

THE RECORD

CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR 2018-19



CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

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

Minister: Revd Stephen Heath Tel: (01772) 683884
email: stephen.heath@churchrdmethodist.org.uk



Church Road Methodist Church & Centre,
Church Road, St.Annes-on-Sea, FY8 3NQ :
Telephone 01253 729224
Web Site www.churchroadmethodist.org
Email: churchroadmethodist@gmail.com

Church Road Methodist Church Registered Charity No 1134109

WORSHIP in DECEMBER

2nd ADVENT SUNDAY

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church
- 9.15 a.m. Activ8 Café Church led by David Turner
- 10.30 a.m. Andrew Barratt
- 6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

9th

- 10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath - Holy Communion
- 6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



16th

- 10.30 a.m. **ALL AGE NATIVITY SERVICE**
led by Kate Hunt

23rd

- 10.30 a.m. Judith Smith
- 6.30 p.m. **TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE**
led by Revd Stephen Heath

24th CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4.00 p.m. **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**
led by Revd Stephen Heath
- 11.15 p.m. **CIRCUIT FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS**
at Lytham Methodist Church led by Revd Sylvester Deigh

25th CHRISTMAS DAY

- 10.00 a.m. **FAMILY WORSHIP**
led by Revd Stephen Heath

30th

- 10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath

WORSHIP in JANUARY

6th

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church
- 9.15 a.m. Activ8 Café Church led by Kate Hunt
- 10.30 a.m. COVENANT SERVICE led by Revd Stephen Heath
- 6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

13th

- 10.30 a.m. Revd Paul Davies, District Chair
- 6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

20th

- 10.30 a.m. ALL AGE WORSHIP led by Andrew Barratt
- 6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

27th

- 10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath
- 6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



ACTIV8

Our monthly informal service of early morning worship is on the **first Sunday of each month** at 9.15 a.m. in the south transept. A time of warm fellowship with associated activities for children.

WORSHIP in FEBRUARY

3rd

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church
- 9.15 a.m. Activ8 Café Church led by Revd Stephen Heath
- 10.30 a.m. Kate Hunt
- 6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



10th

- 10.30 a.m. Revd Alan Clark - Holy Communion
- 6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

17th

- 10.30 a.m. ALL AGE WORSHIP led by Christine Pierce
- 6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

24th

- 10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath
- 6.30 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



Sunday evenings at Fairhaven

FRESH CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP - a time to explore faith through media, conversation and prayer. Drinks are available from 6.30 p.m. and worship begins at 7.00 p.m.

See weekly notice sheet for details

Please visit the South Fylde Circuit website, which has more details of the services and other events across the circuit.

www.methodistsouthfylde.org.uk



A word from Stephen....

Dear Friends

“Coming ready or not” usually signals the start of a game of hide and seek. Playing it sometimes with the grandchildren in a small house there are not many places to hide and so for me the greater challenge is not finding them too quickly. I find it fascinating that as I delay they begin to giggle to help me discover them and want to be found.

I sit here at my desk looking ahead to Christmas thinking what new or different ideas I can come up with that will make Christmas different this year. It is not a Carol that is coming to mind but the hymn “Tell me the old, old story”. It reminds me that there is something very reassuring about hearing a familiar message. Many a parent has said how their children want the same bedtime story over and over again. What is familiar can be very comforting.

Most people over the age of three, living around the church, will know the Christmas Story. It is part of our heritage. The fact we know it so well and have heard it the whole of our lives does not diminish it in any way. There are no surprises. Christmas comes ready or not.

Some of us will be well advanced with our Christmas preparations. An article in the News in mid- November said one in five people had already completed their Christmas shopping and, I think, fifty per cent of them had wrapped the presents as well. It is a long-established understanding that preparations are essential to a good Christmas whether it be present buying, food preparation or travel arrangements. Yet Christmas comes ready or not.

It is over forty years since I first compiled a Carol Service and led worship on Christmas morning. The majority of the Carols we sing and readings we hear will be the same as then, the message has not changed, Christ comes ready or not. He comes to a stable not a palace, foretold by prophets, welcomed by shepherds, worshipped by kings and ignored or rejected by the majority whose focus was elsewhere. Regardless of who we are and what we have done Christ comes among us.

In early November I overheard a conversation between Mum and son about whether Santa will come or not. There is no debate about Christmas coming, Christ comes. Ready or not. The question is will we make Him welcome?

Journey end! Where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

May your preparations for Christmas go smoothly and may peace and joy fill your homes and lives.

Stephen

....and a greeting from our Pastoral Assistant, Judith Smith.

Could I begin by saying thank you for the welcome I have received from Church Road since I began as the Lay Worker in September? Time is passing very quickly and I can hardly believe we are nearly into Advent and looking forward to Christmas. It has been a privilege to visit some of you in your homes and meet others at various church functions and groups and share in your times of joys and times of sadness.

As we see the Christmas lights around us, pointing us to the Christmas gift of Christ's light, we are reminded once again of how we can play our part in bringing to others his Love, Joy and Peace, at this Christmas time.

Wishing you All a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year

Judith



DOROTHY PINCHES

BARRY TISMOND

*"The Lord's my Shepherd, I shall not want
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green, He leadeth me,
The quiet waters by"*



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.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

SEPTEMBER

- 9th Loving memories of Doreen and Scottie from Betty
- 16th Birthday memories of James Maddocks
Fond memories of Hilary Cardwell
Loving birthday memories of our brother, Philip, from Sylvia
- 23rd Birthday memories of Muriel Maddocks
- 30th Loving birthday memories of Fred Holland
Birthday memories of Sydney Knight
- In memory of the late Margaret McColm (nee Charlesworth)

OCTOBER

- 7th Birthday memories of Conrad and Vera Pate
In memory of Polly and Leonard Gray
In memory of Dorothy Spencer from Margaret Paterson
- 14th Fond family birthday memories from Rosemary Wells,
Katherine and Sarah
- 21st Treasured memories of a devoted husband and father
from Louise Eadon, Helen & Rachel.
- 28th Loving memories of Sydney Knight
Cherished birthday memories of Marjorie,
from Peter, Gary, Mandy and Yvonne
In memory of James Maddocks

NOVEMBER

- 4th Loving birthday memories of a very dear brother
from Evelyn Grace
Cherished birthday memories of Marjorie from Peter, Gary, Mandy,
Yvonne and the grandchildren
- 11th *Remembrance Day poppies*
Fond family memories from Sybil Bleach
- 18th Kay Makepeace in memory of her parents
In memory of Michael Pinches
- 25th Treasured birthday memories of Paul,
from Evelyn Grace & Suzanne



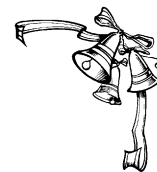
CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers are paid for by people who make dedications in memory of loved ones. If anyone else would like to contribute in this way please contact Elaine Watts. (telephone 01253 722302.) Please make cheques payable to Church Road Methodist Church Flower Fund and include the wording for any dedication that can be inserted in the Church Record. After Sunday morning service the flowers are given to the sick, bereaved or someone who might appreciate them. If you know of anyone who might appreciate some flowers one week, please have a word with Elaine Watts.

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its Saviour.”

John 3 : 16,17

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AT CHURCH ROAD



Warmest Wishes for God's Blessing at Christmas

from

Joan & Jim Edwell Sybil Bleach Jean Foulkes Myrtle Peplow
Peter & Rita Coulby (Lincolnshire) Arthur & Jean Taylor
Ron & Joy Woodhead (Grange-over-Sands) Elaine Watts
Terry & Dawn Hudson Glenys Barnett (Taunton) Joan Wild
Anne & John Mayes Valerie (nee Richmond) & Brian Bailey (Irlam)
Audrey & David Shaw Sadie Bridge Betty Kirkpatrick
Kay Makepeace Shirley Grundon Linda & David Butcher
Alison & Stewart Dow Valerie Ball Nigel & Sandie Standbridge
Sheila & Andrew Whitley Margaret & Stuart Wrigley
Doreen & Allan Catherine Peak Joan Hollows
Irene & David Harrison Philip & Betty Harrison
Jonathan & Catherine Irving and family

**Instead of sending Christmas Cards, the above have made
donations to the church funds**

**May we this Christmas experience the deep truth of
Emmanuel, God with us**

STEPHEN & LINDA HEATH
JUDITH SMITH

**We also send our greetings and good wishes to
all our former ministers and distant friends**

ST.ANNES PARISH CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday 8th - Saturday 15th December 2018.



Lots of Christmas Trees on show, sponsored by many local organisations and charities.

(including Church Road Methodist Church)

Opening Times : 1:30pm – 4:30pm every day

Free Entry - Refreshments available

Handel's Messiah at Freckleton Methodist Church

SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER at 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Soloists

Nicola Howard, Joyce Tindsley, Huw Rhys Evans and Paul Gibson

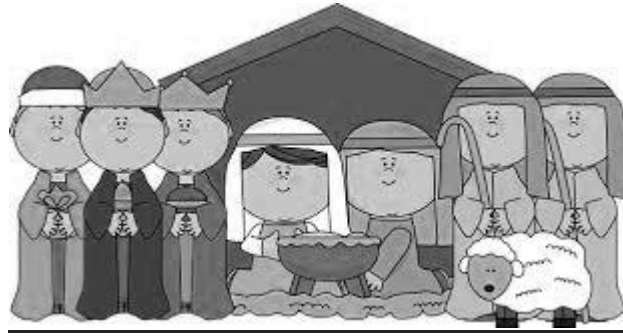
with the Keighley Vocal Union Chorus
Conductor Frank Smith, Organist Karen Au

Afternoon teas available in the Village Hall between parts 1 & 2

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9 : 6



SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER
ALL AGE NATIVITY SERVICE

Please join us for our All Age Worship “Pop Up Nativity”, where the congregation will play a role, led by the children and young people from JKids and Time Out. Dress up or bring a prop: be Mary, Joseph, an Angel or a wise man for the morning! We will have extra props available on the day.

Following the service, there will be a Christmas themed Jacobs Join lunch. Everyone is welcome. Please bring your contributions to the lunch on the day, being mindful that fridge space is limited and we have no facilities to heat food or keep anything warm!

For further information regarding the nativity service please speak to Becky Derbyshire, for information regarding the Jacobs Join Christmas lunch, please contact Linda Butcher or Caroline Livesey.



LANCASHIRE SINGS CHRISTMAS
Radio Lancashire's Carol Singing Event
across the county

***Come along and join with other local churches
and our neighbours for an hour's
carol singing in The Vic***

Thursday 20 December 2018
from 7.00 p.m to 8.00 p.m.



The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Perhaps the most famous carol service is the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College in Cambridge. This service takes place at 3.00pm on Christmas Eve each year and is broadcast live on the BBC.

The service was originally created and performed in 1880 by Edward Benson, who was the then newly appointed Bishop of Truro. The idea travelled around the country and it became quite a popular service to hold on Christmas Eve. However, it was made most famous by the choir from King's College, Cambridge, which was regarded as one of the world's best choirs in the early 1900's.



The Service was first performed at King's College in 1918 as a way of the college celebrating the end of the First World War. The new college Dean, Eric Milner-White, who had been an Army Chaplain in WWI, wanted a different and more positive way of celebrating Christmas for the choir and people in the college.

In 1919 the Dean changed the opening carol to be 'Once in Royal David's City' and set the main order for the service as it still is today.

A traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols has nine Bible readings that tell the Christmas story, with one or two carols between each lesson. Today, the opening verse of 'Once in Royal David's' is traditionally sung by a single boy chorister but in the early years of the service at King's College it was sung by the whole choir. Nowadays, several choristers train to perform the solo, but the boy who will sing it is only told a couple of minutes before the service starts, so he can't get too nervous!

The BBC first broadcast the service, on the radio, in 1928 and apart from 1930 it's been broadcast every year since - even during the Second World War.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Following our All Age Worship Service on 18 November, we sent a total of 167 shoeboxes to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Appeal – Operation Christmas Child. 113 of these were from the Learning Tree Nursery in Blackpool.

Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal, including Francesca Foulkes and the staff and children at the Learning Tree Nursery.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SERVICES

This festive season, there are plenty of opportunities to celebrate Christmas in worship together. Please come along, bring your family & friends and share in the Christian messages of the season.

Seasonal thanks

Thank you to everyone who has helped to maintain our fellowship and witness at Church Road throughout 2018. We look forward to an exciting and fulfilling year ahead, with the opening of our new premises and by continuing our work together in 2019.

A very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to you all!



Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748).

FYLDE FOODBANK



Fylde Foodbank has fed over 8,000 adults and children in need since it opened in September 2014. The vast majority of the food distributed comes from a network of Foodbank collection points in churches, schools, shops and businesses throughout Fylde. Without these contributions the Foodbank would not be able to provide this emergency help for local people in crisis

As we prepare for Christmas, please remember our standing appeal for donations for the Fylde Food Bank. This is a difficult time of year for struggling families and we can all help the Food Bank by donating staple tinned and packaged items as well as a few Christmas treats to give out during the festive season. There is a basket at the rear of our church for donations of tinned and packaged goods for this very worthy cause. Thank you for your support.



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

to Len Macklin who celebrated his 100th birthday in October;
to Iris Orrell who celebrated her 100th birthday in November;
to Joan Wild, who celebrated her 90th birthday in September;
and to Enid Lusby who celebrated her 90th birthday in November.

**Our congratulations and best wishes on
these very special birthday achievements!**

Covenant Sunday

**10.30 a.m. 6 January 2019
led by Revd Stephen Heath**

“I am no longer my own but yours”

Starting the New Year with a renewed commitment

At our annual Covenant Service, we celebrate all that God has done for us and affirm that we give our lives and choices to God. The service is at the heart of our devotion and discipleship, and our dedication in working for social justice.

Come, let us use the grace divine,
and all with one accord,
in a perpetual covenant
join ourselves to Christ the Lord;
Give up ourselves, through Jesus' power,
his name to glorify;
and promise, in this sacred hour,
for God to live and die.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

As part of the week of prayer for Christian unity there will be
an ecumenical service at

St Annes Parish Church

Tuesday 22 January 2019 at 7.30 pm.



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

It is great to see good progress on the work as we look forward to completion at the end of January 2019. What a great start that will be to the New Year!

It is a joy to see the reclaimed stone being used on the entrance to the new centre and more will be incorporated with some of the old foundation stones in the new ramped entrance.

The roof is on and all will be watertight in another couple of weeks. The focus then will be on fitting out the new centre creating the function rooms and offices. There will be some disruption in the church when they knock through the new link into the centre probably after Christmas.

In recent weeks we have been grateful for the promise of funds from the Windmill Community Trust and the Lawrence Henry Clegg Charity to support the work of the café and to purchase equipment in the centre as we re-establish Wesley's Community Café and related work.

We will be contacting all who assisted us in that project in the near future hoping that we will be ready to open within a couple of weeks of the premises being handed back to the Church.

*The Church of Christ in every age
Beset by change but spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead*

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)



Our continuing challenge for the Community Hub is to raise more funds to help us to realise our vision. In the three months since September, we have raised £2000. Following on from the £6000 raised by the North of England Bike Ride, these are welcome contributions to the ongoing work of developing our community hub.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this total in any way, in planning, organising and supporting – the Bike Ride, the Quizzical Coffee Morning, the concert by the Heyhouses Community Choir and Fiddle Faddle and the Christmas Fayre.

Caroline Livesey is now stepping down as Chair of the Fundraising Committee and Marion Brett and Linda Heath are also retiring from the Committee. On behalf of the whole church, the Fundraising Committee would like to publicly thank Caroline for her hard work and for the creative and enthusiastic way in which she has led the Committee. Thanks also to Marion and Linda for their hard work in helping to plan and supporting our fundraising events.

The Committee now comprises Jean Foulkes, Barbara Knowles, Lesley Turner and Stuart Wrigley, with new members Shirley Eade, Janette Farley and Anne Mayes joining the Committee in the New Year.

Watch out for more fundraising and social events in 2019.

*As they offered gifts most rare
At your cradle rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasure bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.*

William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898)



**SHOPPING ON-LINE FOR CHRISTMAS?
PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT US THROUGH
EASY FUNDRAISING**

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/>



Fundraising Boxes

We are grateful to the many people who have taken collecting boxes to help with our fundraising. These are a great opportunity to put in occasional extra donations towards our development fund and also to seek contributions from friends and family.

Look out in the weekly notices for the next collection dates

If you do not have a box and would like one to support us in this way with occasional donations, please email the church office or speak to Stuart Wrigley.

Thank you to everyone for your continuing support.



Action for Children News

Thank you to everyone who supported the Circuit Action for Children Organ Concert on 3 November. It raised the very good amount of approximately £910.

Home Collection Boxes

Shirley Eade is taking on the role of collection box secretary. If your box needs emptying, please could you let Shirley have it sometime during January. If you need it to be picked up please contact her on 01253 789217.

A SMILE FOR YOU

Smiling is infectious: you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,
When he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile, then I realised its worth,
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

Anon

“From the infinitely changeless vessel of spirit,
I savour the inexhaustible richness of generosity”

Eduardo Cuadro (1820-1903)

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP NEWS

WINTER PROGRAMME

- 5 Dec Travelling Fairgrounds – Garth Lathom
- 12 Dec Christmas Service
- 9 Jan New Year Lunch at the Clifton Park Hotel
- 16 Jan RNLI Blackpool – Brenda Warburton
- 23 Jan Lytham in Bloom – Greg Anderton
- 30 Jan Revd Stephen Heath
- 6 Feb A year in the life of a busy coastal tourism destination – Tim Dixon
- 13 Feb **Visit to The Drive**
History of Soap and Bathing – Matthew Lepp
- 20 Feb Marianne Welch

NEW YEAR LUNCH

At the Clifton Park Hotel

Wednesday 9 January 2019 at 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m.

Price £21.00 (including gratuities)

For more information contact Elaine Watts (Tel: 722302)

KATE HUNT

It is a privilege for us to have Kate Hunt in our church family at the moment, whilst she is training to become a minister in the United Reformed Church. She has been supporting our Minister, Stephen, and learning “on the job”. Kate will be leading our Nativity Service on 16 December.

Here she tells us a little bit about herself and her call to ministry:



My name is Kate Hunt and I am a first-year student minister in the United Reformed Church. I live here in St. Anne's, I am married to Stephen who is an aeronautical engineer at BAe Systems and we have four sons – Sam (23), Tom (21), William (19) and James (17). I was born in Morecambe and I am the youngest of four children. My grandparents lived with us and we were brought up in a loving home with a clever and creative make-do and mend philosophy.

After learning the recorder in primary school, I continued developing my love of music with lessons on flute and euphonium. I sang in two church choirs and played in a local Brass Band. I began to be involved at the local Anglican church, being encouraged by the vicar to lead some services. I went to Greenbelt, a Christian festival, where I found that there were different ways of being Christian, different kinds of song to sing, different ways of listening to God and hearing his word.

Having failed my music A' level, I went on to study Primary Education and English at Bretton Hall in Yorkshire, where I attended a local Anglican church. There, there was a lively mix of ages and styles of worship. I was present at two Billy Graham events in Sheffield and Liverpool and my journey with God continued.

Having tentatively answered a call at the Keswick Convention, I came to St Annes to work at St. Nicholas' school in Blackpool, feeling a little disappointed. I joined St. Margaret's church where I experienced good teaching and kind, encouraging leadership. I made life-long friends,

participated in choir and music group and led services. I met Stephen and we were married. We share a love of music – he’s a viola player and I’m a soprano. In St. Margaret’s we were part of a church that was reaching out to and serving its community.

Our four boys came along after a few years, and things changed. We felt we needed to move on to a different church. We joined St Annes United Reformed Church, where we found peace, friendship and purpose. All our boys are musical, so all of us were involved in the music group and I organised the children’s Sunday Club. Three years ago, we began Messy Church.

I was leading services – mainly at festival times- and Jim Williams our minister asked me if I thought I had a calling. It was as if someone had suddenly asked me the right question- I was suddenly on the right track. Often, I had struggled as a parent, feeling inadequate, not coping. I found it hard to believe that God could use me in this way and yet it made such sense. So, after gruelling selection procedures and introductory studying, now I find myself at Northern College in Manchester studying for a degree in Contextual Theology.

I have been blessed with a lovely family and home. I am part of a large supportive network of relatives and friends. My parents were ordinary, down to earth people who loved through their actions and the care they gave us. They have given me a love of nature and the countryside, a joy in making and doing, finding pleasure in small things, Life hasn’t always been straightforward, I’ve had my share of ups and downs. I haven’t always acknowledged God right by my side. But, I know I have always been on this journey with its highs and lows – the times when he’s been carrying me and the times when I’ve been able to skip off ahead. It’s great that I’ve been able to start this part of my journey based at Church Road Methodist.

Thank You!! Kate



WORSHIP ON THURSDAYS

**Generally the first and third Thursdays of each month
at 11.00 a.m.**

A Time of Bible Study, Worship and Reflection

The programme for the next session will be published in the weekly notices in January.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL BRISTOL – The New Room

Wesley's Chapel in Bristol, or the New Room as it is known throughout Methodism, is the oldest Methodist building in the world. It was built by John Wesley in 1739 at the request of members of two religious societies in the city to provide a place for them to meet. The original building served many purposes because John encouraged the religious society members to offer food and clothing to the poor, run a school for children, arrange visits to the nearby prison, and help the sick by running a free medical dispensary. An early example of a Methodist Community Hub!



Above the chapel are the rooms in which Wesley and other preachers stayed. These now house a Museum. The chapel still includes a very fine example of a double-decker pulpit, which were common at the time. The pews and benches were made from old ship timber. An octagonal lantern window was provided in the roof to reduce the amount paid in Window Tax!

Until the deaths of John and Charles Wesley the New Room acted as the most important centre of Methodism outside London. Many of the early Methodist Conferences were held there and, because of its location in the busy port city of Bristol, it played a particularly significant role in Methodism's increasing involvement in America and in the movement's anti-slavery campaign.

When the old shopping district of Bristol was heavily damaged in the Bristol Blitz in 1941, the New Room was lucky to survive. Perhaps even more fortunately, it also survived post-war plans for the redevelopment of the old shopping area! As a result, the chapel is now in the heart of the Broadmead shopping centre and, together with its adjacent garden, provides an oasis of peace in one of the busiest areas of the city.



In 2017, the most substantial change to John Wesley's Chapel since the eighteenth century took place with the opening of a new three-storey visitor centre. The new building offers a 40-seater café and shop on the ground floor, library and archive facilities on the first floor and a conference/education centre on the second floor, all with a linked entrance to a new and expanded museum above the chapel.

The museum tells the story of the Wesley's and Bristol in the eighteenth century and how the movement grew and developed across the country. It features many original objects and furnishings from Wesley's time at the New Room as well as newly commissioned interactive displays. Displays in the museum encourage visitors to reflect on how many of the issues that Methodism addressed in the eighteenth century continue to challenge and demand responses from us today.

The complex is open to all visitors; regular worship is still held here, including a Communion Service open to anyone each Friday at 1pm. The Chapel is also used as a venue for a variety of exhibitions, performances and lectures, as well as special worship events.



A highly recommended destination for any Methodists visiting Bristol!

Let earth and heaven combine,
Angels and all agree,
To praise in songs divine
The incarnate Deity,
Our God contracted to a span,
Incomprehensibly made man.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)



RECONCILIATION

In November, we marked 100 years since the end of the First World War. Across Europe, the millions of lives lost in the conflict that had been sparked by the pompous nationalism of the great powers were remembered with dignity. Sadly of course, the “war to end all wars” achieved nothing of the sort and the settlement agreed in its aftermath in Versailles contained the seeds for another great conflict only 21 years later. Each year we remember the lives lost in conflicts and the horrors of warfare; we give thanks for those who sacrificed their lives for our peace. The events this year were yet again a poignant reminder of the fragility of peace and the continuing need to work for reconciliation.

The French journalist, Natalie Nougayrede, recently wrote in the Guardian of an encounter she experienced at an international conference in Berlin, which had been organised to address the significance of the First World War for the present and future. On the sidelines of this conference, Natalie spoke with a German diplomat in her late 50’s and admired a beautiful necklace she was wearing. The diplomat told her a moving personal story:

“She said the necklace had been bequeathed to her by an old French woman who had lost two of her brothers in the 1914-18 war. For decades this French grandmother had refused to speak to or even approach anyone German – even rejecting the young exchange student from Bonn who regularly visited her family. Yet years later she wrote in her will that her favourite necklace should be given to that very German student, as a token of reconciliation. The German diplomat was that young student. As she finished the story she added gently: ‘When I die, the necklace will be given to that woman’s great-granddaughter, in France.’ “

As we move from Remembrance in November through Advent to the celebration of Christmas and the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, it is timely to reflect on the ever present need for reconciliation - between countries, between people of different cultures and beliefs - and the need for forgiveness and reconciliation at a personal level.

Excerpt from AMAZING PEACE
by Maya Angelou



We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.
Peace.

Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,
implore you to stay awhile with us
so we may learn by your shimmering light
how to look beyond complexion and see community.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.
On this platform of peace, we can create a language
to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.
At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ

Into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues the coming of hope.
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices to celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Nonbelievers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace.

We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace.

We look at each other, then into ourselves,
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation:

Peace, My Brother.
Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.



The American writer, playwright and poet Maya Angelou was born in 1928 in St. Louis Missouri. She had a broad career as a singer, dancer, actress, composer, and Hollywood's first female black director, but became most famous as a writer, editor, essayist, playwright, and

poet. She was recognised throughout her adult life as a political figure and civil rights activist.

In 1993, Maya Angelou was invited to read her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" at the inauguration of President Bill Clinton and in 2010 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour in the United States, by President Barack Obama. The 2018 Formula One racing champion, Lewis Hamilton, has a tattoo on his back with the title of one of her poems, "Still I rise".

Maya Angelou's Christmas poem, "Amazing Peace", imagines a lasting peace amongst people of differing beliefs, a peace that can triumph over wars and violence.

Maya Angelou died in 2014 at her home in North Carolina.



When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To free the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace amongst the people.

*Thurman Howard (1899-1981)
American Civil Rights Activist*

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018

Monday 25 February - Sunday 10 March

Fairtrade Fortnight is marked every year to highlight the principles and products of fair trade and the links between consumers and producers. **Fairtrade Fortnight** is an action-packed highlight of the year, when campaigners, businesses, schools and places of worship show their support for the farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries.



Millions of farmers in developing countries aren't paid what they deserve. They are trapped in a system that is unfair, one that rips them off. Many are paid prices too low to provide for their families properly.



You may have read in the press of the difficulties facing the trading arm of Traidcraft. Traidcraft plc started in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1979 importing handicrafts and food from impoverished parts of the world and guaranteeing its producers a fair, minimum price and improved working conditions. As a pioneer of fair trade in the UK, it relies on a large band of around 4,000 volunteers like Elaine Watts here at Church Road, who sell its products in churches and local markets.

However, these sales are now more important than ever because the company has warned that it is in financial difficulty, partly as a result of the fall in the value of the pound since the Brexit vote.

Traidcraft plc is currently investigating a proposal which would mean the organisation is downsized, but transformed into a fair trade business of tomorrow. This restructuring will have an effect on Traidcraft plc's producers, some of which have supplied the business for many years.

Traidcraft's immediate mission now is three-fold:

1. To use their expertise in trade to support those Traidcraft plc producers worst affected
2. To secure enough support and funds to continue their work this year in helping over 300,000 very poor people get a better deal from trade
3. To continue to fight for a world where all trade is fair

Traidcraft are urgently considering how they can use their limited charity resources to support craft producers who have relied on sales to Traidcraft plc for their livelihoods.

Thank you to Elaine and all her customers each month for their commitment to fair trade and helping to make the world a fairer and more just place. This is all part of a movement of people dedicated to changing the world.

Traidcraft are grateful for all the work that has been done and continues to be done in support of fair trade and justice.

So please continue to support our Traidcraft stall whenever you can.

The next Fair Trade stall will be on 27 January 2019, followed by 24 February and the last Sunday of each month thereafter.

In the meantime, if you are interested in buying any fair trade products, please get in touch with Elaine Watts.

DON'T FEED EXPLOITATION. CHOOSE FAIRTRADE

Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us. So that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.

Pope Francis

DIARY NOTES



*Please check the weekly notices for further details
and any changes*

MOVEMENT TO MUSIC: Every MONDAY 7.30 to 8.30 p.m and
Wednesday from 9.45 to 10.45 a.m.

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

BROWNIES: Every TUESDAY in term time from 6.00 to 7.30 p.m. for girls
aged 7-10

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP: Every WEDNESDAY at 2.15 p.m.

WORSHIP ON THURSDAY: See weekly notices for details, but generally
on the 1st & 3rd THURSDAY of each month, from 11.00 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.
A time of worship, bible study and reflection.

FRIDAY FUN CLUB: Every FRIDAY in term time, for children, ages 6-11
years from 6.00 to 7.15 p.m

ACTIV8 CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP at 9.00 for 9.15 a.m. on the first SUNDAY
of each month.

TRADCRAFT STALL: After morning worship, generally on the last
SUNDAY of each month. Come along and support fair trade products.

TIME OUT at 7.00 p.m. every THIRD SUNDAY of each month. An informal
faith based group for young people 12+

FRESH CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP at 6.30 for 7.00 p.m every SUNDAY at
Fairhaven Methodist Church. An opportunity to explore faith through
media, conversation and prayer. Drinks are available from 6.30 p.m. and
worship begins at 7.00 p.m.

Keep up to date!

All our church activities are included in our weekly news sheet. Any items that you wish to be included should be sent to the Church Office, preferably by email, by lunchtime on Thursdays.

churchroadmethodist@gmail.com

**If you would like to receive a copy of the weekly notices by email,
please email a request to the church office**



Church Road is on Facebook. If you are too, “Like” our page and receive updates each week of activities taking place here. Don’t forget to share our news with your friends as well.

Please visit our new website, which has details of all services and activities at Church Road. If you have a church event that you want to include, please pass the information to the church office.

www.churchroadmethodist.org.uk

The next edition of the THE RECORD will be the Spring edition, which will be published at the end of February. All contributions welcome. Please let us know if you have any special family news or celebrations that you would like to share with our readers.

You don’t need to wait for the deadline to send something to the Church Office, but in case you are a last minute person, the absolute deadline will be

1 p.m. on Wednesday 20 February 2019

Please send articles by email if possible to
churchroadmethodist@gmail.com