

THE RECORD

SPRING 2019



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

MARCH

3rd

- 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. Morning Worship led by Mr. David Turner
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

10th

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship & Holy Communion
led by Revd Stephen Heath
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

17th

- 10.30 a.m. ALL AGE WORSHIP led by Judith Smith
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

24th

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship led by Pat Hirst
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

31st MOTHERING SUNDAY

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship led by Revd Stephen Heath
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

APRIL

7th

- 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. Morning Worship led by Revd Joan Edwell
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

14th PALM SUNDAY

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship led by Kate Hunt
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



21st EASTER SUNDAY

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion led by Revd Stephen Heath
- 10.30 a.m. All Age Easter Celebration including Holy Communion led by Revd Stephen Heath

No FRESH at Fairhaven tonight

28th

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship led by Laura Green
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

MAY

5th

- 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. Morning Worship led by Revd Stephen Heath
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



12th

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Alan Clark
- 7.00 p.m. Easter Offering Service at Fairhaven led by Revd Paul Davis

19th

- 10.30 a.m. ALL AGE WORSHIP led by Kate Hunt
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

26th

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship led by Revd Stephen Heath
- 7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

A word from Stephen....



Dear Friends

I always feel encouraged as the days begin to get longer. Life does not feel as pressured. The darkness of winter is receding and the cycle of life begins again. I love the way in which our climate fits so well with the church year and helps to bring meaning to the message of the season. There is a sense of the year opening up in front of us and with it light, colour and opportunity pushing away the grey damp and cold of winter.

In church we are moving into the time of Committees and decisions about the future, times and dates, reviewing and enhancing what we do. Trying to be honest about what we could do better and matching desire and vision against capacity and practicality. That of course reminds us words often come easier than actions.

I am writing this a few days before Valentine's Day. A time when we focus on the love between two people. Cards and electronic greetings, flowers and chocolates will be given and special meals enjoyed as love and dreams abound. The reality of life will dawn the next day with the pressures of life, balancing the demands of children, work, home, time for self, not enough hours, or sleep, to go round!

In the church we focus on Lent. In the busyness of life we encourage making more time for God but where will it come from? From doing nothing being still and remembering God is with us! Lent offers that time to move away from darkness and move to the light. It encourages us to stop rushing around and look at where we are going and the route we are taking. To get things into perspective.

Then Easter, the intimacy of a shared meal with Jesus, conflict with the authorities, his teaching questioned and his voice silenced but then up from the grave he arose. All were and are broadening experiences. Examples of people making sense of who God is and how to worship him in spirit and the reality of daily living. New season, new days, new contexts await.

I encourage you to look again at your faith, join in discussion in the Lenten study groups, walk with confidence the ever-broadening path God lays before you. The best is yet to come!

Stephen

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

DECEMBER

3rd Loving birthday memories of Marion Holland

24th Treasured memories of Claire Berwick

In loving memory of John & Clarice Hughes from Margaret Wrigley
Loving Birthday memories of a dear husband Arthur, and
of my son, David Milnes, from Myrtle



JANUARY

11th Birthday memories of Mrs Gladys Ball

Treasured memories of John from Barbara, Caroline & Samantha
In memory of Stanley, Fred and Annie Richmond

18th Mr & Mrs P. Harrison in loving memory of their parents
Loving memories of Derek Rigby

25th Loving memories of Len Wild from Joan, Steven and family

FEBRUARY

18th Anne & John Mayes in memory of Anne's parents

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

Any contributions to church flowers should be sent to the Flower Secretary, Elaine Watts, with cheques payable to Church Road Methodist Church Flower Fund



DOROTHY SIMPSON
MAUREEN STANCOMBE

"Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won."



And if tonight my soul may find her peace
in sleep, and sink in good oblivion,
and in the morning wake like a new-opened flower
then I have been dipped again in God, and new-created.

Then I must know that still
I am in the hands of the unknown God,
he is breaking me down to his own oblivion
to send me forth on a new morning, a new man.

*excerpt from **Shadows** by D.H.Lawrence*

BAPTISM

24 February 2019



I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit

Holly Megan Haynes

Isla Jessica Haynes

Pour out your Holy Spirit that those baptised in water may die to sin, be raised with
Christ and be born to new life
in the family of your church.

The Lord bless you and take care of you,
May the Lord be kind and gracious to you,
May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace.

Numbers 6 verses 24-26

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end ;
Lord, be for ever near me,
my master and my friend ;
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

John Ernest Bode (1816–1874)

LENT

The word Lent comes from the Latin root meaning “to lengthen.” It reminds us that during the season of spring, the hours of daylight start becoming longer, the weather grows warmer and life emerges once more. Lent is a connecting point to the season of life. It is a time for reflection and for preparation before the celebrations of Easter. The forty days of Lent mark Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert and for Christians it signals a time of prayer, self-denial and confession that culminates on Easter Day.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. It is both a day of penitence to cleanse the soul and a day of celebration, a last chance to feast before Lent begins. It is often called Pancake Day after the fried batter recipe traditionally eaten on this day.

But there's more to Shrove Tuesday than gorging on pancakes. The pancakes themselves are part of an ancient custom with deeply religious roots going back over 1,000 years to Anglo-Saxon times. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of *shriving* that Christians used to undergo, whereby a person confesses their sins and receives absolution for them. When a person receives absolution for their sins, they are forgiven and released from the guilt and pain caused.



Mardi Gras

Shrove Tuesday is therefore a day of celebration as well as penitence.

Traditionally it's the last opportunity to indulge and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. To make sure that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on Shrove Tuesday and eat up

everything that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour. The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name *Mardi Gras* ('fat Tuesday').

Around the world, Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, is celebrated as a time for carnivals, with big parades, street parties and balls as well as much eating and drinking! A particularly extravagant celebration of Mardi Gras happens each year in New Orleans in the USA. Other famous carnivals take place in Rio de Janeiro, Quebec, Venice and Nice.



CIRCUIT SERVICE

Wednesday 6 March at 7.30 p.m.

This service is one that may be new to some at Church Road and it is certainly a number of years since we celebrated Ash Wednesday in this way. It is an opportunity to broaden our faith. A day in which we may choose to fast and make decisions about how we will use Lent to prepare for Easter. A day that encourages us to pause and ask ourselves what would I, as an individual and church member, like to reflect on, do differently, seek God's help with?

Our Superintendent and Chair of District, Rev Paul Davis, will be the preacher at the service, when we are hoping others from around the Circuit will join us in observing this Holy Day.

LENTEN STUDY

This year the theme of the Lenten Course is 'Our Calling'. The theme has been chosen to help us as individuals and churches reflect on the four pillars of Christian Living and what they mean for us as we are about to rededicate our church, buildings and people to God and encourage everyone to hold these four principles at the heart of our daily living. Having worked hard to make sure our buildings are fit for purpose this is an opportunity to make sure our Christian living is renewed also.

Church Road will be holding weekly groups on Thursdays 11.00 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. starting 14th March. The Drive will be offering a group on Monday afternoons at 2.00 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. starting Monday 11th March. Other churches in St. Annes are also joining in the course and details of other venues will be announced when known. We are grateful to Judith Smith, who has compiled the work on the course, booklets are available and the outline is below:

Our Calling

Lent 1 Worship

Lent 2 Learning and Caring

Lent 3 Service

Lent 4 Evangelism

Lent 5 Reflecting and Responding

We look forward to you joining the course. If you can only manage some of the sessions that is fine, we appreciate that not everyone may be able to attend all sessions.

THE LAST SUPPER

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks. "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom comes."

Luke 22 : 14 - 18



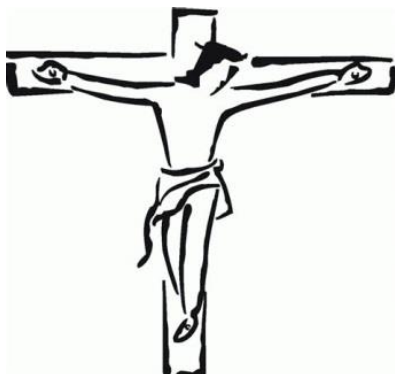
*A new commandment I give unto you
That you love one another as I have loved you
By this, the world shall know that you are my disciples,
If you have love, one for another.*

THE CRUCIFIXION

So the soldier's took charge of Jesus, carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. Here they crucified him and with him two others, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read:

JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS

John 19 : 16-19



*There behold his agony
Suffered on the bitter tree;
See his anguish, see his faith,
Love triumphant still in death.*

John Reynell Wreford (1800-1881)

CHRIST IS RISEN!

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.



“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!”

Luke 24 : 5 - 6

HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!



A CHRISTIAN CAN SING THOUGH ALONE, WHEN GOD DOTH GIVE
HIM THE JOY OF HIS HEART.

Thus far did I come loaden with my sin,
Nor could aught ease the grief that I was in,
‘Till I came hither. What a place is this!
Must here be the beginning of my bliss?
Must here the burden fall from off my back?
Must here the strings that bound it to me, crack?
Blessed cross! Blessed sepulchre! Blessed rather be
The man that there was put to shame for me.

John Bunyan, Pilgrim’s Progress



EASTER SERVICES FOR CHURCH ROAD

14 April Palm Sunday

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship led by Kate Hunt

18 April Maundy Thursday

7.30 p.m. A service of Reflection including Holy Communion
led by Revd Stephen Heath

19 April Good Friday

9.30 a.m. Good Friday service at Freckleton
11.00 a.m. Ecumenical Service at The Drive

Saturday 20 April

4.00 p.m. Easter Vigil at The Drive

21 April Easter Day

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion followed by breakfast
10.30 a.m. All Age Easter Celebration with Holy Communion
Both services led by Revd Stephen Heath

*In light defeating darkness
In wisdom conquering foolishness
In trust overcoming fearfulness*

Jesus lives

*In joy growing from sorrow
In life rising from death
In God giving the victory,
Jesus lives!*

David Adam,
Prayer in the Celtic tradition

CHURCH LIFE QUESTIONNAIRE

Many thanks to those who took part and now things are beginning to happen. A number of people were interested in joining a House group. Janette Farley has started an evening group and we are hoping to get a day time group going as well. Please speak to Janette or myself and we can put you in touch with the right people if it is something that you are interested in doing.

There is still a shortage of Welcome/Door Stewards if you feel you could offer your services in this way, please talk to Richmond Neale. A new music and worship group is getting together; watch the notices for further information.

When the new development is opened we are hoping to start a Hobby-craft group. This will include some of you who knit and natter but also open it up to everyone who might like a game of scrabble or dominoes or just a chat. To this end I am appealing for you to have a look in your cupboards and to see if you have a game of Scrabble, a set of Dominoes, a Jigsaw Mat or Board games (in good condition please) which you would be willing to donate to the group. Please don't be offended if you are the 6th person offering a Scrabble and I say thank you but no, as you can appreciate storage space will be limited. If it's a group you think you might like to help with then please let me know.

To quote Stephen, 'Exciting times are ahead as we get into the new development' and I would echo that so please support Church Road in this new venture, all sorts of volunteers will be needed, so watch this space!

Judith Smith – Lay Pastoral Worker

CONGRATULATIONS!

**to Eric Boardman,
who celebrated his
90th birthday in January.**

Best wishes from all at Church Road!



GENERAL CHURCH MEETING 2019

Tuesday 21 May at 7.30 p.m.

This meeting is open to everyone and is an opportunity for people to review what's happened in the life of the church and our plans for the future.

The formal business of the General Church Meeting is when we appoint the senior steward and the team of church stewards for the coming year. It is also when representatives are appointed to the Church Council and to the Circuit Meeting.

At the end of April, three of our Vestry team will come to the end of their terms of office and we will be looking for two or three new members to join the team and support Stephen in his ministry at Church Road. Nominations for new stewards should be submitted in writing to Rev Stephen Heath or one of the current stewards. Please ensure you have asked the person you are nominating and that they are willing to serve. We ask you to think prayerfully about these positions and if you want to know more about what is involved please speak to one of the Vestry Team who will be happy to discuss with you.

Similarly, nominations are invited for up to six representatives from the General Church Meeting to the Church Council. Those nominated should be members of the Methodist Church and be asked for their consent before they are formally nominated. More details of the nomination process will be in the weekly notices nearer the date of the meeting.

If you would like more information please contact Stephen or the Senior Steward, Linda Butcher.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ash Wednesday 6 March

7.30 p.m. Circuit service at Church Road Preacher Rev Paul Davis

Wednesday 22 March

6.30 p.m. Fundraising Event - Easter Chocolate Bingo

Palm Sunday 14 April

6.30 p.m. Circuit Service at Lytham led by District Chair, Revd Paul Davis

Maundy Thursday 18 April

7.30 pm Service of Holy Communion

Good Friday 19 April

9.30 a.m. Good Friday Service at Freckleton

11.00 a.m. Good Friday Service at The Drive

Easter Saturday 20 April

10.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. Easter Garden at Freckleton

4.00 p.m. Easter Vigil at The Drive

Easter Sunday 21 April

8.00 a.m. Easter Day spoken Communion followed by breakfast

10.30 a.m. All age worship with Communion led by Revd Stephen Heath

Saturday 11 May

10.00 a.m. MHA Coffee Morning at Lytham

Saturday 11 May

7.30 p.m. Music in May Fundraising Event - St.Annes Community Choir

Sunday 12 May

6.30 p.m. Circuit Easter Offering Dedication Service at Fairhaven

Tuesday 21 May

7.30 p.m. General Church Meeting

Friday 24 May

7.30 p.m. Music in May Fundraising Event – Piano & Organ Recital
by Alistair Mackenzie

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Saturday 1 June

3.00 p.m. Formal Opening of Community Hub

Sunday 2 June

10.30 a.m. Church Anniversary and Gift Day

Sunday 9 June

3.00 p.m. Ecumenical Pentecost March of witness leaves St. Annes Pier followed by

4.00 p.m. Pentecost Service at Fairhaven Lake

Tuesday 18 June

7.30 p.m. Church Council

Saturday 6 July

10.00 a.m. Carnival Coffee & Cakes Morning



ACTIV8

Our monthly informal service of early morning worship is on the **first Sunday of each month** at 9.00 a.m. in the south transept. A time of warm fellowship with associated activities for children.

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

Who am I?



A question I have often asked myself that, but I have been asked to say a little bit about myself which is perhaps only fair since I expect you to share your stories with me. Of course it started many years ago in Sheffield and I have travelled some thousands of miles before taking up residence in St Anne's.

I did all the usual kinds of things, Sunday school, Church Girls Life Brigade as it was then and went into nursing on leaving school. I did some training in

Sheffield and then down in Canterbury and also working in Margate. Now we get to the interesting bit. Friends persuaded me to apply to go nursing in Saudi Arabia, 1978, where I spent the next five years, first in Tabuk, in the north of the country and then in Khamis Mushayt, near the Yemen border.

Life there was very different, we had to make sure we covered up when going out in public, women weren't allowed to drive cars or even ride in one driven by a single male unless chaperoned. No alcohol, no church, no Bibles though I managed to pack one in my shipment and one in my case for good measure and both got through, which is more than I can say for my ironing boards!

I was fortunate in being able to travel half way around the world visiting countries that I had only dreamed of. Strangely looking across the Red Sea to the Sinai Peninsula took a little more ingenuity to visit as political relationships were not good at that time.

I returned to East Yorkshire and lived in Pocklington, where I went back to nursing and did my Local Preacher training. I also became a part time Prison Chaplain which was to see me develop that career as I came over to Lancaster Farms to work with the Juvenile and Young Adult prisoners for the next 15 years.

In 2016 I fully retired from the Prison Service and worked for a year as a Lay worker at Bare church in Morecambe whilst they were without a Minister, moving across here in July 2017, arriving at Church Road shortly after. So after a brief retirement I find myself once again working in the South Fylde Circuit as a Lay Worker with Rev. Stephen Heath.

God does have some strange ideas and often the last laugh, so here I am doing what I believe God has called me to do!

Judith Smith – Lay Worker

Development News



In my letter I have written of new and broadening pathways before us. Each time I come to church I have been keen to see the progress on the development.

A year ago we were planning the move into the church, grappling with the storage of everything and making do with limited space. Overall I think it worked out better than most anticipated, thank you for your patience.

A year on and we are about to move into the new Community Hub, appropriately sized rooms, new office, new toilets, new storage areas, modern efficient heating system and LED lighting reducing our carbon footprint - creative space and a refurbished restaurant await. The conversation is one of excitement about what goes where, how can we make the most of the new facilities, when do we move back in, when will the café be opening, when

As I write this I do not have a definite date, but all indications are that the building will be handed back to us early March. There may well be need for help with some cleaning. We then will need to sort out the furniture, make sure we carry out the required risk assessments and write guidelines for the safe use of the building then we can move in and use it. Details will be in the church weekly notices as things start up and groups decide which rooms will best suit their activity.

Work is underway to re-establish Wesley's Café. Those who have worked with us in the past are being contacted and we are looking for new people to join the team if you are interested or know someone else who may be please let Stephen know on stephen.heath@churchrdmethodist.org.uk or 01772 683884.

The Café will be at the heart of the centre but linking with it will be our existing groups plus training courses provided by UR Potential in how to use a computer, support to families with young children working with Oak Tree

Children's Centre, a Knit and Natter group and we are in conversation with the Credit Union and other service providers in the area as to how they can link in.

As many of you will be aware the Food Bank will not be returning to the Centre as they have leased The Annex at the United Reformed Church but we will still be providing meals in the Café for their clients.

However, we are looking to develop Wesley's Larder. This has grown out of the Tesco's table which started in the Café and has grown and extended. Whilst the building has been developed in the last year, the Wesley's team of 12 volunteers has collected and distributed over 16,077kgs of fresh food equivalent to 35,371 meals avoiding it going into landfill and producing 51,448kgs of CO2.

The Church Council meeting on the 19th February congratulated the team on a fantastic achievement as they recently completed their one thousandth collection, not only benefitting the climate but lots of people for whom the food has helped them eat well on very tight budgets. With the new premises and improved refrigeration facilities we are hoping to have a base from which this work can develop further.

This is the beginning of a new chapter in our history and a conversation with friends and colleagues old and new who want to help people achieve their full potential. None of us know just where it will take us, some doubted if we would ever build a new centre but we have and we will now work as church and community to transform lives and I look forward with excitement to the future.

Please get in touch with offers of help, suggestions as to needs that we can meet, groups we can initiate and support. Keep in touch with what is happening through the notices and website and above all play your part in prayer and action.

FUNDRAISING



Now the initial works for our community hub are complete, the success of our project will continue to rely on fundraising initiatives in order to support further development work and our outreach to the community.

Planning for future fundraising events in 2019 is underway. Our next event, following the success of a similar evening last year, will be another Chocolate

Bingo session, to take place on Friday 22 March. Under the theme of Music in May, we have two musical evenings in the month of May: on Saturday 11 May we will be welcoming the St. Annes Community Choir for a concert and on Friday 24 May we have a musical evening with Alistair Mackenzie, the leader of the Lidun Singers, who will be giving a piano and organ recital. In July, we will be offering a Carnival Coffee & Cakes morning to coincide with the town carnival procession passing the church on Saturday 6 July.

The first event in the Autumn will be a winter planting demonstration by Greg Anderton of Lytham in Bloom on Wednesday 18 September. Further events are being considered for later and more details will be published as soon as we have them.

Most of our events are aimed to appeal to a wider community outside the immediate church family, partly of course to broaden the sources of fundraising, but also to be able to welcome new people on to our premises. We will be preparing the usual posters and flyers for events, but would ask everyone to help us by passing on invitations and encouraging support amongst friends and neighbours.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped us in any way with fundraising and supporting events. Please continue to support us by praying for, helping at or simply enjoying, one or all of the forthcoming events. We need to keep up the effort in 2019 to support the Community Hub project and our outreach to the local community.

Please keep an eye on the weekly notices, Church Road Facebook and website pages for further information and additional spring and summer events.

Your support will contribute to our new development and the future mission of the church.



Please also remember to support us through Easyfundraising if you are shopping or booking your summer holiday on-line.

To find out more, visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>



EASTER CHOCOLATE BINGO

Friday 22 March 2019 at 6.30 p.m.

ADULTS - £3.00; CHILDREN - £2.00

Fun for all the family!

Children must be accompanied

Proceeds to the Community Hub Project

We'd be grateful if you'd remember this event when you're out shopping by slipping some seasonal chocolate in your bag with your weekly shop. All donations of chocolate Easter eggs will be very welcome. All donations can be left in the church kitchen and will be gratefully collected and stored for the event itself.

FESTIVAL

The Sunday of the Feast was more exciting. Then, strangers as well as friends, came from far and near to throng the houses and inn and to promenade on the stretch of road which ran through the hamlet. On that day, the big ovens were heated and nearly every family managed to have a joint of beef and Yorkshire pudding for dinner. The men wore their best suits, complete with collar and tie, and the women brought out their treasured finery and wore it, for, even if no relatives from a distance were expected, someone might be 'popping in', if not for dinner, to tea or supper. Half a crown at least had been saved from the harvest money for spending at the inn, and the jugs and beer cans went merrily round the Rise. 'Arter all. 'tis the feast' they said; 'an't only comes once a year,' and they enjoyed the extra food and drink and the excitement of seeing so many people about, never dreaming that they were celebrating the dedication five hundred years before of the little old church in the mother village which so few of them attended.....

From Lark Rise to Candleford, Flora Thompson's memories of growing up in the English countryside in the late 19th century.

THE CHOIR

We are very sorry that Sunday 27 January was the last time the Choir in its traditional form contributed to our worship. Church Road has been blessed over very many years with a strong choir, not only leading the singing in worship each week, but also performing major choral works such as Handel's Messiah, Faure's Requiem, Stainer's Crucifixion, as well as lighter concerts. Its Gilbert & Sullivan performances each year were eagerly anticipated throughout the local area, helping to raise funds for the church.

Accompanied by talented organists, Herbert Mayes, David Elliston and Arthur Taylor, a succession of accomplished musicians has led the choir over the years, including Reuben Lightfoot, Pearl Elliston, Peter Buckley,



Kay Bartlett and Hilary Jackson. Anne Mayes has been leading the choir for the last fourteen years and all credit goes to her for keeping the choir going in the face of falling numbers.

“Our thanks go to Anne Mayes for her leadership of the choir, selection of Introits and Anthems and also to those who have sung and augmented the choir over the years. I know mature years and lack of mobility has been a significant factor in us arriving at this milestone in the life of our church plus Jenny Breare, who has accompanied rehearsals, is no longer able to do so. We thank Jenny for her many years of service in the background.”

Stephen

We are grateful to the team of organists who continue to lead us each week, Andrew Cramer, Julie Reeman, Brian Grimes and Mike Hodgson. We are also fortunate to have the church band to provide the music for all age worship each month.

We know there are a lot of people who love to sing and Gill Riley is leading efforts to develop a new worship music ministry to keep our musical tradition alive.



“SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG”

WANTED.....Singers / music-makers / musicians / performers.
Ordinary people doing extraordinary things in exciting times
here at Church Road.

Be excellent

By ‘excellent’, we don’t mean that you have to have the most advanced, musically-perfect voice in the world, just that you should aspire to do whatever you do to the best of your ability and to the glory of God.

Worship music ministry is to

- lead the congregation in the singing of hymns
- direct the thoughts of people to the Lord through the music.

We will be holding open rehearsals as a chance for prospective members to dip a toe in the water without committing themselves initially.

Musically, there are exciting plans and projects on the horizon. We will be working on performing a celebratory piece of music for the opening of the new building and church anniversary in June and of course, Easter and Pentecost. Ultimately, we want to create something that people will want to be part of and that will glorify God’s name in His house.

For more information, please contact:
Gill Riley on 07917 711247 / gillriley27@gmail.com.

Love is extravagant in the price it is willing to pay,
the time it is willing to give, the hardships it is willing to spend.
Love never thinks in term of “how much”.
Love gives, love knows, and love lasts.

Joni Eareckson Tada (born October 15, 1949) is an American evangelical author, radio host, and founder of *Joni and Friends*, an organization "accelerating Christian ministry in the disability community."

MUSIC IN MAY



ST.ANNES COMMUNITY CHOIR in concert

Saturday 11 May at 7.30 p.m.



PIANO AND ORGAN RECITAL

by

Alistair Mackenzie

*Organist and Choirmaster at St. Annes Parish Church
& Musical Director of the Lidun Singers*

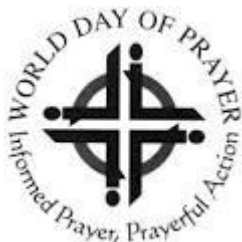
Friday 24 May at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £6.00 for one concert, £10.00 for both
Children free

(includes tea/coffee at the interval)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia. It will be held at The White Church on Clifton Drive, Ansdell on **Friday 1 March**, commencing at 2.00 p.m. and will be followed by light refreshments. The theme this year is "All God's Creation is very good". All welcome, men and women.



The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

History

The origins of the World Day of Prayer (WDP) date back to the 19th century when Christian women in the USA and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission, at home and abroad. It is from such roots as these that the WDP has taken its present shape – a worldwide ecumenical movement of Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.

All you that are righteous,
shout for joy for what the Lord has done;
praise him, all you that obey him.
Give thanks to the Lord with harps,
sing to him with stringed instruments.
Sing a new song to him, play the harp with skill,
and shout for joy!

The words of the Lord are true, and all his works are dependable.
The Lord loves what is righteous and just;
his constant love fills the earth.
The Lord created the heavens by his command, the sun, moon, and
stars by his spoken word.
He gathered all the seas into one place;
he shut up the ocean depths in storerooms.
Worship the Lord, all the earth!
Honour him, all peoples of the world!

Psalm 33

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

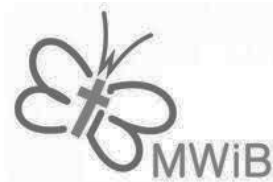


6 March	Annual General Meeting
13 March	My life as Nanny to the Saudi Royal Family
20 March	Steady on Falls – Cindy from NHS
27 March	To be arranged
3 April	To be arranged
10 April	To be arranged
17 April	EASTER SERVICE

*Meetings take place in the Church starting at 2 15 pm.
and all ladies are welcome.*

Summer Afternoon Teas dates to be confirmed

For more information about Ladies' Fellowship,
please contact Elaine Watts – Tel: 722302.



Our group is part of Methodist Women in Britain. The Lancashire District President has chosen Action for Children as her project for 2018/19 and is raising money for this in her two year term as president.

An Answer to Prayer in the Dent Family

Baby Eliza Scout Park

David and Audrey Dent's great niece, Eliza was born at Airedale Hospital during the evening of December 11 last. On the following day when she had her 'one day old' baby check a very serious problem was found. Experts from Barnsley were immediately called and two arrived at Airedale by ambulance that day.

After a lengthy examination they set off in the ambulance, lights flashing, to take Eliza to a hospital in Leeds. Mummy and Daddy followed in their car. Of course, they couldn't keep up with the ambulance and were horrified when they received a call from the hospital asking for immediate permission to begin operating on baby. Permission was given and at this point we are sure the depth of their prayers increased.



The hospital had found a small hole in her heart which was immediately dealt with. But the diagnosis which shocked and frightened us all was that Eliza had been born with a condition called the transposition of the great arteries, meaning the two main arteries in her heart were the wrong way round. An arterial switch operation to correct this was necessary. At this stage a tube was threaded from her groin through a vein and a small balloon was inserted in her aorta, stretching it enough to allow the blood to flow through more easily.

At last on Christmas Eve, after much prayer and anxious waiting, a thirteen day old baby underwent an operation lasting six hours and involving eleven members of the medical team. We believe that Eliza had extra help through prayer in that when the heart and lungs are brought outside to carry out the procedure it is not uncommon for them to swell which means they cannot be replaced until the swelling goes down making the risks higher. Not so with Eliza – hers could be replaced immediately.

On the following Saturday, December 29, five days after major surgery, Eliza was allowed home where, apart from careful picking up and handling, Mummy and Daddy were told to treat her as a normal baby – wow – what an answer to prayer!! An affirmation of the power of prayer by family and friends.

February 9 update –

Baby Eliza is putting on weight, she is very contented, her scars are almost healed, she smiles and, the icing on the cake, she can now have cuddles!



Christian Aid Week

12 - 18 May 2019

Will you help us raise money to support vulnerable mums in Sierra Leone by helping provide better hygiene and health clinics.

During Christian Aid Week, people come together from all walks of life to step out in support of the world's poorest communities.

If you can help to collect in the 2019 House to House Collection in St Annes in the week commencing 12 May, please contact Elaine Watts (Tel: 722302). This applies to both new collectors and anyone who collected last year.

If your road is not normally included in the House to House would you be willing to give an envelope to your friends or neighbours in your road asking them to return the envelope to you if they are interested or if you live in a block of flats would you be willing to deliver envelopes in your block and again ask them to return the envelope to you if they would like to contribute. A note to this effect would be enclosed in each envelope.

Thank you for your support

Elaine Watts



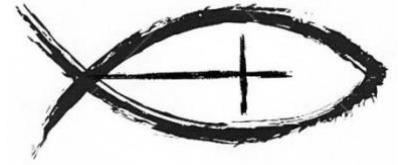
Please come along to our Fairtrade stall on the last Sunday of each month and help to support fair trade products, which in turn helps people and projects in developing countries.

The next stalls will be on March 31, April 29 and May 27.

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS

If anyone would like to purchase any Fair Trade Easter eggs, they can be ordered from Elaine Watts. These are made of Fairtrade chocolate and include a 24 page Easter story activity book. Price £3.99 each.

The Fylde Fairtrade Steering Group would like to raise money to purchase "Real Easter Eggs" to distribute to Brian House Children's Hospice, Sydney Street Children's Centre, Home Start and Fylde Coast Women's Aid, or you can simply donate an egg. Please speak to Elaine Watts.



“Young people yearn for a sense of belonging, love, and relationship, and they have hopes, dreams, energy, skills, and vision that the Body of Christ needs. Yet too often the Church has seemed to legitimise their disappearance from our congregations as ‘part of growing up’ ”.

Mary Hawes, the Church of England’s National Children and Youth Adviser
writing in the Church Times.

Here at Church Road, several people have kindly enquired about what activities we have in place to support young people when they believe they have “outgrown” JKids, other commitments / school demands have taken over the traditional Sunday morning “church” slot but also how we allow young people in the wider community the opportunity to engage and question.

This is where Time Out comes in!

Time Out is a group, currently run once a month here at Church Road, aimed at children of secondary school age (years 7-11). The programme provides a time of faith based fellowship and learning to encourage the young people 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.

Due to ongoing development work on the Church site and following discussions with the initial group of 5 young people the decision was made to develop more of a “house group” feel to the sessions, so in September 2018 the group moved to be hosted on an alternative basis in the homes of the 2 group leaders.

Time has been spent asking the young people about different topics they would like to focus on and activities on which we could base them, on the premise that ownership would lead to positive engagement! We are trying to incorporate as many of the varied suggestions as is humanly possible!

Watching the young people learn about communication through team games outside in the dark on a freezing cold night in October to preparing for “Life’s Big Adventure”, Crackerjack style in November have been great fun but the evening we will treasure the most is the December Advent Reflection that we were privileged to share with the group..... *followed inevitably by some very raucous party games and obligatory pizza!*

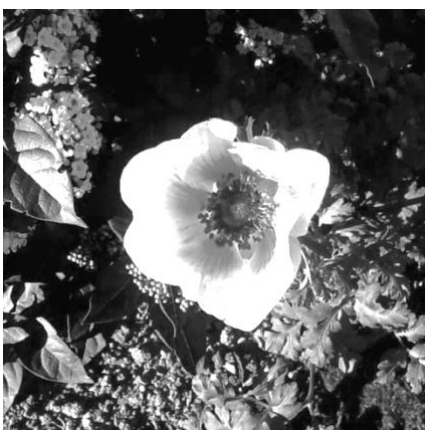
As we move into 2019, we are thrilled that we do so with a core group of 8 regular attendees and look forward to welcoming more!

We have various challenges ahead, potentially increasing the number of sessions, the introduction of a Youth Alpha Course, leading an evening worship and hopefully securing tickets to join the Methodist Church 3Generate Weekend at the end of the year!

We thank you for your interest in and support for the young people and ask that you continue to encourage them, invite them to participate and engage in all aspects of church life and continually hold them in your prayers.

Sharon Hird and Caroline Livesey
Time Out Leaders

'BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED'



Look at this little beauty! I found this lovely flower on a cold winter morning. Standing alone and blooming just where it was planted - no warmth to tempt its growth, no sun to raise its head towards...but what a picture!

At times, we can be tempted to think...if only things were different, easier, less bleak, then we too could grow, develop and affect those who observe our lives but...as we take a closer look we find that, for the Christian, beauty appears as we learn to lean, trust and depend on a God, who is at work within us. Even a small speck of faith, creates amazing growth for all to admire!

Let's bloom.....just where we are planted!

Hazel Hawkins

DIARY NOTES



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, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for 0-4's with parents and carers.

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP: Every WEDNESDAY at 2.15 p.m. until Easter. See inside and the weekly notices for details of activities over spring and summer.

WORSHIP ON THURSDAY: 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, for children, ages 6-11 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

TRAIDCRAFT 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.

Please visit our 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

This has details of all our activities and up to date news. If you have any pictures of church events which will help to publicise our activities, please send them to the church office and then we can load them onto the website.



We are also 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.

The next edition of the THE RECORD will be the Summer edition, which will be published towards the end of May. 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.

The deadline for the Summer edition will be

1p.m. on Wednesday 15 May 2019

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