

THE RECORD

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR
2024- 2025**



CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

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

Superintendent Minister: Revd Stuart Wild
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*Church Road Methodist Church & Centre,
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Web Site www.churchroadmethodist.org
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Church Road Methodist Church Registered Charity No 1134109

MARY'S CHILD

Born in the night,
Mary's Child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need,
Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light,
Mary's Child,
your face lights up our way;
light of the world,
Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life,
Mary's Child,
you tell us God is good;
prove it is true,
Mary's Child,
go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world,
Mary's Child,
you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth,
Mary's Child,
walk in our streets again.

Geoffrey Ainger (1925 – 2013)

*Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 193
Words and Music: © 1964, Stainer & Bell Ltd*

Seasonal thoughts from Revd Stuart Wild



Dear Friends,

The Methodist Church's Advent and Christmas campaign for 2024 is called Hush the Noise: Join the love song this Christmas. When I read this I was intrigued as to what it was about but I must admit it captured my attention. After all Christmas is loud. It can also be full on with so much expectation. There are so many voices, telling us how to celebrate, what to wear, what to eat and drink, what to watch and what to buy.

Instead, this Christmas we're inviting everyone to hush the noise. To listen for the love song that the angels bring, this and every year. They sang it for the first time more than 2,000 years ago, on the midnight clear. They're just waiting for us to join in.

The words are from the familiar carol "It came upon the Midnight Clear" written by the American Unitarian minister, Edmund Sears. Sears' song is remarkable for its focus not on Bethlehem, but on his own time, and on the contemporary issue of war and peace. Written in 1849, it has long been assumed to be Sears' response to the just ended Mexican-American War.

It is a long time since Sears wrote it. Its even longer since the events it proclaims and yet it still resonates across the generations and it still has a relevant message to our own generation. The song of the angels was a song of peace-a song that needs to be heard in Gaza, in Kyiv and in many other places around the globe. The message of peace needs to be heard by our own British politicians so that they can bring peace, justice and prosperity to our whole nation rather than just engaging in political point-scoring.

Above all however it is a song that each of us as individuals needs to hear for our hearts, homes and lives need to be filled with peace. To quote another song:

“Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

Noisy or silent; busy or quiet; filled with people or just you; my prayer is that over advent and Christmas you will hear the angels sing a song of peace, goodwill and love for all the world and for you.

God bless you,

Stuart Wild

ACTIV8



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

A time of warm fellowship with associated activities for children. Followed by coffee and toast.



PRAYER CHAIN

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

Please be assured that confidentiality will be respected

WORSHIP in DECEMBER

1st

9.30 a.m. Activ8 led by Revd Stuart Wild

4.00 p.m. CIRCUIT CAROL SERVICE
followed by refreshments

8th

10.30 a.m. David Turner

15th

NATIVITY SERVICE

10.30 a.m. Revd Stuart Wild

also including the celebration of Holy Communion

22nd

10.30 a.m. NO SERVICE

6.00 p.m. CAROL SERVICE
Revd Stuart Wild

24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00 p.m. Christingle Service
Revd Stuart Wild

25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30 a.m Revd Stuart Wild

29th

10.30 a.m. Joint service at The Drive Methodist Church
Revd Andy Halstead



For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

Please note the earlier time for Christmas morning service

WORSHIP in JANUARY

5th

9.30 a.m. Activ8 led by Revd Stuart Wild

12th COVENANT SERVICE

10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath

19th ALL-AGE WORSHIP

10.30 a.m. Janette Farley

26th

10.30 a.m. Revd Stuart Wild



WORSHIP in FEBRUARY

2nd

9.30 a.m. Activ8 led by Revd Stuart Wild

9th

10.30 a.m. Joint Service at Lytham Methodist Church
with the Methodist Church Youth Brass Band

16th ALL-AGE WORSHIP

10.30 a.m. Revd Stuart Wild
including the celebration of Holy Communion

23rd

10.30 a.m. Clare Harris



FLOWER DEDICATIONS

We are grateful to those who continue to contribute to the displays of flowers in church each week in memory of family members or someone special to them. It is important for us to recall these special memories and to remember these people in our prayers.

SEPTEMBER

- 8th Fond memories of Hilary Cardwell
- 22nd The birthday of James Maddocks
The birthday of Muriel Maddocks
Loving birthday memories of my brother, Philip, from Sylvia
Wedding Anniversary memories of Stanley and Margaret
Richmond
- 29th Loving birthday memories of Fred Holland

OCTOBER

- 6th Birthday memories of Conrad and Vera Pate
- 13th The birth of Sydney Knight
Fond family memories from Rosemary Wells, Katherine and Sarah

NOVEMBER

- 6th The death of Sydney Knight
The death of James Maddocks
The death of Margaret Joyce Knight

If you would like to contribute to the church flowers in memory of someone, please contact Elaine Watts. (tel 01253 722302)



We remember those known to us and others in our local community who have recently passed away. We offer our prayers and sympathies to all who are experiencing bereavement and who are remembering loved ones at this time.

*"I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord:
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."*



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Names of departed loved ones may be entered in the Book of Remembrance, on the day when loved ones are especially remembered. Please complete the details on one of the slips in the Church Foyer and hand to one of the Stewards if you would like a name to be included.



TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AT CHURCH ROAD

**Warmest Wishes for
God's Blessing at Christmas**

from

Monica Bissett Eric & Sylvia Boardman

Sadie Bridge John Christmas (*Sidmouth*) Stewart & Alison Dow

Shirley Eade Bill & Klaske Ellison

Jonathan & Catherine Irving Barbara & David Knowles

John & Anne Mayes Catherine Peak

Yvonne, Ian, Barnaby & Evelyn Smedley; Stacy, Oliver, Gary & family

Nigel & Sandie Standbridge Elaine Watts

Stuart & Margaret Wrigley

**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**

**Best wishes for Christmas & the New Year
from the Revd Stuart & family**

Thank you to everyone who has helped to maintain our fellowship and witness at Church Road throughout the past year with all its challenges. We look forward to a new year ahead as we continue to support each other in fellowship in 2025.

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



MARRIAGE CELEBRATION



Janice Platel and Dennis Allday

Thursday 5 September 2024



*Congratulations to Janice and Dennis on their marriage
We send them our very best wishes for their future happiness together.*



Kiyah Hope

Daughter of Laura and David Doran

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 2024



CONFIRMATION

Laura and Andy Woodward

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2024

CONGRATULATIONS



to Reta and Keith Hall who celebrated their
Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 1 August 2024

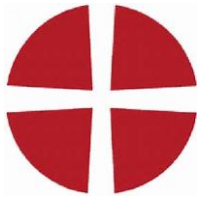
to Margaret and Stuart Wrigley who celebrated their
Golden Wedding Anniversary on 20 July 2024

and to

Rowleen Richardson who celebrated her
90th birthday on 24 August 2024



Joan Wild would like to thank all friends who sent cards, flowers and good wishes following her recent fall. She very much appreciated everyone's concern and is pleased to say that she is now fully recovered.



The Methodist Church
Blackpool and South Fylde Circuit



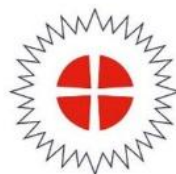
CIRCUIT NEWS

We are pleased to report that the Circuit Meeting on 17 September 2024 agreed to an extension of Stuart Wild's appointment for a further two years from 1 September 2025.

It was also agreed to extend the appointment of Deacon Kim Gabbatiss for three years, also effective from 1 September 2025.

We offer our prayers and support to Stuart and Kim as they continue to serve God in this circuit.

8 & 9 FEBRUARY 2025



the
**National Methodist
Youth Brass Band**

Lytham Methodist Church will host the Methodist Youth Brass Band over the weekend of 8-9 February 2025. The band will hold a concert on Saturday the 8th and play in the service on Sunday the 9th.

The National Methodist Youth Brass Band is a group of young brass-playing Christians between the age of 13 and 21 from all over the country who come together to make music and share the love of Jesus Christ. They play a wide range of music, from worship songs and settings through to arrangements of classical music and adaptations of film music.

PAWS FOR THOUGHT 14.

Isaiah 55 v 1 – 13

I came across this photo of Fimber in the snow reminding me that we did have a covering last winter. I used to love the snow even when I had to dig for the letter boxes on my paper round early in the morning as a teenager. Now like many I see the beauty of it but the going out into it is something I like many shy away from.



There are many references to snow in the Bible, symbolising I wonder if you have given a thought to snow in Biblical times. I remember visiting the Monastery on the site of the Burning Bush, in Israel a number of years ago. It was April, glorious sunshine and a good day out but the following day the trip was cancelled because of snow! I also remember being in Jordan with no winter clothes sat in the hotel watching snow coming down. It's sort of mesmerising sat in the warmth, but certainly not a day to have a dip in the Red Sea! Not quite the weather you expect. But expect it we do, every winter, the forecasters say we might get snow.

In the bible we have many references for snow, symbolising purity, cleansing, and the promise of water from the melted snow, as part of God's creation. Like the uniqueness of the snowflake so are we unique through God's creation. The most unique creation of all was his son Jesus, whose birth we will celebrate in the next few weeks. So just what can we give him? Give our heart.

Judith Smith



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ST ANNES

is inviting you to join in with
Lancashire Sings Christmas!



From the Studios of BBC Radio Lancashire Blackburn



*A special broadcast sharing
the stories of those who offer
care for others at Christmas*



With the combined Lancashire Bands of
The Salvation Army, the Blackburn People's Choir
and special guests



The programme can be heard live
on Radio Lancashire at midday on
Wednesday 18th December but we
will be relaying it the day after
via BBC Sounds.



Where: The Victoria Hotel,
Church Road, St Annes.



Date: Thursday 19th Dec

Time: 6.30pm

*With a special thank you to the proprietors and staff at the
Victoria Pub.*



<https://www.ctlancashire.org.uk/lancashire-carers-sing-christmas-20>

Twelve Days of Christmas - a Catechism

People sometimes think of the twelve Days of Christmas as the days preceding the festival. Actually, Christmas is a season of the Christian Year that last for twelve days, beginning on December 25 and lasting until January 6 - the Day of Epiphany - when the church celebrates the revelation of Christ as the light of the world and recalls the journey of the Magi.

From 1558 until 1829, Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During this era someone wrote 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without risk of persecution. The song has two levels of interpretation: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the church.

Each element in the carol is actually a code word for a religious reality.

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.



The two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds are the four Gospels.

The five gold rings recall the Torah (Law), the first five books of the Old Testament.



The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit. (Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy)



The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes. (from the Sermon on the Mount; each beatitude looks at different circumstances of life and how all Christians are blessed through their faith)

Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control)



The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the 12 points of belief in the Apostles Creed.



There you have it, the HIDDEN meaning of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and the secret behind the song. So next time you sing it, try to remember its meaning.....!

contributed by Monica Bissett

METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK



In her song of praise, the ‘Magnificat’ (Luke 1:46-55), Mary thanks God for the child Jesus, who will announce God’s kingdom which “brings down the powerful from their thrones and lifts up the lowly.”

To engage in God’s mission and be part of that transformation, we believe the Methodist Church is called to become an increasingly evangelistic, inclusive and justice-seeking Church.

Following the prophet Isaiah’s call, echoing through the ages to us and reflected in Mary’s prayer, the 2024/2025 *Prayer Handbook* focuses on how the Church can “learn to do right; seek justice and defend the oppressed” (Isaiah 1:17a, NIV).

The Methodist Prayer Handbook includes prayers for every day of the year together with the daily lectionary for the year. Copies are £4.50 each and can be ordered with Elaine Watts.



SOME BIBLE VERSES TO CATCH THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Isaiah 7:14 (NRSV)

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."

Isaiah 9:6 (NRSV)

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Luke 2:11-14 (NRSV)

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

MATTHEW 2:9-12 (NRSV)

"When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,^[a] until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road."

John 1:14 (NRSV)

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE

The two main events since we last reported were our pumpkin decorating coffee morning and the Winter Market.



At the coffee morning on 12th October, we learned how to use pumpkins as a base for making flower arrangements, and the results were excellent. The finished products were placed in the 'pumpkin patch' at the front of Church as part of our harvest decoration. Thanks to Laura for sharing this skill with us, which was then passed on to members of One Fylde the following Tuesday. This is an activity which we no doubt will repeat next year and would encourage more people to attend and give it a try.

Our Winter Market on 2nd on November proved a big success, raising over £1300 for Church funds. We were pleased that One Fylde



also took part and a further £150 was raised by them to support their work.



The church and stalls were beautifully decorated with a theme of snowflakes and live music was provided by Fiddle Faddle. Bacon and Sausage rolls were available to sustain visitors and stall holders alike.

We'd like to thank everyone who helped and attended, and especially those who donated items to sell – jigsaws and chocolate for the tombola proved particularly popular. Special thanks to Caroline Livesey, (ably supported by Jonathan!), whose ideas, infectious enthusiasm and hard work encouraged us all and helped to make the event so successful.



CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE (contd)

On Friday 6th December we will be hosting a concert by St Chads school Poulton which we encourage you to attend to get in the Christmas spirit.

The next meeting of the Church Life group will be on Tuesday January 14th at 6:30pm when we will start planning activities and events for 2025.

If you would like further information about the Church Life group or would like to be involved in any events please speak to Linda Butcher (Lindambutcher@gmail.com) or Judith Smith (jp.smith185@btinternet.com), or any member of the group.

WORKING WITH ONE FYLDE



Following the pumpkin carving demonstration at the coffee morning, Barbara and Rosemary spent a morning helping the clients of One Fylde, who also enjoyed a rewarding session preparing pumpkin themed arrangements as one of their craft sessions in church.



CHURCH ROAD METHODIST PRESENTS

ST. CHAD'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*with festive favourites performed by
St. Chad's children and the Choir*

FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER | 6 PM
CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
ST. ANNES, FY8 3NQ
TICKETS £5 FOR ADULTS, FREE FOR CHILDREN
INCLUDING A HOT DRINK AND A MINCE PIE



POULTON ST CHAD'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



The Methodist Church
Church Road Methodist
Making Disciples: Transforming lives and communities

Churches Together in St Anne's

Future Events - Winter 2024-25

ST ANNES SINGS CHRISTMAS - Thursday 19th December – 6.30pm, at the Victoria Hotel, Church Road

This was previously known as 'Lancashire Sings Christmas' and comes courtesy of BBC Radio Lancashire and BBC Sounds

SERVICE FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY Saturday 18th January – 2pm

At The Drive Methodist Church. Preacher - Rev Stuart Wild.

Please join in and help make these events a source of blessing for the people of St Anne's!

WE WISH YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HOPEFUL NEW YEAR!



“Time Out is a faith based fellowship group for secondary school aged young people, encouraging them to explore their faith, what it means to them, how it relates to their daily lives and those of the local and worldwide community in which they live”.

This term seems to have flown by in a whirl, even more than usual somehow?!



We started the term by welcoming a new member and sharing an evening led by Revd Stuart Wild - pizza making and a quick fire Bible quiz was on the agenda! No such thing as a “free lunch”, as he unexpectedly threw out the challenge of exploring All We Can encourage the group to debate the different and creative ways in which they could fundraise for this All We Can campaign (<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/>)

A sponsored event has consequently been planned for after morning worship, led by Rev Wild at the end of January. More information and sponsor forms will be out the first week in the new-year, however, if you would like to make a donation to the campaign in lieu of a Christmas gift to someone this year, please place in a sealed envelope and give to one of the Time Out leaders when you see them in the lead up to Christmas. This will be added to the grand total!



Here are just a few examples of how your fundraising will transform lives:

- £9 could help a family in Malawi set up their own beekeeping business, to develop a sustainable source of income.
- £17 could help provide psychosocial support for young Syrian children in Za’atari refugee camp.
- £48 could provide school materials, such as books and stationery, to a child with disabilities in Ethiopia.

Further to discussion at the end of the evening, we were delighted to present the names of Iona and James to the Church Council, where they were accepted as Time Out representatives. They will share the role amidst the demands of their academic studies. We thank them for taking on this responsibility.



Our next session at the beginning of October, saw us heading to Birmingham! We were thrilled that two of our younger members were able to join the wider circuit group attending the 3Generate weekend this year and that we were able to support five of our older members with their preferred option of an 18 hour round “day trip” to the event (MAYC of old!).



This wouldn't have been able to happen without the prayerful support and financial assistance of Church Road members, the Circuit and District, to which we say a big THANK YOU!

A short 3 minute film will give you the edited highlights. Please show your continued support by visiting the Church Road website to watch!

www.churchroadmethodist.org

November brought a double whammy with the Time Out young people supporting the Church Road Winter Market by manning their raffle and candle card gift stall with the candle holders they had made earlier in January at their retreat to Chapel in the Fields. They also acted as waiters for the café and shared



their musical talents, which added a wonderful atmosphere to the event. They proved to be great sales people – after all who could say no to their smiley faces?!

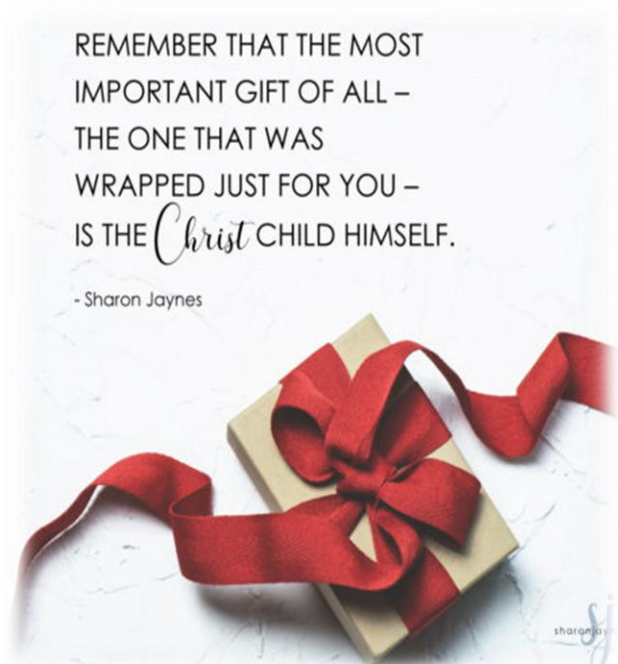
The following day, we moved onto Advent, and spent some reflective time with Judith Smith to start our personal preparations. We revisited the familiar Christmas, exploring the roles and impact of the different people involved, and the feelings and emotions evoked then and today in 2024.

Christmas preparations will continue in a practical way as Time Out members support the younger JKids with their Nativity Service on 15th December and ready themselves for the annual Time Out Christingle build ahead of worship on Christmas Eve.

However, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without some sort of socializing a Christmas caroling treasure hunt is afoot, specific details are currently under "wraps"!

Christmas Blessings

Sharon and Caroline
TIME OUT LEADERS





BUMBLEBEES

BUMBLEBEES is a group for babies and pre-school children accompanied by their parent/carer. We meet in the church on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 a.m.



This term the children have enjoyed the playhouse, slides, train set, dressing up clothes, bricks, cars, dolls, puzzles and much more. All these activities encourage the development of co-ordination and social skills. The older children like to visit the craft table where they can be creative with card, ribbon, wool, glitter and, of course, PLENTY OF GLUE !



In December, the term ends with a Christmas Party which includes a lively, interactive Nativity story, followed by festive finger foods and finally, at home time, each child receives a lovely gift (lovingly knitted by a member of our congregation!)



The first session in 2025 will be on Tuesday 7th January. We have some spaces so, if you are interested, come along any Tuesday morning in term -time.

- * Babies and children up to 4 years
- * Grandparents, Mums, Dads or Carers Welcome.

- *Cost (which includes refreshments) £2.50 for an adult and child (+£1 per extra child or adult)

Lesley Turner



LADIES FELLOWSHIP AT THE DRIVE

Fortnightly at The Drive Methodist Church
Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m.

The programme for December to March 2025 is set out below:

DECEMBER

11th Concert by Ann Shepherd's Choir
followed by mince pies and a cup of tea.

18th Christmas Party

JANUARY

8th New Year Quiz

22nd Annual Meal Out at the Bedford Hotel

FEBRUARY

5th Chile and highlights of South America
David Blair

19th Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Mo
Ernest Beedle

MARCH

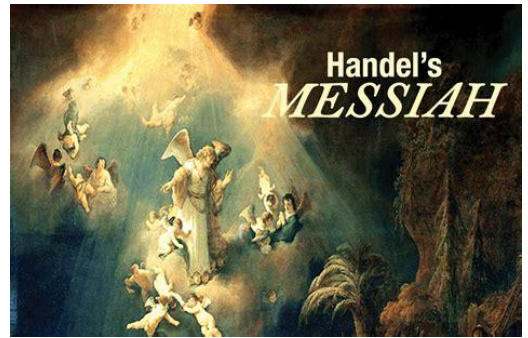
5th Another kind of Lent
Revd Janet Pybon

19th Theatre Miscellany and Memories
Richmond Neale

For more information, please contact Elaine Watts - Tel: 722302

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Performed by the Keighley Vocal Union
at Freckleton Methodist Church
on Sunday 8 December
from 2.30 p.m.



Handel's Messiah tells the Christian story, taking pieces of scripture and setting them to music. Handel combines the truth of scripture with the emotion of music to make an announcement that God in the person of Jesus is going to come to earth and reveal His glory. The intensity of the music and the meaning of the words make us all think.

In a divided world where there is the darkness of war, the selfishness of greed and lack of care for our neighbour and planet this message of hope, light in darkness, life that conquers death, is relevant, inspiring and uplifting!

The wisdom and reassurance this story tells comes with freshness; it is a message for 2024. The quality and depth of the music will draw you in and move you as you listen to the Keighley Vocal Union Singers. Conductor Frank Smith with returning soloists Laurie Ashworth (Soprano) Terence Ayebare (Bass) Nicholas Hurndall Smith (Tenor) Samantha Oxborough (Mezzo Soprano) with special guest organist Shaun Turnbull from Leeds Minster. and trumpeter Tristan Boldy. If you look up any of these performers you will see you have the opportunity to listen to international soloists.

Come to Freckleton Methodist Church on Sunday 8th December at 2.30 p.m. for Part 1. There is a break at approximately 4.00 p.m. when you can enjoy Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall, Carol singing at 5.15 p.m. in the church, then commencing at 6.00 p.m. the Messiah Parts 2 and 3.

This event is arranged by the Freckleton Music Festival Committee. For more information about the event or to make donations please contact David Kirby - Mob 07939 514 916 or kirbyfreckleton@hotmail.com

There is no entry charge but donations are welcomed to help defer expenses.



From Bernice Smith, Lay Worker at Wesley's and New Central Methodist Church....

I can't believe it is nearly 12 months since my role as a lay-worker began, I feel blessed and privileged to be part of Church Road and New Central. Thank you to the Blackpool and Fylde Circuit.

My role as a "Befriender" at Wesley's offers me both challenges and rewards. When I first arrived and introduced myself as a Lay-worker for the Church, I was met with some not wanting to engage with me, I think the word "Church" maybe caused them concern, this may have been due to personal experiences. I am pleased to say that, those who were sceptical about me, at the beginning and didn't want to sit and engage in conversations with me. I/we have worked together on building trust and friendship to the point where they feel comfortable to share their back-stories. We have engaged in conversations about God and I have prayed with and for them. Although these are little steps, this is huge for them and I feel that God is working in Wesley's:

"Matthew 13 V 31- says "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field: it is the smallest of all the seeds"

Wesley's continue to provide breakfast and lunch to those who are homeless, lonely and find themselves in difficult situations. The generosity of those who continue to provide food and financial support in donations, is very much appreciated.

I asked Fylde Food Bank if they would kindly provide me with some stats of how many food vouchers they have received from Church Road since it opened:

21/22 = 19, 22/23 = 34, 23/24 = 84, 24 to early Oct = 114

In the week prior to writing this, 11 - 15 November, Wesley's have served around **250** free meals.

Other activities

We are starting a craft group on Tuesday's from 12:30 – 1:30. We have volunteers who are willing to teach those who wish to learn a hobby; this also will encourage social interaction, which is good for well-being. If you would like to offer your skills or would like to join us, you are more than welcome.

On Remembrance Day, we joined together with the nation in showing our respects. One Fylde were invited, and I was so pleased they joined us, Monica and Rosemary from Church also joined us. The response from those who attended was heart-warming and a big thank you to Darren at OneFylde and all who supported this event.

Christmas at Wesley

Friday 20 December at 11:30, Wesley's will be singing a few carols. Monica will be playing the piano for us and it would be lovely to see you if you are able to join us. Lunch will be served afterwards.

Last year Jennifer and her amazing team of volunteers cooked a Christmas lunch for the café, (date to be confirmed) and they also cooked and prepared a takeaway collection service on Christmas Day. Jennifer has confirmed this will be taking place again this year.

Volunteers

Wesley's as you know is run by a team of volunteers and we are very grateful to all those who give their time serving the community in this way. More volunteers are currently needed! - if you are able to spare a couple of hours or know someone who might be interested, please ask them to come and speak to Jennifer at the café.



I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Bernice

MORE FROM WESLEY'S.....

A group of lower pre schoolers from the Kids Planet Nursery School in Shepherd Road recently enjoyed a visit to Wesley's. The intent of this was to develop the children's understanding of the world by exploring their community.

They were greeted by Jenny, who showed them around and explained what they do at the hub and how they help people. The children enjoyed meeting and socialising with different people from our community and having juice and biscuits with them. The children then enjoyed visiting the larder where they saw all the food being organised and then took our food donations they had brought to be organised.



Not only was this a lovely trip but it also had a huge impact on the children's development such as their Personal, Social and Emotional development as they were able to develop empathy for others and learnt "we can help others by giving and sharing". The visit also helped to develop the children's social skills, as they spoke to lots of different people.

A big thank you to all staff at Wesley's for welcoming the children!



MORE VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

Could you, or do you know someone who could, help out at Wesley's?
Owing to the continued increase in demand now being experienced from our local community, more volunteers are urgently needed to help in the Larder and in the Café.

All training will be provided.

Please speak to Jennifer in the kitchen



Wesley's Larder

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

The sharply rising cost of living is impacting more local people. More donations for the Larder are desperately needed!

*General groceries, cooking materials, fruit and vegetables
Everyday household items, toiletries and hygiene products*

Please see a larger list of items to help local people in need at the back of church.

WESLEY'S AS CHOSEN CHARITY



The Fairhaven pub has selected Wesley's as their chosen Christmas Charity for **2024**. They have arranged to have a box available for guests to donate toiletries and food etc,

Thank you to the Fairhaven and their customers for their support!

Churches Together

Christmas Cards delivery – Volunteers needed!

Please speak to Janette Farley if you can help deliver some cards this year

Many hands (and feet) make light work!



ACTION FOR CHILDREN BOXES

If you are an AFC box holder, please could you let me have your box to empty in December/early January and I will return to you later. If more convenient, I can call and pick it up from you; please give me a ring to arrange collection. Also, just get in touch if you would like to support the work of Action for Children in any way.

85p of every £1 **Action for Children** spends goes directly towards helping children, young people and their families. Your support is so important right now because levels of financial hardship, abuse and neglect have been rising. **Action for Children** have seen a huge surge in demand for their services. Your donations help to run these essential services, which give vulnerable children and families a vital lifeline.

Your donations to **Action for Children** help to support vulnerable children, young people and their families in the UK.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

Shirley Eade. (tel: 01253 789217)



2025 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally

observed in January. The service in 2025 will be held on Saturday 18 January at 2.00 pm. at The Drive Methodist Church. The preacher will be Revd Stuart Wild.





Covenant Sunday

12 January 2025 at 10.30am
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.

CALL TO SERVICE

You call us Lord to serve.

You call us to be alongside the community around us.

You call us not to abandon those who are in need.

You remind us that though we may gain much, in the end we will
end with nothing.

That however much we profit without others we will be left living alone.

And yet it is in others that we see you.

In the hungry whom we offer food to and the thirsty to whom
we give a drink.

In the stranger we welcome and in those we clothe.

In the sick we care for and the prisoner we visit.

In each person we meet, we see you.

And may they through all we do, see you.

AMEN

PRAYER BASED ON ISAIAH 5:8 & MATTHEW 25:34-36

by the Joint Public Issues Team ,a partnership between the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025



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

The Women's World Day of Prayer in 2025 will be held on Friday, March 7 and more details will be in the March notices.

Lightness and Love

The light shines forth from God,
Caresses the mind anew,
Bringing beauty from the soul at will,
Emerging our love so true,
To change a person from old,
Making time for refreshing gazes,
To replenish our thoughts once more,
This new love that so amazes.

By Clive Turner

(friend of The Drive Methodist Church)

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



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

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

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

[Donation Reminder Toolbar Download | Easyfundraising](#)

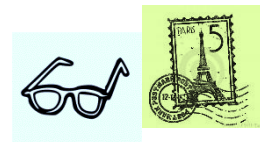


PLEASE REMEMBER

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

OLD SPECTACLES

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



USED POSTAGE STAMPS

These can be sold to raise money for the local branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

USED OR UNUSED POSTCARDS

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



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



CHURCH DIARY

WESLEY'S CAFÉ: Every MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY from 9.30am to 2.00pm.

BUMBLEBEES: Every TUESDAY, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for 0-4's with parents and carers. Contact Lesley Turner

MOVEMENT TO MUSIC: Every WEDNESDAY, two sessions from 9.15am to 10.15am and 10.45am to 11.45am. Contact Monica Bissett

TIME OUT at 7.00 p.m. every THIRD SUNDAY of each month. An informal faith-based group for young people 12+. Contact Caroline Livesey or Sharon Hird

ACTIV8 INFORMAL STYLE WORSHIP on the first SUNDAY of each month. at 9.30a.m. followed by coffee and toast together.

THANK YOU to all those who have contributed to this edition of The Record. We aim to keep you up to date with what's going on in the Church and to offer other items of interest. Contributions from members of the congregation are always gratefully received and will help to keep our magazine relevant and interesting. Please let us know if you have any special family news or celebrations that you would like to share with our readers.

Stuart Wrigley, Editor

The Spring 2025 edition of the Record will be published at the beginning of March. The deadline for contributions will be

Sunday 16 February 2025

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

churchroadmethodist@gmail.com