

# THE RECORD

SPRING 2025

## CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH



The **Methodist** Church Blackpool and 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*

## IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground, His body lay  
Light of the world, by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave, He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

*Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*  
*Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 351*  
*Words and Music: © 2001, Thankyou Music CCLLicence No 170740*



## Letter from our Superintendent Revd Stuart Wild

Dear Friends,

As I thought about what to write in this letter a random line from a random song came into my head-Spring, spring, spring (from Seven Brides for Seven Brothers). I guess I ought to reflect on the song in context and relate the true meaning of the lyrics. However, I am not going to do that. (If you are disappointed, you can always google it like I would have done.)

Instead, I am going to pose the question-what does spring mean? Well, we often have springs in our furniture. They are defined as curved pieces of metal which give support. Support is a word that makes me think of God. In the popular poem *Footprints* the author is reminded of the times he or she is carried by the Lord. That support is not always noticeable. It comes when we need it most and it is so unobtrusive that we often overlook it and yet it is God's support that sees us through.

Another definition I found was for the verb spring meaning to move quickly and suddenly. (They sprung up in front of me.) There is something instantaneous here. God's response to us in prayer is a bit like that. Wherever we are; whenever it is; if we turn to God in prayer. God is there. It is as if God is waiting for us and so will spring up whenever we call.

Of course this time of year probably the most relevant meaning of spring is the season (the time of year between winter and summer). Spring is a lovely time of year. It's a season of growth as the interaction of the plants and trees with all that feeds them begins to, as it were, bear fruit.

Every season with God is a season of growth. There is so much to learn, ways to develop, acquaintance to deepen. God is good.

So spring, spring, spring has taught me more about God than about a 1954 Hollywood musical but that is not the end of it. God is supportive, always there and encourages growth. Maybe we should follow God's example with each other too.

God bless you

*Stuart Wild*

*For now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtle-dove  
is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.*

Song of Solomon 2:11-12 (NRSV)



# WORSHIP SERVICES



## MARCH

2nd March  
9.30 a.m.

ACTIV8 led by Revd Stuart Wild

9th March  
10.30 a.m.

Adrienne Simpson

16th March  
10.30 a.m.

Revd Stephen Heath

23rd March  
10.30 a.m.

Revd Stuart Wild  
Service includes the celebration of Holy Communion

30th March  
10.30 a.m.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
Christine Pierce

# WORSHIP SERVICES



## APRIL

6th April  
9.30 a.m.

Activ8 led by Revd Stuart Wild

13th April  
10.30 a.m.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
Judith Smith

17th April  
7.00 p.m.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
Service of Holy Communion

18th April  
10.30 a.m.

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

20th April  
9.00 a.m.  
10.30 a.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
Holy Communion led by Revd Stuart Wild  
Judith Smith

27th April  
10.30 a.m.

Revd Andy Halstead  
Service includes the celebration of Holy Communion

# WORSHIP SERVICES



## MAY

4th May

9.30 a.m.

ACTIV8 led by Revd Stuart Wild

11th May

10.30 a.m.

Fred Jackson

18th May

10.30 a.m.

Revd Janet Pybon  
All Age Worship

25th May

10.30 a.m.

Revd Stuart Wild  
Service includes the celebration of Holy Communion

## ACTIV8



Our monthly informal service of early morning worship is on the **first Sunday of each month** at 9.30 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.

# FLOWER DEDICATIONS

## DECEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> Cherished memories of Marjorie, Peter and Mandy from Gary and family, Yvonne and family, Stacey and Oliver  
Loving birthday memories of Marion Holland



22<sup>nd</sup> Treasured memories of Claire Berwick  
In loving memory of John & Clarice Hughes from Margaret Wrigley  
In loving memory of our parents at Christmas, Michael and Marion

## JANUARY

5<sup>th</sup> In memory of Stanley, Fred and Annie Richmond

12<sup>th</sup> Treasured memories of John from Barbara, Caroline and Samantha

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

26<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





## **ELIZABETH HICKS**



**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.

# Paws for thought 15

*by Judith Smith*

## **Matthew 13 v 45-46**

Fascination is perhaps not a word we use regularly but if we were to ponder a minute, what it is that fascinates us, what would we come up with?

As soon as the shopping bags are brought in from the car Fimber will stick his head in, hoping there will be something for him, but that is rarely the case. In our modern world people tend to be dominated by what we read on our social media or what we see on our



television screens. What is it about celebrities that we find ourselves so drawn into? We start to model our lives on them and want to aspire to be like them.

Jesus, of course, was a fascinating figure, to all those who came to hear him speak, they were amazed by the stories he told. The parable; the kingdom of heaven, he said, was like a merchant who searched for fine pearls and was willing to sell them all, to find the one of great value, to discover the kingdom of heaven.

Others were fascinated after seeing a miracle performed. The sick healed, the blind could see. It raised some questions by the crowds around as well as the authorities of the day.

Some asked was he a strange worker of miracles, a religious freak, he claimed to be the Son of God, but surely, he was the son of Mary and Joseph, people were saying. A nuisance the Pharisees said and not to be trusted, we will get him sooner or later this law breaker.

Yes, they got him, so fascinated they were, I mean, so fascinated were the people who encountered him, they had to do something to stop him in his tracks. But God played right into their hands. In love he allowed his Son to be crucified for you and me, but that wasn't the end!

## **StF 255**

*The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,*

*Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!*

*His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,*

*Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.*



## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025**

The Women's World Day of Prayer is a global Christian movement that takes place on the first Friday of March each year. The service is prepared by women from a different country each year, and the liturgy reflects the hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, opportunities, and needs of that country. The movement supports women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship. The theme for 2025 is "I Made You Wonderful" and will be prepared by women of the Cook Islands.

The Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 7 March at 2 p.m.  
at St.John's Church, Lytham.



## Men's Prayer Breakfast

A few months ago, I was asked to establish a men's meeting. The Drive had had a men's Fellowship but it had finished. So I convened a lunch at The Drive and invited the men of the circuit to let me know if they were interested. There was a mixed response from those available during the day and those not available. Over lunch we decided to try a Saturday morning prayer breakfast and we had our first in January. We met at Fairhaven and I must admit it was more breakfast than prayer. There was a Bible study available but I have no idea what people talked about. However, talk they did and there was certainly a buzz and those who attended were very positive about the morning. We started at 10 am and finished at 11am. We began and ended with prayer and in between ate bacon baps, pastries and fruit and drank tea and coffee.

It's a work in progress and we will see where God takes it. All men are welcome. Please give it a go but let me know if you are coming (for catering purposes). We are going to meet monthly probably on the fourth Saturday at 10 am and probably at Fairhaven but watch the church notices for details.

Hope to see you there, guys.

*Stuart Wild*



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### **PRAYER CHAIN**

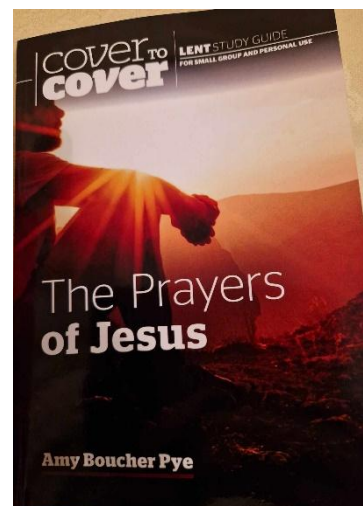
If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, then please contact Anne Mayes (Tel. 01253 727132) or Janette Farley (Tel. 07958 100041)

Please be assured that confidentiality will be respected

## Blackpool and South Fylde Circuit - Lent Series 2025

You are invited to join **any** of the following groups, as we journey through the Season of Lent in preparation for Easter. Each group will be exploring the same material, based around a book called 'The Prayers of Jesus' by Amy Boucher Pye.

This resource offers an opportunity to deepen our faith in God. Amy Boucher Pye focusses on 6 of the 7 recorded prayers of Jesus, beginning with the Lord's Prayer and moving to the cross. Amy says, 'As we explore the prayers, we will grow in faith, hope and love'.



The groups will meet from **week commencing Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March** on the days and at the venues detailed below:

<b>The Drive</b>	<b>Mondays at 2pm – at Church</b>
<b>Kirkham</b>	<b>Tuesdays at 7pm at Church</b>
<b>Fairhaven</b>	<b>Tuesdays at 3pm and Wednesdays at 7pm at Church</b>
<b>Freckleton</b>	<b>Tuesdays- 10.30am at the Manse or at the home of Andy and Lin – Venue will be publicised each week. (contact Deacon Kim – 01772 635858 – kim.gabbatiss@methodist.org.uk)</b> <b>Thursday evenings – On Zoom (with Andrew Barratt)</b> <b>Meeting ID: 815 1469 5209 Passcode: 062071</b>
<b>Lytham</b>	<b>Tuesdays at 7pm at Church</b>
<b>Layton</b>	<b>Tuesdays at 2pm – at Church</b>

<b>Week 1</b> w/c 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>	<b>Matthew 6:5-15, Luke 11:1-4</b>
<b>Week 2</b> w/c 10 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>The Raising of Lazarus</b>	<b>John 11</b>
<b>Week 3</b> w/c 17 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Jesus' Hour</b>	<b>John 12:30-36</b>
<b>Week 4</b> w/c 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>The Farewell Prayer</b>	<b>John 17</b>
<b>Week 5</b> w/c 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>In the Garden of Eden</b>	<b>Matthew 26:36-46</b>
<b>Week 6</b> w/c 7 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>On the Cross</b>	<b>Luke 23:26,32-34, Matthew 27:43-54, Luke 23:44-49</b>

**We look forward to sharing in this journey through Lent together.**  
**Stuart, Andy, Michaela, Kim and Andrew**



HOLY WEEK



**During Holy Week, we can reflect on the last week of Jesus' earthly life**

Jesus said to his followers:

*'See, we are going up to Jerusalem and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him and on the third day, he will rise again'*

Luke 18:31-33 (NRSV)

*Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna!' cry;  
your humble beast pursues its road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.*

*Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.*

Henry Hart Milman (1791–1868)



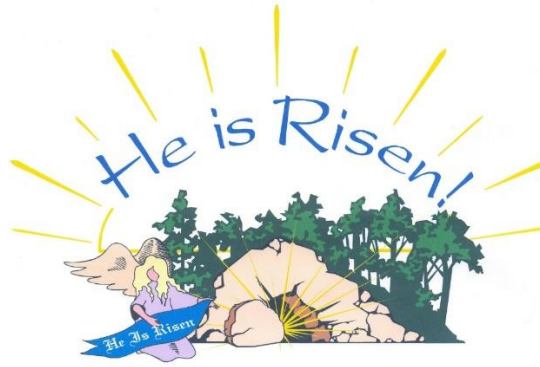
On the Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus met with his followers in an upstairs room. Together, they shared a meal, now known as the 'Last Supper'. This was Passover time, when God's people remembered how God had set them free from slavery in Egypt. Jesus added new meaning to this, which Christians have developed into various expressions of Holy Communion.

*While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took the cup and, after giving thanks, he gave it to them saying 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'*

Matthew 26:26-28 (NRSV)

*Because you have said:  
'Do this for my sake,'  
the mystical bread  
we gladly partake;  
we thirst for the Spirit  
that flows from above,  
and long to inherit  
your fullness of love.*

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)



*After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdelene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.....the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised.'*

Matthew 38:1-2,5 (NRSV)

No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of Life ;  
life is naught without thee :  
aid us in our strife ;  
make us more than conquerors  
through thy deathless love ;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above :

*Edmond Budry (1854–1932)*

The message of Easter is deeply rooted in themes of hope, renewal, and transformation. At its core, Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, a cornerstone of our Christian faith. It is a celebration that reflects on the promise of eternal life and the triumph of light over darkness.

Easter also serves as a reminder of the cyclical nature of life, where after every winter, spring follows, bringing new life and opportunities. Easter can be a time for personal reflection, gratitude, and renewal. It's an opportunity to let go of past burdens, embrace forgiveness, and look forward to the future with a sense of hope and optimism. Easter is a powerful reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of love and renewal.



## APPRECIATION

**THANK YOU** to **Jonathan Livesey** for stepping up to take on the vital role of Church Treasurer.

We've been grateful to **Katharine Davies**, the Circuit Treasurer, for her recent stewardship of our accounts and for sorting out the Circuit's financial responsibilities for Wesley's. However, without our own designated Treasurer, our fellowship at Church Road would have faced an uncertain future. With Jonathan's appointment, we can now look forward with renewed hope for our future – although we will still need to be careful with our finances!

**THANK YOU** to **Anita Bullock** for her service as Church Council Secretary. We offer our thanks and best wishes to **Caroline Livesey** as she takes on this essential role.....like Anita, not for the first time!

**THANK YOU** to the members of the recently established Property Team for their help in keeping our premises functioning, but especially to **Bill Ellison** for his overall management of property matters and to **Colin Hird** for his practical support on a range of property issues. We are also grateful to **Michael Steele-Edwards**, the Circuit Property Steward, for his support.



## CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE

Church Life is an active and enthusiastic group representing all sections of the church family and committed to enhancing social activity and fellowship within and outside the Church.

The concert from St Chads school choir on 6<sup>th</sup> December was very successful and raised £500, thanks to Laura Woodward for organizing this.

At our first meeting of 2025 the Church life group agreed a programme of events for the year as shown below. Details will be available nearer the time but please put these dates in your diary.

		Date	Event
MARCH	Saturday	08/03/2025	Coffee morning and Valuation Day
MAY	Saturday	10/05/2025	Games evening with refreshments
JUNE	Sunday	08/06/2025	Church Anniversary Jacob's Join Lunch
JULY	Saturday	12/07/2025	St Annes Carnival coffee and cakes
SEPTEMBER	Sunday	28/09/2025	Harvest lunch
OCTOBER	Saturday	18/10/2025	Quiz night with snacks
NOVEMBER	Saturday	08/11/2025	Winter Market
DECEMBER	Saturday	13/12/2025	Lytham Community Choir

In addition to these events, we are planning a spring clean 'Clean up and clear out' day to refresh our premises, which will take place on Saturday 26 April. Watch out for more details in the April notices.

We look forward to another productive and enjoyable year building the social life of the church family. If you would like to know more about the Church Life group and perhaps get involved, please speak to Judith Smith or Linda Butcher.

The next meeting date is Tuesday 22nd April at 7pm.

Our first event in 2025 is a coffee morning and valuation day with Gerrards Auction Rooms. Admission is free with refreshments available to purchase. Bring along your items for a free valuation and an enjoyable morning.

Even if you don't have anything to value, just come along for coffee, cake and a chat!

**VALUATION MORNING**  
*by Gerrards Auction Rooms*  
**Saturday 8 March**  
**10am to 12.30pm**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

**FREE VALUATIONS**

- ✓ Antiques & Vintage
- ✓ Collectibles
- ✓ Jewellery
- ✓ Items bought or taken for auction



**HELP PLEASE!**

We'd be grateful for offers of cakes and other baked items to serve for refreshments.

If you're able to help in any way, please speak to Margaret Wrigley  
or email the church office.

Proceeds raised will help to support our church funds

## 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”.*

A brief write up from us to feedback from the **All We Canary** event we highlighted in the last edition. For those of you who weren't in worship on 26<sup>th</sup> January, here's how the young people described the challenge and why they were doing it:

**“All We Can** is an international development and relief organization rooted in the Christian faith, who are working to see every person's potential fulfilled.

**All We Can** works in partnership with global neighbours most impacted by disasters, poverty and injustice to enable flourishing and resilient communities.

The idea was to do “something” in January to challenge ourselves, whilst learning and sharing inspiring stories from All We Can's local partners in Liberia, as they fulfil their potential alongside us.

Hence, at the service on 26 January, our Time Out Canary challenge was to see if we CAN, work as a team to carry a CAN around as many laps of the church as we CAN in 60 minutes! But why?

Because **All we Can** is about working together, empowering and enabling each other (near and far) so that no one person or community is left to CARRY THE CAN for another, but enables change and opportunities for all people to reach their full potential.



Members of the congregation and others supported us by making donations and placing them in a CAN at the back of church or by buying and eating as many cakes as you CAN over coffee!”

The video that followed about the impact of the charities work truly inspired.

- A huge thank you to everyone who helped to prepare for the All-We-Canuary challenge and to Revd Stuart Wild for leading the event through worship.
- A huge thank you to everyone who bought and ate cakes and sponsored the young people, and finally but by no means least .....
- A huge thank you to our amazing young people themselves, (*those present on the day and those who couldn't be, but had helped in advance*) ... we are so proud of you all, what an achievement!

587 laps of the church, carrying a can, on a spoon, in 60 minutes!

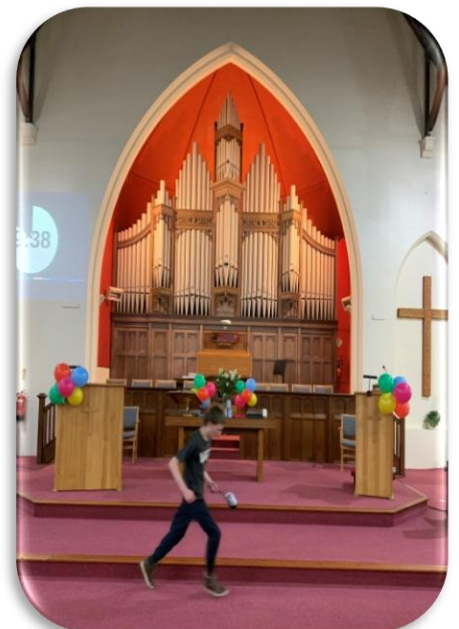
A total of £487 has been raised so far, which with the addition of some gift aid monies means the young people will have hit their target of £1 a lap!

### The Church Road Methodist family – CAN !!!!!!!



**Go to the Time Out section of the church website to watch the edited highlights!**

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



## LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY 2025 The Start of Iona's Big Adventure!



FOMO - UK Charity No. 1090727

Working alongside the charity ***Friends of Mulanje Orphans*** (FOMO), as part of the West Lancashire Scouting Contingent, a member of our Time Out group, Iona Fielding, will be traveling to Malawi in South East Africa this summer to undertake several community projects. The previous contingent of 2022 supported the charity by building a new orphanage.

### ***Here, Iona tells us about the project:***

“The main task for this year is to refurbish a number of buildings in use by the orphanages across the district, including schools and centres. The centres have multiple purposes, namely providing accommodation for those in need as well as for the wider community, acting as meeting places alongside daily food distribution.



Pupils educated through FOMO schools are given opportunities to attain further qualifications sponsored by the charity and attend out of school activities. Following the recent successes of their football team and education programmes several children have been able to lift themselves out of poverty.

As the work will be taking us to rural Africa, we shall experience the challenges the community has to face on a daily basis. Limited sanitation and poor food hygiene will restrict our usual home comforts to a bucket of cold water for washing ever three days, a hole in the ground for toilets and occasional access to a rocket stove for cooking our reduced sized vegetarian meals!

In preparation for buying and shipping building materials, tools and clean bottled water that we will need while in Malawi, we each have just a few more months to fundraise for these vital supplies.



Thank you all of you who have already contributed towards this initial aim. In addition, we will continue the fundraising efforts to supply smaller items to take with us in our luggage.

We hope to take equipment for group games such as beanbags, parachutes and skipping ropes. We have designated time to play with the children there and upon our departure shall leave these items behind for their continued use.

I am really looking forward to this once in a lifetime experience. Having never been on a plane or even abroad, the extent of travelling for over 24 hours will be a massive shock to the system! Moreover, we will have to make our own way around the district, walking under the hot sun, both to where we will be working and to the market for buying supplies, whilst carrying all we will need for the day.

If you are interested in finding out more, please come and chat to me after a Sunday service. You'll normally find me at the sound desk or in the band playing my violin."

*Iona Fielding*

## **Let's support Iona in this valuable work.**

As a church, we are proud that one of our young members has been selected for this work and we appreciate Iona's commitment to it. Whilst it will obviously be a very exciting trip and experience for her, it will also be very demanding – and not in the most comfortable way!

We wish Iona God-Speed and send her on her way with our love and prayers for a safe and successful adventure. We'll certainly look forward to hearing all about her experiences in a future edition of the Record!

## **Please donate to help Iona**

Iona has already raised some funding for this expedition, but as she notes above, she and her other party members have just a few more months to fundraise for vital supplies, for building materials, tools and clean bottled water that they will need whilst in Malawi. In addition, the group is hoping to take equipment for games and activities with the children, such as beanbags, parachutes and skipping ropes.

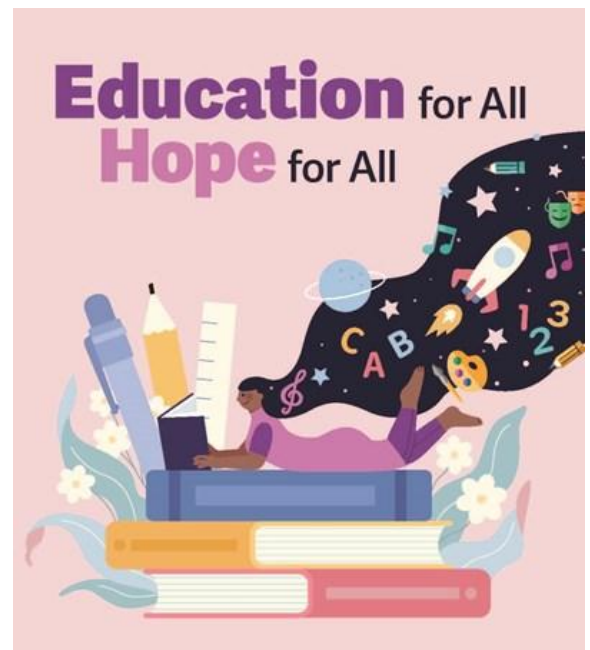
**If you are able to support Iona, please have a word with her or her mum, Janet.**

Thank you.



## Easter Offering 2025

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. The Easter Offering 2025 service focuses on every person's right to education. Stories tell of people who are committed to changing lives through education.

**Education for All, Hope for All** offers churches, circuits and districts a moment to consider how education transforms lives and communities, opening God's promise of hope and fullness of life for all people.

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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*'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.'*

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 (NRSV)



## LADIES FELLOWSHIP AT THE DRIVE

The 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

5<sup>th</sup> Another kind of Lent  
Revd Janet Pybon

19<sup>th</sup> Theatre Miscellany and Memories  
Richmond Neale

### APRIL

2<sup>nd</sup> Dementia Friends? The other Mrs. Beedle

16<sup>th</sup> An Afternoon with Richard Golding

30<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Tea (£5 per person)

### MAY

14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

For more information, please speak to Elaine Watts

# One Fylde in Concert

## *An audience with Paul*

On Wednesdays, the One Fylde group which enjoys drama, dancing, singing and other performing arts, meets in our church space. Karaoke is a regular feature, as is an 'X Factor' / 'Britain's Got Talent' session, complete with panel of 3 judges.

The grand piano is usually 'out of bounds', but a few months ago I was approached for permission to use it one afternoon, for a special musical performance. One of their group, Paul (pictured) had a dream – to one day perform a piano recital. Unfortunately, there was no time to publicise the event amongst church folk, but I went along to watch, with the rest of the group and its leaders.

Paul explained that he was diagnosed with 'Williams Syndrome' as a child. Even so, he showed early musical talent. Unfortunately, his attempts to learn to read music were unsuccessful. So he taught himself to play piano 'by ear'.

What a wonderful afternoon we had! The tunes Paul played were a varied mixture of old and new – I wish I had taken notes of his repertoire, which included 'The Entertainer' and even one of his own compositions 'Lady Guinevere' which he played and sang. Beautiful. He interspersed tunes with brief biographical details, and at the end invited requests, which he played with aplomb. Then he was asked 'can you play.....?'. 'No' he replied. Then a few seconds later, his fingers moved over the keys – and produced the requested tune, note perfect! What a talent – one which many a traditional pianist would envy. The applause was rapturous – with a standing ovation by his entranced and supportive audience.

I hope you are as pleased as I am that we at Church Road are able to support such a worthwhile organisation as One Fylde on our premises. What wonderful work they do and what special opportunities they are able to provide!

*Janette Farley*



# Churches Together Round-up

## *Unity in Diversity*



Churches Together in St Anne's goes from strength to strength – here are some highlights which may tempt you to come to one of our events to see for yourselves....

**Lancashire Sings Christmas** – held at our 'local' – The Victoria Hotel on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

Some people were just there to enjoy a drink or meal with family or friends, but most people in the bar joined in anyway, with the aid of carol sheets.

Thanks to the 'techie' skills of Brian Derbyshire (St Margaret's CofE), who downloaded the BBC Radio Lancashire programme from BBC Sounds (it had been broadcast the previous day at lunchtime – no good for us!), and the loan of Church Road's portable amp, everyone could hear the Salvation Army Band play the tunes.

Here are some of our 'singers' (I definitely wouldn't call us a 'choir'!). From L to R – Margaret Russell (URC), Yours Truly, our very own Elaine Watts (a 'proper' singer), Christine Campbell (St Anne's Parish CofE) and Rev Janet Calderley (URC)



The following email came from one of our new 'supporters':

*"We attended the carol singing at the Victoria pub in St Anne's last night for the first time and would like to say thank you for such a wonderful evening! It was great to sing along with the carols from Radio Lancashire and you did a great job leading us. It was really encouraging to join together in prayer at the end of the evening too. We will definitely be there again next year. Every blessing to you all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. K & T B"*

This was probably the best attended such event since the pandemic – do come and join us this December to help make it even better!

Once again Churches Together made every effort to deliver a Christmas card to households in St Anne's, containing information on each church's special Christmas services. Many thanks to those who helped with the delivery, and I hope **you** received one!



## **Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

This was led by our very own Rev Stuart Wild, at The Drive Methodist Church. The service focused on 2025 being the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church-wide agreement of the Nicene Creed, and about 45 people attended from most of the local churches. Volunteers participated in the service, with readings and prayers, and refreshments

were served afterwards – a welcome opportunity to get to know each other a bit better. Many people commented on the moving service, which underlined and celebrated the important things all Christians share, whatever our denomination. The photo shows some of the candles, lit by everyone there to represent our unity in the Christian faith, and our unified witness to the world.

## Now a look ahead to the rest of 2025:

- GOOD FRIDAY (18<sup>th</sup> April) – again, a procession will start from Fylde Christian Service Church, with a cross, to meet in St Anne’s Square for a joint service at noon.
- THY KINGDOM COME 2025 – (31<sup>st</sup> May at URC) - the various and imaginative Prayer Stations will be supported by representatives from the churches.
- PENTECOST – (8<sup>th</sup> June) The short ‘Walk of Witness’ around Ashton Gardens with banners and singing (meet at 2pm) will be followed by a service in the garden of the URC at 3pm.
- ST ANNES CARNIVAL WEEKEND (Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July) – A ‘walking float’ will be designed on this year’s theme of ‘movie magic’, probably celebrating ‘The Greatest Story Ever Told’. The stall in Ashton Gardens will also be repeated, on both 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Windmill Lodge Care Home – monthly services continue, on a rota. We have also been asked to run a monthly ‘Singalong’

Please ‘stay tuned’ for more details, and come along if you can.....

*Janette Farley*

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*Heavenly Father, we come before you as one body, united in Christ, though we come from different congregations and traditions. You are the God of all churches, the foundation of our faith and the source of our strength.*

*We pray for unity among us, that we can set aside our differences and focus on what binds us together – your love, grace and truth. Let our hearts be filled with humility, understanding and a desire to serve you as one church, reflecting the love of Jesus to the world.*

*Amen*



**THANK YOU** to all AFC box holders for supporting this worthwhile charity. With your donations, the total collected in the boxes for 2024 was £218 plus a further £180 in donations, giving a total for the year of £398.

Thank you, Church Road, for your generosity and continued support.

If anyone would like a box for their 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.**

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## **BUMBLEBEES**

*Baby and Toddler Group*

**TUESDAY MORNINGS IN TERM TIME  
from 9.15 a.m.- 11.30 a.m.**

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 £2.50 for an adult with one child (plus £1 per extra child)

*Lesley Turner*

Wesley's has recently been the beneficiary of a £5,000 grant from Fylde Borough Council's Community Wellbeing Fund, a fund supplied by the government's Shared Prosperity Scheme.

This grant has enabled Wesley's to conduct additional training programmes for volunteers and to extend opening hours, allowing the café to serve over 250 people each week.

### Wednesday Winter Warmers at Wesley's

Every Wednesday, Wesley's now have a teatime session, where everyone who turns up has the opportunity to be taught how to cook with the aid of the kitchen team. Then everybody sits down together and enjoys an excellent meal prepared by the guests and the kitchen volunteers.



Wesley's is also now serving a traditional English Brunch from 9.30 to 11.00am, which is proving to be very popular.

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*'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,*

*'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

Matthew 25: 35 & 40



## Christian Aid Week Appeal 11 - 17 May 2025

Christian Aid Week began in 1957, with the aim of raising public awareness of the threat of hunger and the possibility of famine across the world. This subsequently led to the charity adopting the name Christian Aid in 1964.

Today, Christian Aid now works with around 700 local organisations in over 50 countries, responding to a wider range of problems in a world beset by complex crises. The charity helps poor communities and enables them to deal with hardships, from climate change and the possible threat of natural disasters to armed conflicts and unsustainable debt. Alongside this, Christian Aid also helps with the education, sanitation, health and community reconciliation through support for locally-led initiatives.

Since October 2023, supporters have responded generously to Christian Aid's Gaza appeal, which has enabled vital support to be offered to devastated communities. They have also continued to work in Ukraine, providing psychological support and practical help through local partners, whilst in Libya, communities have been helped recover from devastating flooding.

Through our fundraising in Christian Aid week this year, with our support and prayers, together, we **will** beat extreme poverty and improve living conditions in some of the most challenging places in the world.

**Envelopes for your donations for the work of Christian Aid will be available in church on Sunday 11 May.**

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

Overleaf are some interesting graphics taken from the 2023-24 Christian Aid Review, showing where in the world they are working and an idea of how their funds are deployed.

# 2023 - 2024 Our year in numbers

You are part of a global movement of people, churches and local organisations who passionately champion dignity, equality, justice and love worldwide.

Here's a visual summary of what you helped us to achieve throughout 2023/24.



Your generous gifts enabled us to:

Fund **410** projects

across Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Work with **260** implementing partners

**33%** of which were faith based.



Reach **4.5 million** people directly

**52%** of whom were women and girls

and another

**19.3 million** people indirectly.



We raised a total of

**£83.3m**

with **£52.6m**

coming from supporters in the UK. Of which,

**£15.7m**

went to emergencies in 10 countries.



**£82.4m**

was spent, of which

**£29.4m**

on humanitarian

**£33m**

on development.



**2833** churches

supporting Christian Aid (England 2241, Wales 171 and Scotland 421).

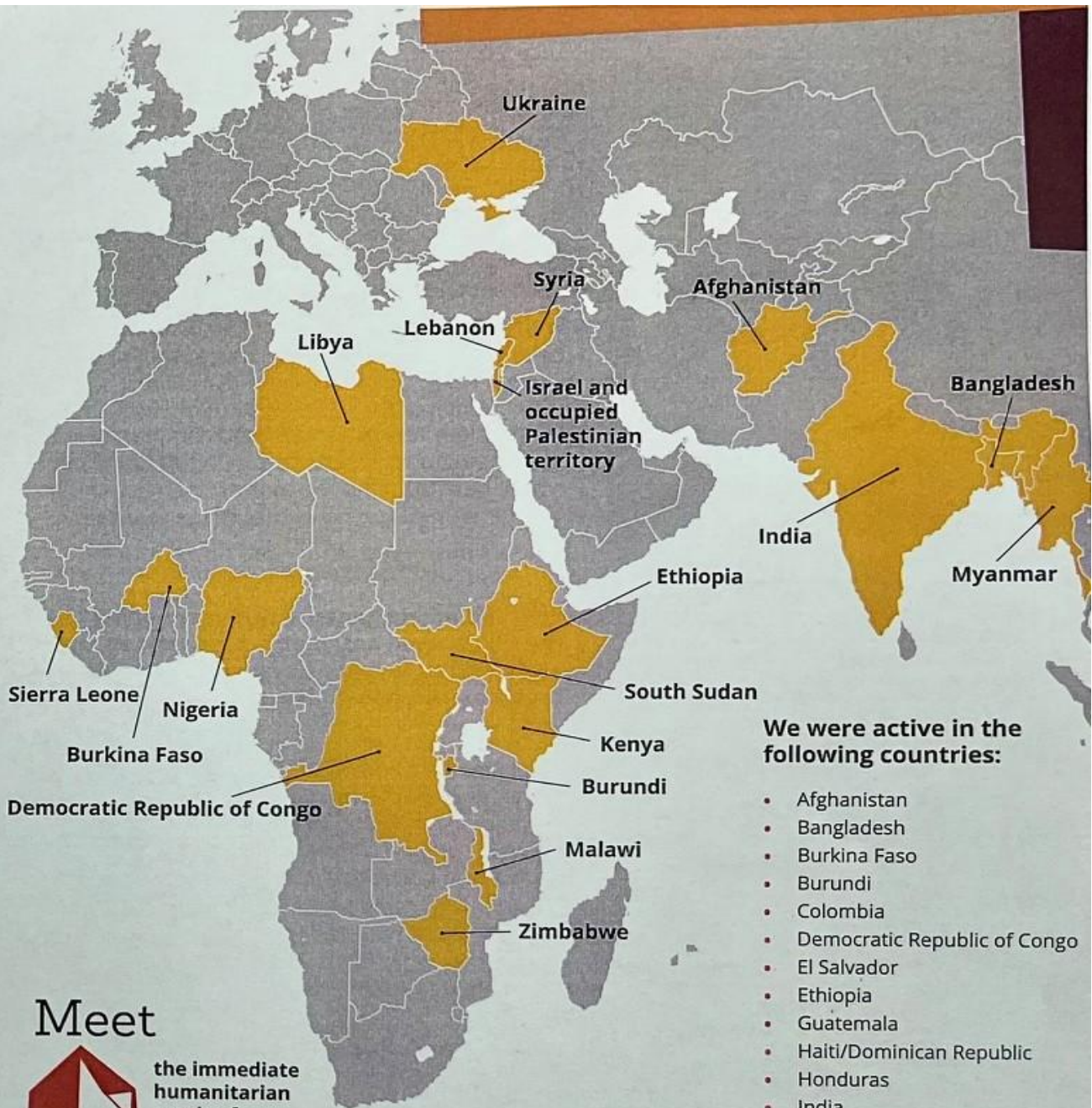


**26,682** people

gave to Christian Aid for the first time,

**2,000**

as regular givers.




**We were active in the following countries:**

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Guatemala
- Haiti/Dominican Republic
- Honduras
- India
- Israel and occupied Palestinian territory
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Malawi
- Myanmar
- Nicaragua
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Ukraine
- Zimbabwe

**Meet**



the immediate humanitarian needs of

**3.2 million people** 

**Take action**

**10,000**

people signed our petition calling on the UK Government to work for a just peace in the Middle East.

**1,000+**

people joined our **Act on Poverty course** during Lent.

**40+**

Christian Aid groups organised vigils and meetings with MPs on **Make Polluters Pay Action Day**.





## **A CHALLENGE FOR OUR CHURCHES**

We are now becoming used to hearing of the labels given to different age groups and to their characterisations so beloved by marketing types. Many of us are familiar with our designation as ‘boomers,’ those born in the years after the end of the Second World War from 1946 to 1964. We’re followed by younger generations - Generation X (1965-1980), Millennials (1981-1996) and Generation Z (1997-2012).

This latter cohort has been receiving a lot of attention in the press recently as they become ‘of age’ and are beginning to make their voices heard. Surveys of this age group consistently show that they are generally more tolerant and accepting of diversity and more concerned about climate change than many of the older generations. Many also seem to be eschewing some of the wilder habits traditionally associated with young people.

A recent study reported in the newspapers has suggested that 72% of Generation Z young British people have more faith in religion than in the government when it comes to tackling real-world problems. Such findings, if truly representative of Generation Z’s views, offer a challenge to the established churches. Those that embrace social activism, interfaith dialogue and community service will tend to resonate more with younger generations. Food for thought.....

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*Loving and gracious God, we lift up young people everywhere seeking purpose, justice and truth. May they find faith that is alive; in all things, may your love be their foundation and your truth their guide.*

*Amen*



## MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP (MAF)

is a Christian organisation reaching men, women and children in over 25 countries. Operating more than 115 aircraft. MAF's pilots overcome terrain that has become inaccessible due to derelict roads, natural disaster, or violent conflict. MAF aircraft fly into more than 1,000 destinations – transporting food and water, health professionals and medical supplies, and emergency workers and Christian missionaries where they are needed most.

Rev Ken Thom, a United Reformed Church Minister in Essex, has been supporting MAF through his hobby of postcard collecting for over 25 years and has raised over £300,000 through selling unwanted postcards that have been donated. You can also help MAF and its work by donating any unwanted postcards through the box at the rear of Church.



## PLEASE REMEMBER

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

### OLD SPECTACLES

These can be recycled for re-use by volunteer optometrists offering eye examinations in developing countries.



### USED POSTAGE STAMPS

These can be sold to raise money for various charities.



### USED OR UNUSED POSTCARDS

These can be sold to raise money for the charity MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship).



**Please leave items in the box above the bookcase at the back of the church, for us to pass on for charitable recycling.**

**SHOPPING ON-LINE OR BOOKING YOUR HOLIDAYS?**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT US THROUGH**



Whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Church Road Methodist Church, with over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation. It won't cost you a penny extra!

Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churchrdmethodist/>

Download a donation reminder on your laptop or computer to help you to find donations when you shop.

[Donation Reminder Toolbar Download | Easyfundraising](#)



**Wesley's Larder**

Church Road Methodist Church  
St Albans Road St Annes FY8 3NQ

The cost of living is still having an impact on local people. Wesley's are supporting those struggling to make ends meet.

More donations for the Larder are desperately needed!

*General groceries, cooking materials, fruit and vegetables*

*Everyday household items, toiletries and hygiene products*

Please drop off donations at the back of church on Sundays,  
or at Wesley's during the week.

**ALL HEAVEN DECLARES**

the glory of the risen Lord ;  
who can compare  
with the beauty of the Lord ?  
For ever he will be  
the Lamb upon the throne ;  
I gladly bow the knee,  
and worship him alone.

I will proclaim  
the glory of the risen Lord,  
who once was slain  
to reconcile us to God.  
For ever you will be  
the Lamb upon the throne ;  
I gladly bow the knee,  
and worship you alone.

*Noël Richards (b. 1955) and Tricia Richards (b. 1960)*  
*Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 293*  
*Words and Music: © 1987, Thankyou Music.*  
*CLLLicence No 170740*



# 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 9.30a.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 2025 edition of the Record will be published in early June. The deadline for contributions will be

**Monday 26 May 2025**

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

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