on **Sunday 11th June** there will be a celebration lunch, further details to follow.

ST.ANNES CARNIVAL

As we have done for the last few years, we plan to sell coffee and cakes for St Anne's Carnival on **Saturday 8th July**, and there will also be a walking float organised by Churches Together – further details will be available nearer the date.

If you have any suggestions for activities or would like any further information, please contact Linda Butcher on 07796 035514

LENT BINGO AT FAIRHAVEN

Fairhaven Methodist Church presents Lent Bingo on Friday 24 March from 6.00p.m. to 8.00p.m. A Family Games Night – all with an Easter twist. All welcome. Please book in at Fairhaven.methodist@outlook.com.

A date for your diary.....

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY & GIFT DAY

SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2023

Morning Worship at 10.30 am

led by Revd Kevin Johnson

followed by a celebration lunch

Kevin is a former Minister at Church Road, now Minister and Project Leader of the Chapel in the Fields, Sinderland Green in the Manchester & Stockport District.



Your hand, O God, has guided
your flock, from age to age ;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page ;
our forebears owned your goodness,
and we their deeds record ;
and both of this bear witness :
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821–1891)

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The

ST ANNE'S
PARISH
CHURCH
FY8 3BA

Choristers'
Donation
£10.00

Audience Donation
£5.00

Crucifixion

For Aid

We need your support

Sunday 26th March

Join the Choristers- Registration: 1.45pm
(Pre-booking essential)
Rehearsal: 2.00pm - 5.00pm



**For more details
please contact**

**07922 826 571 or
01253 722366**

crucifixion.aid@gmail.com

Please bring as many supportive friends to our 7pm performance to support local and Ukraine families in urgent need. We need to raise as much financial aid as we can.

All proceeds will be shared between
UNICEF Reg. Charity no: 1072612
Fylde Food Bank Reg.charity no: 1157247

Refreshments available and additional
collections

A REFLECTION FROM CHRIS JONES

“At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask! What shall I give you?’” (1 Kings 3:5).

Imagine, the Creator offered to give Solomon virtually anything he would ask for! Was this the equivalent of the genie in Aladdin’s lamp offering him three wishes or of an American prosperity preacher’s promise that all you have to do is have faith and truly believe that a Rolls Royce will be standing in your drive in the morning and voila, there it is.

In a word. No.

Solomon prayed, *“I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. Therefore, give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil”*

Solomon’s request pleased God, who gave Solomon a *wise and understanding heart*, infinitely more valuable than an expensive automobile.

But what do you and I pray for, is it in accordance with God’s wishes, would our requests please Him? I am sure we all pray unselfishly but sometimes I feel inclined to pray to God to take away the several thorns in my flesh, whereas I should be praying for Him to give me the fortitude to bear the difficulties.

I have come to value less intelligence that wants to know and conviction that wants to do, and trust only in faith, the faith that we have a God of supernatural power to lift us, to give us the strength to overcome our mortal stresses and troubles. And like Solomon, we only have to ask!

Hopefully God’s words will come to us loud and clear just as they did to Solomon, but should we find ourselves in a place of spiritual wilderness or even desolation, we need only to ask the Spirit to lead us to a place where we can hear His voice.

After all, in Isaiah 65:24 this is what the Lord Himself tells us about prayer:-

“It will come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.”

Amen.



HELLO EVERYONE!

We are Andy, Laura, Alistair and Iona - the Woodward Family. We have been living in St. Anne's since September 2022. This has been a homecoming for Laura who grew up in the area. We have moved to be closer to Laura's family and wanted to be settled in our new home before Alistair starts school this September. Our house needed a fair bit of work but we were able to move in

properly the week before Christmas. What a wonderful celebration that was! There is still plenty of work to do and our biggest project this year is the garden.

We are both Primary School teachers. Laura teaches infant children in Poulton and Andy is based in Year 6 in Anchorsholme. Laura has a passion for music and leads hymn practice as well as the school choir. Andy is an all-round sportsman and as well as running the school football club he has represented Great Britain in triathlon at both the European and World championships. As teachers, we have always lived for the holidays especially enjoying our road trips around the Causeway Coast of Northern Ireland and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. We were married in Troon (Ayrshire) and honeymooned on Skye. We had planned to visit Iona but were unable to do so due to the incoming storms - this all now seems rather prophetic, particularly if you have met our Iona!

Nowadays, our main hobbies include tidying up after two small humans and watching Toy Story. Alistair (4) was born in 2019 and Iona (2) completed our family in 2021. Life is a whirlwind of superheroes, princesses, soft play and biscuit crumbs! Thank you for your patience and understanding as our young family learns how to worship at such a warm and welcoming church.

Laura was a member of Fairhaven Methodist Church for many years and attended Church Road as a Ranger Guide as a teenager. After meeting Andy in 2013, we began worshipping together at St. Andrews in Cleveleys where both of the children were christened. We tried several churches in the area before settling at Church Road. The children enjoy their Sunday mornings at J-Kids and Activ8 is a firm favourite with us all thanks to the band!

We know we have found something special in the congregation of Church Road. We look forward to being able to repay your kindness and fellowship over the years.

Andy, Laura, Alistair and Iona



BUMBLEBEES

We have continued to have a busy time on Tuesday mornings (in term-time) at Bumblebees. The babies and toddlers enjoy a wide choice of toys, including slides, puzzles, zoo animals, a train set, the ever-popular play house, the dressing-up box and much more. Craft activities have included the Spring and Easter themes of flowers, lambs and Mother's Day.

Church volunteers offer (very welcome!) refreshments of tea/ coffee or squash plus biscuits to (grand-) parents, children and helpers. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to Shirley Grundon who has been busy again and has produced a beautiful knitted chick for every child in the group!

DATES FOR DIARIES: There will be NO Bumblebees meeting on 4th and 11th April (Easter Holiday) or 30th May (Half-term). Our last session before the summer break will be on 11th July. Please note, we currently have a waiting list. If you would like to join the group, please call in on a Tuesday morning between 9.30 and 11.30 a.m. to add your name to the list.

Lesley Turner



BEATLES NIGHT

All their greatest hits and more

Presented by Guy and Ken

SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2023 at 8.00 pm

The Dalmeny Resort Hotel

Tickets £15.00

All proceeds will go to

WESLEY'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ & LARDER

Tickets from Fashion Nails, 5A Clifton Street, Lytham

Phone 07777 683 989



ABOUT EASTER OFFERING

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. In March 1884, the London Districts distributed Easter envelopes and collecting bags asking for a penny a head and collected around £100. In 1900, Women's Work raised £1,655 for the work of overseas missions.

Since then, each successive Methodist women's movement has encouraged donations in support of God's mission. Recently, Methodist Women in Britain (supported by the Global Relationships team) have produced 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.

This year, our Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund.

Watch out in the notices for more information about this year's theme and the date of the service.

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Mark Chapter 12 verses 41 -44



LADIES FELLOWSHIP AT THE DRIVE

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

22 nd March	Nursing in Saudi Arabia Judith Smith
5 th April	Trip around America Part2 Revd Louise Makin
19 th April	Recycling lives? Brian Mayne
3 rd May	Trinity Hospice & Brian House
17 th May	Annual General Meeting

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

. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Matthew 28:1-10

CHURCHES TOGETHER AT THE ISLAMIC CENTRE



Following on from the *Churches Together in St Anne's* series of visits to each of its churches (we were visited in the autumn of 2022), someone asked 'What about visiting the 'Islamic Centre'?



So, on Thursday afternoon, 9 March, about 22 of us were welcomed into the centre on the corner of Curzon Road and Moorland Road. From the outside, the building looks like an empty shop with a flat above – which is precisely what it used to be. Inside it has been recently renovated into its new purpose – modern, clean and comfortable. There are no exotic decorations, but firstly, our host Mr Jamil explained the meaning and significance of some of the Arabic inscriptions on the walls of the main room.

He explained that increasingly, people were frustrated with the distance to the mosques in Blackpool and Preston. So enough money was raised to create this centre, which opened 18 months ago.

Prayers are led here 5 times daily (kneeling, facing east towards Mecca), and on Friday evenings an Imam attends for their weekly service, the focus of which is the sermon. Children have their special classes, using special plastic desks which allow them to kneel and read the Koran comfortably. Women pray separately, in a screened off prayer area upstairs.

Before prayers, everyone washes their face, hands, arms and feet to ensure they are ritually clean. This is called wudu. In the special Ladies toilets downstairs we marvelled at the special sanitary ware (sourced from Turkey), all in one piece, which includes a seat, facing a tap, where the water can be poured on hands and feet, and the whole thing carried out conveniently and in comfort.

Ramadan is due to begin before the end of March, depending on moon sightings. This will start a month of fasting (no food, no drink – not even water) between sunrise and sunset each day – even more of a challenge when daylight hours increase. Special daily services will ensure that the Qur'an is read from cover to cover during this period. Several members of their fellowship have achieved 'hafiz' which means they have learned the whole Qur'an by heart.

Another host, Mr Ali (previously known as 'Danny' when he owned the Moghul restaurant in Orchard Road) explained that during Covid lockdown he realised that working 7 days a week had not been what life is all about. He decided to take early retirement to spend more time with his family, and focus more on his faith, both of which he is gladly doing.

A 'question and answer' session followed, during which our studious friend Bernard asked about a good English translation of the Koran. Mr Jamil at once presented him with a copy!

After the talk we were refreshed by cups of tea and coffee and sweet treats including some tasty 'biscuits' baked by the wife of one of the men who were looking after us. It was also great to chat with our hosts and fellow Christians from the other churches.

There were more Christians wanting to join this visit than the Centre could comfortably hold, so another will be arranged in a couple of months' time. Interested? See Janette Farley!



GLOBAL PEACE PRAYER

Last year, the Conference of European Churches, Baptist World Alliance, Lutheran World Federation, Mennonite World Conference, World Methodist Council, and World Communion of Reformed Churches organized an online global peace prayer attended by more than 5,000 people from 150 countries.

This year, these Christian world communions, along with the World Council of Churches, will be organising a Global Peace Prayer on 22 March.

When: 22 March 2023, 3 pm CET (2pm UK GMT)

To register & take part, follow this link

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RLdEJVkiSAqxIsNf5RFn5g



FAIR TRADE NEWS

TRAIDCRAFT GOES INTO ADMINISTRATION

Statement from the Board of Directors:

“Sadly, after 40 years pioneering and championing the cause of trade justice, Traidcraft PLC has gone into administration and is no longer trading.

The business has been in a weak financial position for some years and the Covid-19 pandemic presented a significant new set of challenges. Just as we were emerging from the pandemic, like many other retailers, Traidcraft has faced the combined effects of the war in Ukraine, rising energy prices, and increased transport costs.

Sadly, despite the heroic efforts of the team at Gateshead, low consumer confidence during the critical autumn trading period led to a sales result significantly short of what was required to sustain the operation. December sales were also negatively impacted by the uncertainty created by Royal Mail strikes.

After much deliberation and following advice from external advisors, the Board of Directors concluded that the only honourable course of action was to appoint administrators. It is hoped that by doing this in a timely manner, the impact on our suppliers and creditors can be minimised.

It is heartbreaking to bring the Traidcraft plc story to an end in this manner but we can at least take some consolation from the knowledge that we have been a major force for good in the ethical retail sector for over forty years. We have championed the cause of trade justice to the point where we now have better standards and procedures in place to protect the rights and dignity of growers and producers all over the world.

However, the mission to combat trade injustice and poverty is far from complete and it is important to recognise that Transform Trade (previously Traidcraft Exchange, the charity arm of Traidcraft) will continue its vital work supporting producers and fighting for trade justice and people centred trade.”

...continued



We would like to thank everyone at Church Road who has supported Traidcraft over the years and especially Elaine Watts who has been our local representative, until recently arranging a Fair-Trade stall at the back of church and organising purchases through the Traidcraft catalogue.

We can continue to support fair trade by careful purchasing in shops and supermarkets or through specialist outlets, many of which offer on-line purchases.

The members of British Association of Fair-Trade Shops (BAFTS) are retailers who source at least 60% of their stock from certified fair-trade suppliers.

You can find a list of their outlets and on-line sites on the BAFTS website

www.bafts.org.uk/find-shops



With almost 80 years' experience, MHA is proud to be the UK's largest charity care provider and is dedicated to enabling older people to live later life well. Through specialist care homes, thriving community groups and befriending throughout the UK, MHA inspire the best care and wellbeing at every stage of later life.

Our local MHA at Starr Hills in Ansdell has recently renovated their garden thanks to the gifts in wills left by former residents, with a garden room set to be installed too. With only a coffee and communal lounge, lockdown had been tough for Starr Hills residents. The garden room is expected to be completed early next year and will have a kitchenette, heating and ramp providing residents with another communal space.





THANK YOU to all AFC box holders for supporting this worthwhile charity. With your donations, the total collected for 2022 was £330. 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

In the Fylde Parliamentary Constituency, 2,856 children were living in poverty in 2020/21. This represents 21.1% of local children, or an average of 6 in a typical class of 30 pupils.

This percentage has **stayed the same** between 2014/15 and 2020/21



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.

Nationally, in 2021/22, AFC helped 671,275 children, young people and families.

Thank you for your support.



Christian Aid Week Appeal 14 - 20 May 2023

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 Christian Aid Week your gifts could help farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children. Families in Malawi are paying the price of the global crisis. Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months and hard-working famers are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather.

Envelopes for your donations for the work of Christian Aid will be available in church on Sunday 14 May.

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

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

*“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”*



Churches Together in St Anne's



Forthcoming Events

GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION AND SERVICE – 7th April – Churches are invited to process from their own building, preferably with a cross, to reach St Anne's Square by **12 noon**, for a short service of witness in the 'performance area'.

SUMMER EVENT – PENTECOST – 28th May a procession is planned to walk a circuit of Ashton Gardens, then proceed down St George's Road to the United Reformed Church where a service will be held in the church grounds.

ST ANNES CARNIVAL WEEKEND – Saturday 8th / 9th July – please join the Churches Together 'walking float', with banners if possible, in the procession. There will be a CT stall in Ashton Gardens on both days.

CHURCHES TOGETHER AT THE ROYAL LANCS SHOW - July 21-23 near Ribchester. The CT tent will focus on the needs of farming and modern slavery.



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.



FUN AT THE QUIZ NIGHT



Photos by Linda Butcher & Lesley Turner



CHURCH DIARY

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

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

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. Contact Revd Louise Makin.

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