

THE RECORD

SUMMER 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

JUNE

2nd CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church
10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath
7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

9th PENTECOST

10.30 a.m. Revd Terry Hudson - Holy Communion
7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

16th TRINITY & MHA SUNDAY

10.30 a.m. Carolyn Hothersall - All Age Worship
7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

23rd

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

30th

10.30 a.m. Judith Smith
7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

JULY

7th ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church
9.15 a.m. Judith Smith - Activ8 Café Church
10.30 a.m. Revd Alan Clark
7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven

14th

10.30 a.m. Revd Terry Hudson - Holy Communion
7.00 p.m. FRESH Café Style Worship at Fairhaven



21st

10.30 a.m. David Turner - All Age Worship
No FRESH this evening

28th

10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath
No FRESH this evening

AUGUST

4th

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Drive Methodist Church
9.15 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath - Activ8 Café Church
10.30 a.m. Anne Bullick



11th

10.30 a.m. Malcolm Hancock

18th

10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath - All Age Worship

25th

10.30 a.m. Andrew Barratt

No FRESH from Sunday 21 July to Sunday 25 August inclusive.



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.

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

At the time of writing, the Brexit debate continues, the uncertainty of the political direction of our country grows and the temptation is to ignore it and just carry on as normal, hoping it will all sort out and all will be well. Political commentators struggle to give us any reassurance that a solution is on its way.

That uncertainty is a perfect backdrop to the season of Ascension and Pentecost. Those early followers of Jesus were bereft at the death of Jesus, not sure which way to turn, struggling to make sense of events. The words and teaching of Jesus echoing around in their minds but they weren't able to make sense of anything. To make it worse, Jesus tells them to wait and he's going where they can't follow straightaway. But for what are they waiting they wondered.

Then the Spirit came and 'the rest is history'. We look back on it and see it as the birth of 'The Church'. A world-wide body of believers with a two-thousand-year history!

The history of the Church is still being written every day by people like you and me. Each time we pray The Lord's Prayer we pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' but do we stop to wonder what that means, what it will look like, how it might impact on the lives of others bringing order out of chaos, light in darkness, hope in despair, love to the loveless build on the 131 years of Methodist activity from this site.

Brexit is hard because it makes us ask the questions about how we live together and share the resources of life, what sort of society we want to create, how we resolve differences of opinion.

Pentecost appears easy because it tells us to wait for the Spirit and let the Spirit of God lead us. It is not about determining the future of millions of people but a few. From Ascension to Pentecost we are invited to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of five friends who have not yet responded with their 'Yes' to God's call. Who are you praying for?

Four years ago our church was a mess. We were unclear what the future held; closure or renewal was the question being asked of us. Our Church Anniversary weekend celebrated the opening of the new Community Hub and the reception of thirteen new members of the Methodist Church. Our church is not in decline. God's spirit is at work in our community. The opening of the Hub is not the end but the beginning of a new chapter that we write / live together.

As we pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' let us consider what God might be calling you and me to do in our church, our homes and in our own lives. Will you be expectant? Will you pray alone and or with others? Be part of the next chapter in the history of the church? Who knows what the future holds? God does! Pray and let God lead you.

Peace
Stephen



WORSHIP ON THURSDAY

A Time of Bible Study, Worship and Reflection

First and third Thursdays in June and July

11.00am in Room 4

Meetings resume on Thursday 6 June, meeting at 11.00 a.m. in Room 4 for four sessions based on Colossians using the Bible Month material. If you would like a booklet with the study material please contact Judith or Stephen.

Further sessions will be 20 June, 4 and 18 July. More information from Judith Smith, Janette Farley or Stephen.

ALL WELCOME

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

MARCH

3rd Birthday memories of Gordon Porter

10th Loving birthday memories of Ross Wells
Audrey Porter, Wedding Day memories of Gordon

17th Birthday memories of Michael from Valerie

24th Loving memories of Muriel Maddox
Birthday memories of Arthur Nicholson.
Loving memories of Margaret Richmond, Wilfred & Dorothy
Lowe

31st Treasured memories of Vera Pate

APRIL

7th Pauline, Tony and Rachel, treasured birthday
memories of Claire
In loving memory of Eric and Jean Currie
Treasured birthday memories of
John Eadon from Louise, Helen and Rachel.

14th In memory of Dorothy Plenderleith

21st Treasured memories of Conrad Pate

28th Treasured Wedding Anniversary and birthday memories
of Derek Rigby



MAY



5th Diana Thompson, birthday memories of a dear Mummy & Daddy

12th Mr and Mrs P. Harrison, in memory of their parents
Sylvia Dibble, in loving memory of Audrey and their parents

19th Fond memories of Hannah Nicholson
Rosemary Wells – Wedding Anniversary memories

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

APPRECIATION

As Church Flowers Secretary, I would like to thank everybody who arranges the flowers in Church so beautifully each week. They are – Val Ball, Irene Bennett, Monica Bissett, Sadie Bridge, Linda Heath, Barbara Knowles, Elaine Watts, Rosemary Wells and Margaret Wrigley. Thanks also to Anne Mayes who is the Treasurer.

The Church flower team is always in need of help in the following ways -

- Arranging flowers for the Sunday morning service in vases or a pedestal, either every couple of months or on an occasional basis.
- Dismantling the flowers after morning service and putting into bunches.
- Taking the flowers out to the sick or people who have other needs. These can be collected after morning service.

If anyone can help in any of these ways please contact Elaine Watts, Tel: 722302.



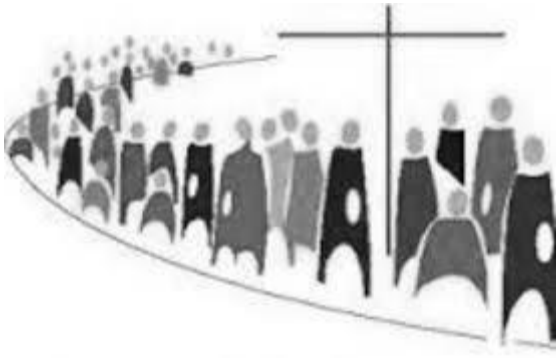
HAROLD BELL
PETER COULBY
LOUISE EADON
MARGARET WORSFOLD

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



May the roads rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rains fall soft upon fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

traditional Irish blessing



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY 2 JUNE 2019

A highlight of our recent Church Anniversary Sunday was the welcoming of new members into our fellowship at Church Road.

By Confirmation

Stephanie Blackshaw
Fergus Fielding
Sophie Hird
Brendan Holt
Karen Holt
Katie Holt
Tess Livesey
John Morrow

By Transfer

Alan Burton from Tarleton Methodist Church

Reinstatement of Membership

Ian Haynes
Karen Haynes
Margaret Burton
Marie Hawkins

*But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

1 & 2 JUNE 2019

After an Anniversary weekend like the one we have just celebrated where do we begin to say thank you?

- Thank you for being brave enough to agree the remodelling of the site that so many worked hard to build sixty years ago.
- Thank you for keeping things going when we had to camp out in the church while the development took place.
- Thank you for all the work that has gone into cleaning, gardening, putting up signage, organising storage, 'dressing' the building and organising the opening. Our grounds and building have looked the best I have ever seen them!
- Thank you to our builders, Tyson Construction, our Quantity Surveyor, David Harrison, for delivering the building that meets our needs for now and the foreseeable future.
- Thank you to Chris Mulcahy, the Site Manager, for the way in which he helped us achieve our goal.
- Thank you to our funders:
 - The Methodist Church Connexional Property Fund
 - The Lancashire District of the Methodist Church
 - Lancashire County Council Initiative Fund
 - Lawrence Henry Clegg Charity
 - Windmill Community Benefit Society
- Thank you to Freckleton Methodist Church who donated the floral arrangements for the opening.
- Our thanks also to many individuals who have made personal donations and to Church Road's Fundraising Committee and the Six Counties Cycle Team for all the money they have raised.
- Thank you all for your prayers and support.

I know lots of people did lots of things to make this happen. My apologies if I have overlooked anyone but my special thanks to Linda Butcher and Linda Heath for all the work they did behind the scenes making sure everything came together on the day.

Stephen

on behalf of everyone at Church Road

ABOUT CHURCH ROAD COMMUNITY HUB



We are thrilled that our building works have been completed and that we have moved into the new premises.

WESLEY'S CAFÉ is now open again on Tuesdays from 11.30 a.m. and Thursdays from 12.00 noon. It is good to have Paul Caddy and many of our former volunteers back.

Congratulations to the team for achieving a 5 star Food Hygiene Rating, which is the highest level, from Fylde Borough Council when they visited the Café on 24 April 2019.

While the Café was closed we have developed Wesley's Larder, redistributing food that would have gone to landfill but is still within its use by date. In the last three months we have distributed the equivalent of 12,000 meals, taking us to 47,118 meal equivalents since starting this project November 2017 and saving 68536 kgs of CO².

Alongside the Café we have Music and Movement classes, IT classes, Youth Groups, Hobbycraft Group, Bumblebees and Tiny Treasures both working with families so there is something for all age groups. Some groups are church led, with others we work with local community groups.

We continue to raise money as we need to ensure the rooms are equipped with furnishings and equipment required to operate all areas on a multi-use basis. If you would like to know more, or get involved, please contact our Minister, Rev. Stephen Heath, on stephen.heath@churchrdmethodist.org.uk or 07711917955.

NEW GROUPS AT THE HUB

Hobbycraft Group

The Hobbycraft Group has made a start, running from 12 30 to 2 30pm on a Thursday in room 4. Bring your own craft or learn something new, chat with friends or make new ones.

We would like to be able to have a rota of people who would be willing to be responsible for getting equipment out and putting it away. If we could find 4 willing people it would only mean cover for one Thursday in the month. Please speak to Judith Smith if you are able to help.

Grave Talk

Grave Talk is a Cafe space to talk about death, dying, funerals and grieving. The session encourages us to consider death as an aspect of life but perhaps one that we don't want to think about too often. This offers an opportunity to talk about those issues we perhaps find difficult, or not thought about until we need to. It offers practical ideas, peer support and the opportunity to share experiences.

Grave Talk Cafe is open to anyone. Please watch out for the posters for a date and time to come along and join us.



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.

Then let the servant Church arise,
a caring Church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating Word.

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR DEVELOPMENT



Where did the wooden cross feature come from?

The design was found on the Pinterest website by Linda Heath. Church Road commissioned The Chapel in the Fields project to make it to our design believing that it would be an important statement of what this building is all about. The leader of that project is our former Minister, Rev Kevin Johnson, who has made the cross with pieces of reclaimed oak from various churches, not this church, and some is 200 years old. The full story will be written up and made known in due course.

What happened to the foundation stones, plaques and other historical items?

The foundation stones have been incorporated into the new build, most noticeable in front of the new entrance. The plaques and photos from the Choir Vestry are now displayed on the stairs to the balcony. The display cupboard containing church and Boys Brigade memorabilia is now situated in Room 4, formerly The Parlour. The stained-glass window in the Choir Vestry has been retained as were two doors from the old building incorporated into the Storeroom in church.

Is the work completed and everything paid for?

We are still awaiting the final account from the builders as some external works cannot be completed until the building of the houses reaches a stage where we can have access to the side of the building. We hope to be able to remodel the ramped entrance to the church and provide more car parking in the future but at the moment we do not have the funds to do so.

Do we know how much we have reduced our Carbon Footprint?

We have reduced it significantly, but unfortunately we cannot say how much as we do not have the figures. All light fittings are LED. We have a domestic, rather than commercial, energy efficient boiler and new fridges and freezer that are A rated.



VOLUNTEER WITH WESLEY'S

Café

Champions

The backbone of the Cafe, who make sure the whole cafe is kept in good order and ready to serve.

Shoppers who go to shops and suppliers to buy what we need to make the freshly made dishes on the menu in Wesley's Cafe

Tesco Collection

Team Members

Collect food donated from Tesco supermarkets and distribute it to venues around South Fylde daily.

This gives food to people who may not otherwise afford it as well as reducing food waste going to landfill.

Cooks. To create high quality home made dishes following good standard cooking procedures, for our customers.

Kitchen helpers preparing food and assisting cooks to prepare the menu of the day.

Cleaners to maintain our 5* star status, we continually clean and maintain our kitchen which is often the most important job in the kitchen.

Team Leaders. Not necessarily cooks, but people who can organise and supervise a team of people with various skills to be ready on time.

Wesley's Community Larder Team.

We are now establishing a Community Larder within the Church building for local people to visit offering food and household items we have available that they can have otherwise they may not be able to afford them.

Meeters and Greeters

Welcoming and making people comfortable in the café and providing links to other organisations.

**For more information, please contact
Stephen 07711917 955 or Paul 07946715246 or Ian 07593188212**



CHANGES IN THE VESTRY

Thank You and Welcome

In May we held our General Church Meeting at which three stewards, Linda Butcher, John Mayes and Catherine Peak, indicated their wish to retire. All three had stayed on for an extra year to help us through the period of the Development. We are very grateful to all three for all they have done in this role, especially Linda who has been Senior Steward for the last two years.

At that same meeting two new stewards were appointed and we welcome Ben Derbyshire and Chris Jones to the vestry team. We pray for them as they settle into the role alongside Hazel Hawkins, Janette Farley and Jonathan Livesey. Janette will be our point of contact for all matters relating to stewards and the Vestry Team.

Together, the team brings a range of talent and experience to serve the church on our behalf. For many of us, the most visible duty of the stewards is making sure that the church is open and everything prepared for worship each week, but there is much more to it than that! The Vestry Team supports the Minister in all aspects of the Church's work and helps to shape our fellowship together.

FUNDRAISING



The Fundraising Committee endeavours to arrange a varied programme of events to appeal to as many people as possible. So far this connexional year, we have raised over £4,000 from various fundraising events and we are grateful for the support of those who have helped to organise and those who have attended.

Our next event will be 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 afternoon, 18 September.



CALLING ALL LADIES.....We are arranging a Fashion Show!

To capture a wider audience, we are hosting this as an “away fixture” at Fylde Rugby Club. The date is fixed for Wednesday 16 October. Please note the date and watch out for more information in the next edition

Further events are being considered for later in the year and more details will be published as soon as we have them. Please continue to support us by praying for, helping at or simply enjoying, one or all of these events. We need to keep up the effort 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 details of forthcoming events.

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

REMEMBER WHAT WE CAN RECYCLE.....

OLD SPECTACLES - the charity Vision Aid recycles these and the income generated from them supports their overseas programme.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS - these can be sold to raise money for the local branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

USED OR UNUSED POSTCARDS - these can be sold to raise money for the charity Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). This is a Christian organisation serving in 27 developing countries to reach people living in remote and inaccessible locations. MAF transports essential medical care, food, water, relief teams and church workers to those in desperate need.

Boxes are provided at the rear of Church or give to Elaine Watts.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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

Wednesday 17 July

2.30 p.m. Action for Children Strawberry Tea
at The Drive Methodist Church

Sunday 15 September

10.30 a.m. Harvest Festival All Age Worship

Wednesday 18 September

2.30 p.m. Winter Planting Demonstration
by Greg Anderton of Lytham in Bloom

Wednesday 16 October

7.30 p.m. Ladies Fashion Show at Fylde Rugby Club

SPICK & SPAN

With the completion of the work on our Community Hub, new arrangements have been introduced with our cleaning contractors. As a result, our own volunteer cleaning team have resumed their weekly clean in the church, now on a Monday morning. We are very grateful to these volunteers— Irene Harrison, Valerie Ball, Lesley & David Turner and Reta & Keith Hall – for all their hard work each week keeping the church space all spick and span. Thank you to the team!

G.R.A.C.E

Great riches at Christ's expense

On the road to Calvary
The day you gave your life for us
Was the day we were set free
The cruel thorns upon your brow
And the nails
in your hands and feet
The spear
That went into Your side
Gushed a river of eternal peace
The earthquake came
And shook the ground
And darkness covered the earth
Our chains fell off
You unlocked our hearts
As you bowed
Your head to the world
And now we stand forgiven
In your grace of Love
Your mercy You bestowed on us
As you died on the cross
We don't deserve salvation
For what we did to You
You are purest divinest love
Great riches at Christ's expense.

Kath Kay

90th BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS !
to Phil Harrison, who celebrated his 90th birthday in April.
Best wishes from all at Church Road!



The Methodist Church

President and Vice-President Designate

The 2018 Methodist Conference designated the Revd Dr Barbara C Glasson to be President of the Methodist Conference 2019/2020, and Professor Clive Marsh as the Vice-President. They will start their year of office when the Representative Session of the Conference meets in Birmingham on 27 June.



Barbara's ministry with the Bread Church working with diverse people in Liverpool, Touchstone, a Methodist interfaith project in Bradford, and with people who have experienced abuse following the Past Cases Review, shows her work with 'prophetic communities for transformation'.

The Revd Glasson said: "It is a privilege to be elected to serve as President. My interest is in enabling and honouring Connexional communities that are courageous and rooted in prayer. God is transforming the old and calling us into new things that are a joyful outcome of our Methodist inheritance. I believe that if the Church is authentic and inclusive it will also grow numerically and spiritually."

Professor Clive Marsh's 35 years as a Methodist has shaped his work profoundly. He has sought to help people think creatively about how faith, life and popular culture interweave, and what happens to theology as a result.

Clive has taught in theological colleges and universities and is currently Head of the University of Leicester's Vaughan Centre for Lifelong Learning and an International Research Consultant at the Queen's Foundation. He is a church member, local preacher and tutor in the Leicester Trinity Circuit. Clive was also Faith and Order Committee Secretary from 2000-2007.



On hearing of his election, he said: "It is an honour to be elected Vice-President. I have a deep commitment to encouraging others in learning, no matter what their stage of life or what previous experience they have. My calling as a Methodist leads me to prompt people to think creatively about their life experience and the world around them, in developing a practical, theologically-informed faith."

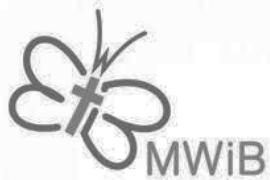
LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Part of Methodist Women in Britain – MWiB

SUMMER MEETINGS IN ASHTON GARDENS' CAFÉ, ST ANNES

All ladies are welcome to join us for a drink and a chat between 3 00 pm and 4 00 pm every Wednesday starting 5 June.

SUMMER AFTERNOON TEA on WEDNESDAY 14 AUGUST



METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

The Ladies Fellowship is part of the Methodist Women in Britain network. We have a proud heritage stemming from the twin roots of Women's Work, founded in 1858 to support training and care for women missionaries, and Women's Fellowship, started in 1945 out of a concern to address social problems resulting from the war.

These two movements merged in 1987 to form the Women's Network of the Methodist Church, with a clear place in the Methodist connexional team. Change came in 2008 resulting in the launch in 2011 of Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) as an independent, self-financing organisation.

Our aim today is to connect women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global social justice.



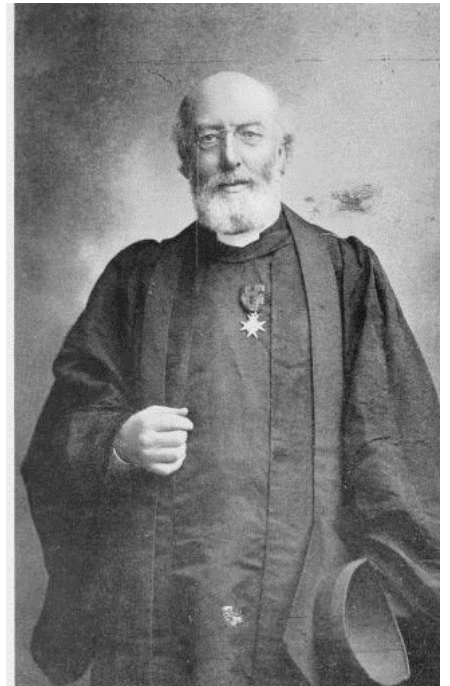
Action for Children 150th Anniversary

On 7 July, our Methodist Charity, Action for Children officially celebrates its 150th birthday.

The Charity was known until fairly recently as NCH and before that National Children's Home. The original National Children's Home was founded by the Reverend Thomas Bowman Stephenson on 9th July 1869. Stephenson was a Methodist minister (a son of the manse), who was sent with his wife, from the North of England to the Lambeth/Southwark area of South London when he was about 30.

Photos of him make him look rather stern. In actual fact, from what we know of him, he was a lively personality, a deeply compassionate man who had no side to him at all. To his wife's consternation he was in the habit of rescuing and bringing home various stray animals, not just dogs, but once, a tortoise!

The London he came to was the London of Charles Dickens and it was a big shock to him. Anyone who's read any of Dickens novels or seen some of the excellent Television serialisations of them, will have an idea of the extent of the poverty and deprivation and degradation of London's poor and its effects on children. Think Oliver Twist and Fagin and the artful dodger.



There were estimated to be around 100,000 uncared for children living on the streets at that time – many orphaned, many with parents ill equipped to care for them. Most survived through petty criminality. Thomas was deeply shocked and moved by what greeted him.

So together with others, he set up the first home at 8 Church Street, Waterloo. Thomas was determined that the homes should be as child-centred and homely as possible – nothing like the large impersonal workhouses of the time. His thinking was very advanced for the time, based on ideas from German educational innovators. The children were gathered into families, living in separate houses, with a common school and

workshop, where as they grew older they were taught a trade so that they could make a living. Compare them with Oliver Twist and the work house and Mr. Bumble.

Thomas dedicated many years of his life to the development of the Children's Homes, always looking to respond to new needs. He went on to set up homes for children with epilepsy and other disabilities which was revolutionary for the time.

150 years later the organisation continues to be in the forefront of voluntary services for children. Times have changed and the organisation has had to change and adapt accordingly. There are fewer residential children's homes as that has been the trend nationally. Today much of the effort goes into project work in local communities. At present around 7,000 staff and volunteers operate over 522 services involved in the lives of 301,000 children, parents, teenagers and carers.

In many instances the emphasis is on prevention, although there is still a great deal of "rescue work" happening as well. Wherever possible, the aim is to keep families together, although not of course where children are in danger from neglect or abuse. These cases are, thankfully, comparatively rare. But there are so many families existing in what we call cycles of deprivation. Parents who themselves have been poorly parented – in ways that most of us can't begin to imagine. Unless they're exceptional people they just don't have the know-how or the fund of good experiences which help most of us to get through the travails of parent-hood and enable us to see the joyful side as well.

Action for Children delivers many programmes, set up all over the country for very young children and their families, to give them a better early start in life. They support parents in caring for growing minds and bodies and most importantly spirits. They involve them in the kinds of fun play activities that also prepare them for life at school.

At the other end of the spectrum Action for Children is the biggest provider of services for young people leaving the care system. How many of us would expect our 16 year old or 18 year old children even, to survive entirely on their own in the world? They also work with young offenders to help them get back on track. Not the most appealing group to fund-raise for – but very much the group that drove Thomas Stephenson to set up his homes in the first place.

So, just a few of the examples of the vast range of projects which Action for Children run. There are far too many to list. They have a very good website with more details. Over the years, the nature of the Methodist Church's involvement in the hands on running of the organisation has changed. But the bonds remain strong and Action for Children remains the Methodist Church's official charity.

Here in this church and circuit we have our Action for Children Support Groups, which work to raise funds, but also alongside that to raise awareness of the organisation and what it does. We are always looking for new blood and new ideas. One way of helping is by having a home collection box. Small change can make a big difference. These boxes can raise up to £500,000 a year nationally. The money raised is of course invaluable to the organisation in carrying forward their work. But there's much more to it than that. We are an anchor that they can depend on in the shifting sands of local authority and government contracts. Not just materially but in the sense of having their values shared and understood, of being thought about and prayed for. They feel part of a family that is interested and concerned with what they do.

Action for Children strongly maintains the founding values of Thomas Stephenson. We are the link to him and to his passionate concern for children, to the gospel imperative to take responsibility for the bodies and souls of those he called 'our brothers and sisters'. His work was a strong example of the Wesleyan Methodist tradition of translating the gospel into practical action. Every activity that we support or contribute to, goes some way towards generating a gospel of hope.

Please look out for posters advertising our various circuit events and try to support them. If you would like to be on our support group please speak to me. If you would like to have a home collection box, please contact Shirley Eade on 789217.

Joan Edwell

I believe the children are our future
Teach them well and let them lead the way
Show them all the beauty they possess inside
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be.

Linda Creed / Michael Masser

Supporting Action for Children

Strawberry Afternoon Tea

at The Drive Methodist Church

Wednesday 17 July 2019

2.30 – 4.00pm

Admission only £3.00

Including tea and strawberry scone

There will also be stalls including homemade cakes and a raffle

FAIR TRADE



Thank you to everyone who supports our Traidcraft stall each month.

Traidcraft plc is one of the leading dedicated fair trade companies in the UK and globally. They source the UK's widest range of fair trade foods, beverages, household cleaning, charcoal and rubber products, as well as fair trade crafts and clothing, from fair trade suppliers in more than 30 developing countries.

Fairtrade is all about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By supporting Fairtrade, we have the power to change the world every day. With simple shopping choices, we can get farmers a better deal, which means that they can make their own decisions, control their future and lead the dignified life everyone deserves.

The Traidcraft stall will be in church after the services, usually on the last Sunday in the month. The stall normally sells biscuits, chocolate, honey, coffee, tea, sugar and greeting cards. A new catalogue for ordering the full range of items is now available and can be obtained from Elaine Watts or on the stall.



MY LIFE'S JOURNEY by Steve White

Do you, as you are driving down the motorway, wonder where everyone else, in the hundreds of other cars, is going? What journey are they on, and whether it is one full of excitement, perhaps singing along to S Club 7 on radio, or one clouded with tension or anxiety about what lies ahead? Are the kids playing up in the back, or is there harmony? Are the driver & passenger enjoying the trip, or is there an awkward silence after a tiff? Or is it a lone driver on business, or is it a driver alone?

Sometimes I sit in church and have similar thoughts - what makes people tick, how have their lives been shaped by events and good or difficult experiences, what challenges are they facing day by day, and what are they passionate about?

Well, if you similarly have a mind that drifts during the service (not during the sermon obviously!), then I thought I'd open a small window into my mundane world to appease your curiosity.

I am a Brummie who migrated north to St Annes after university to work. After a while, I discovered that the minister of Mount Olivet Pentecostal Church had three bonny daughters. One was married, but that still left two available! As it happened, and much to my surprise, the middle one, Joy, took a shine to me. Well, one thing led to another and within a blink of an eye, we were married with two children! Not long after, Joy had managed to put up with me for 17 years of married life, I'd changed job and she had held a party to celebrate an event far more important than the millennium - her 40th birthday on 5th January 2000! Little did we know then what lay before her in the following couple of years.

Sadly Joy died of cancer just before her 43rd birthday and that moment, the events of previous two years as she cheerfully braved all the treatments, and having to tell Shelly and Greg (who were in their early teens at the time) that their mum wouldn't be coming home any more, will stay with me forever.

As anyone who has lost someone special, or found themselves in the role

of single parent will know, that time was pretty tough. Coping with your own grief, supporting children, parents etc who are also grieving, working, single handedly running a household and parenting whilst attempting to work out a new future and remain sane is no doddle.

Life has a way of suddenly, and unexpectedly placing us on a path we didn't expect to be on. Sometimes it may be exciting, sometimes just surprising, and sometimes disappointing and sometimes terrifying. In my case it was the latter. I am sure there will be many reading this, (if not everyone), who will have had the experience of feeling that their familiar present had just been shredded, or that their hopes and dreams have been washed away by a freak storm that has engulfed their life, or both.

By chance, when I was looking out for others who had had a similar experience to me, I came across a Christian charitable organisation called Care-for-the-Family (CFF) which runs support services for those who are widowed young, parents who have lost children and parents with children with additional needs. I attended a 'widowed young' support event and found it to be a revelation, a wonderful uplifting experience and so very helpful for me. It was such a comfort to share with others in a similar situation. CFF subsequently asked me help at events and also be a telephone 'befriender' for those wanting a bit of extra support, which has given me the opportunity and joy of helping others who are feeling hurt, disorientated, lost and alone, and going through all the extreme emotions, anguish, doubt, anger, fear, hurt etc that bereavement can bring.

More recently, in response to a demand for information and resources from ministers, church leaders and pastoral care workers, CFF has used its knowledge and experience to prepare a course called 'Bereavement Care Awareness' for churches. Rob Parsons, who established CFF, says this about the course "It is not a neatly packaged set of answers, but aims to help churches understand a little more about how bereaved people feel and to decide the best way to support them within their own fellowship".

I feel privileged to have been authorised to run the course on behalf of CFF and have delivered it in a number of Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Baptist churches in Lancashire and further afield, where it has always been well received. CFF has a website containing all sorts of information, resources, stories, blogs etc to browse through at

www.careforthefamily.org.uk

Widows had a significant place in Jesus's heart and this is reflected in the second beatitude, 'blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted' (Matthew 5 vs 4). I find it encouraging that he seemed to make it a priority and an imperative. Perhaps I'm reading too much into it, but He seemed to understand what it is to lose someone close, a parent, a sibling, a child, a partner, a best friend and implores us to support them and share God's love. It is an inevitable and shared experience for all who love.

My children are now married and I have two grandkids who seem to think they are Marvell Superheroes (Hulk, Iron Man, Thor etc) in disguise, and are a delight to me. My personal journey continues to meander in a somewhat haphazard fashion in retirement. It would be so nice to have a clearly defined future to hope for, but I guess that's not real life!

Thanks for taking the time to read this, and if you fancy sharing bits of your journey, than I would love to hear them.

Steve White

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go;
from the old things to the new
keep me travelling along with you :

As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should ;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know :

Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough;
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you :

***and it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.***

Sydney Carter (1915–2004)



VINCENT VAN GOGH was a post-Impressionist painter whose work became a great influence on 20th -century art, although during his life he remained poor, virtually unknown and plagued with mental problems.

What is certainly lesser known about Van Gogh is his early involvement with the Methodist Church in Richmond and Petersham, whilst he was living in London in the 1870's.

Van Gogh started his working life in an art dealership in The Hague in the Netherlands and in 1873 aged 20, he was sent to work as a clerk in a new branch of the dealership which was opening in London. Although he loved living in London, he didn't enjoy his work and after a breakdown, he was dismissed.

As the son and grandson of ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church, he held a personal faith in God and he felt a call to serve in whatever way he could. Aged 23, he turned to teaching – first at a school in Ramsgate and then at a school in Twickenham run by a Congregational minister, Rev Thomas Slade-Jones. It was Rev Slade-Jones who recognised his calling and encouraged him to serve in his church. He began to help out in a number of ways from visiting the sick to being an assistant teacher in the Sunday school and contributing to mid-week Bible studies.

Through Revd Slade-Jones, Van Gogh was introduced to other non-conformist churches in the area and he started to attend prayer meetings at the Methodist Church in Richmond. Here, he was provided with the opportunity to begin his brief preaching career. On 2 October 1876 he spoke at a meeting at the Richmond Methodist Church and three weeks later on Sunday 29 October he preached his first sermon there based on Psalm 119 verse 19: *"I am a stranger on earth; hide not your commandments from me"*.

Despite his strong accent, he then preached again at Petersham Methodist Church on the evening of Sunday 19 November. These experiences convinced him that his future lay in the ministry and he subsequently secured what he hoped would be a permanent position as a preacher in a mining community in southern Belgium. Unfortunately, his style was too

unconventional for the established church there at the time and, after his contract was terminated, he was forced to find another occupation.

In 1880, at the age of 27, he finally decided to become an artist. He taught himself to draw and paint, receiving financial support from his brother Theo whilst spending time in Paris and meeting some of the leading artists of the day. In 1888, he moved to southern France, but it was there that his mental problems began to worsen. On 27 July 1890, once again suffering from severe depression, Van Gogh shot himself. He died two days later. He was just 37 years old.



Never commercially successful in his lifetime, dying in poverty and virtually unknown, yet he is now remembered as one of the greatest artists of the late 19th century, whose style of painting influenced 20th century art and whose paintings are instantly recognisable. In just ten years working as an artist, he painted over 2,000 pictures.

This summer, an exhibition at Tate Britain is celebrating Van Gogh's time in London, which as well as displaying many of his paintings, will also feature aspects of his life in London before he became an artist and show the influence of British culture on his subsequent work.



All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom.

Albert Einstein

GARDENING GOD'S WAY

Plant 3 Rows of Peas

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

No Garden is Without Turnips

Turnip for meeting
Turnip for Service
Turnip to help one another

Plant 4 Rows of Squash

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

To Conclude our Garden We Must Have Thyme

Thyme for each other
Thyme for family
Thyme for friends

Plant 4 Rows of Lettuce

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce really love one another

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.
(Quote Unknown)

Contributed by Bill Bissett



DIARY NOTES



Please check weekly notices for closure dates over the summer

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 the Ashton Gardens Café from 3.00 to 4.00 p.m. through the summer.

WORSHIP ON THURSDAY: 1st & 3rd THURSDAY in June and July at 11.00 a.m. A time of worship, bible study and reflection.

HOBBYCRAFT: No meetings during the summer, to reconvene in the Autumn.

FRIDAY FUN CLUB: Every FRIDAY in term time from 6.00 to 7.15 p.m, for boys and girls aged 6-11.

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. No Fresh from 21 July to end of August.

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 Autumn edition, which will be published in late August. 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.

In order to assist compilation, the deadline for the Autumn edition will be

1p.m. on Wednesday 14 August 2019

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