

# THE RECORD

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 2022- 2023



## CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

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

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Church Road Methodist Church Registered Charity No 1134109

## **HARK THE GLAD SOUND!**

Hark the glad sound ! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Philip Doddridge (1702–1751)

## A word from Louise.....



*“What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare”*

The opening lines of the poem Leisure by William Henry Davies. I am always reminded of this poem at this time of year. It was read at the cenotaph in Oakworth Park every Remembrance Day whilst I lost the circulation in my feet as we stood and froze in Scout uniform.

No sooner have the days started to draw in and Harvest Festivals and Remembrance Day services are past than it starts.....

What are you doing for Christmas? Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? Only 50 days to Christmas, are you ready?

In this build up, do we become so obsessed with getting everything done, making everything perfect, that we rush through, getting frequently agitated by small things, losing our patience, until the day arrives.... then we can relax, only to find that we are too tired to enjoy the moment.

This has extended into our everyday lives so that every large or even small event builds up more and more pressure that we end up stressed out before we start. Sometimes it feels like that in our churches, when no sooner are the poppies put away, than the preparations for the Christmas Fair are in full swing. This year when money is even more restricted, why don't we focus on the things that do not cost us financially?

Time to stop.

At the beginning of November we celebrated All Saints, remembering those people who spent their lives in faithful service, an example to us all. Many of our saints chose to step away from the everyday bustle of life in order to concentrate on what was important, focusing on God and living lives modelling Jesus' example, often giving up wealth, prestige and status in the process.

November is a month of remembrance, not just Armistice Day but a whole time to remember all those saints, the everyday people who have gone before. We held a Memorial Service at The Drive where we lit candles and remembered. If we are remembering them why have we not learned from them?

*<sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?* Matthew 6:27

As we approach December and come into the season of Advent the church has a whole month to prepare for Christmas. Let's not rush headlong in a flurry of preparation that we don't spend time appreciating all we have. Enjoy being with people, spend time together, appreciate the small things. Meet together over lunch in Wesley's café, Tuesday or Thursday, or enjoy soup and conversation at Freckleton on Wednesday or for coffee at The Drive on Friday. Join in an advent course online or in person. In every church we have the opportunity to gather together, appreciate spending time in company.

*<sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Matthew 31-32*

Let's practise being Saints in the making, enjoy the moment, have a blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year

*Louise*

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*Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor the earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter  
a stable-place sufficed  
God, the Lord Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.*

*What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part  
yet what I can I give him —  
give my heart.*

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830–1894)

## **WORSHIP in DECEMBER**

4th

9.00 a.m. Activ8 led by Revd Louise Makin

11th

10.30 a.m. David Turner



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

18th

**10.30 a.m. Nativity Service  
including Holy Communion  
led by Revd Louise Makin**

**6.00 p.m. Carol Service  
led by Revd Louise Makin**

24<sup>th</sup>

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
4.00 p.m Christingle Service**

25<sup>th</sup>

**CHRISTMAS DAY  
10.00 a.m Family Service  
led by Judith Smith**



## **WORSHIP in JANUARY**

1st UNITED SERVICE at THE DRIVE  
10.30 a.m. Revd Louise Makin

8th  
10.30 a.m. Adrienne Simpson

15th COVENANT SERVICE  
10.30 a.m. Revd Louise Makin

22nd  
10.30 a.m. Laura Green

29th  
10.30 a.m. Revd Andrew Halstead



## **WORSHIP in FEBRUARY**

5th  
9.00 a.m. Activ8 led by Revd Louise Makin

12th  
10.30 a.m. Revd Louise Makin

19th  
10.30 a.m. Revd Janet Pybon

26th  
10.30 a.m. Judith Smith

*aLive!* - Friendship, worship and word in the Community Hub.  
**Our monthly service on the fourth Sunday evening of each month  
will resume in the Spring.**

## 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

- 11th      Fond memories of Hilary Cardwell
- 18th      The birthday of Muriel Maddocks  
            The birthday of James Maddocks
- 25th      Loving birthday memories of Fred Holland  
            Loving birthday memories of our brother, Philip,  
                    from Sylvia

### OCTOBER

- 2nd      Birthday memories of Conrad and Vera Pate  
            In memory of Polly and Leonard Gray  
            Birthday memories of Sydney Knight  
            Loving birthday memories of Fred Holland
- 9th      Fond family birthday memories from Rosemary Wells,  
                    Katherine and Sarah

### NOVEMBER

- 6th      The death of Sydney Knight  
            Cherished memories of Marjorie and Peter from Gary, Mandy,  
            Yvonne and the grandchildren  
            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.)*



**CAROLINE PLENDERLEITH**

**DAVID BREARE**

*"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."*

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**BAPTISM**

**SETH DERBYHIRE**  
**NATHANIAL DERBYSHIRE**

*Sons of Rebekah & Ben Derbyshire*

11 September 2022

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.

*Numbers 6 verses 24-26*

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**APPRECIATION**

Irene Harrison and family would like to thank members of the church family for their expressions of sympathy, cards and beautiful flowers received following the recent passing of Irene's father, Geoff Tasker. These thoughts were greatly appreciated.





**TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AT CHURCH ROAD**

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

**from**

Michael & Marion Allanson      Sadie Bridge  
John Christmas (*Sidmouth*)      Stewart & Alison Dow  
Shirley Eade      David & Irene Harrison      Hazel Hawkins  
Jonathan & Catherine Irving      John & Anne Mayes  
Catherine Peak      Ian & Yvonne Smedley  
Nigel & Sandie Standbridge      Nancy Steele      Elaine Watts  
Andrew & Sheila Whitley      Joan Wild  
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 Louise and Judith**

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 2023.

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



## Paws for thought 4

Isaiah 11 v 1-9

Advent is a time to pause and re-evaluate our expectations as we look towards Christmas. It seems many places and many people are in turmoil as we face a winter of uncertainties, but we do have a long history of Christmases not living up to our expectations.

Like many, my favourite carol is 'Cradled in a manger meanly' but it is the last verse that is so full of meaning in the way it pulls us back to the reality of the world. Written somewhere between 1830 and 1913, by George Stringer Rowe, homelessness and poverty were as much part of everyday life as now, if not more so. The only difference today seems to be that those who have no religious belief in Christmas, dress it up to look like fairy land.

Don't get me wrong, trees and lights, presents and mince pies all have their place but without Christ being central to the story it does become more commercial rather than Christian with the celebration of Jesus' birth. So, as we sing the carol this Christmas let us take to heart and praise God, the Christ has come !

STF 197 verse 4

And to those who never listen  
To the message of thy birth,  
Who have winter, but no Christmas  
bringing them thy peace on earth,  
Send to these the joyful tiding;  
By all people in each home,  
Be there heard the Christmas  
anthem:

Praise to God, the Christ has come.



*I'll share my presents with you!*

Judith Smith – Blackpool and South Fylde Lay Worker

# ADVENT JOURNEY 2022

**To live again**

*based on the film*

**It's a wonderful life**

*continuing at 11am at Church Road Methodist Church*

**Thursday 1st December - When life doesn't go our way**

**Thursday 8th December - In the dark times**

**Thursday 15th December - The right perspective.**

Come and join the discussion and reflection with a cup of coffee

**All are welcome**

**Advent Zoom Courses - 'There is room'  
available in the evening.**

**Mondays with Deacon Kim - for further information and details contact Kim at [kim.gabbatiss@methodist.org.uk](mailto:kim.gabbatiss@methodist.org.uk)**

**Thursdays with Andrew Barratt – for further information and details contact Andrew at [andrcbarrett@aol.org.uk](mailto:andrcbarrett@aol.org.uk)**



## ***Carols and Festive Songs***

*Conducted by Graham Warrington*

**SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2022 at 7.00 p.m.**

*Tickets £6.00 (under 16s free), including a mince pie and coffee,  
Available from Linda Butcher, Caroline Livesey or any member of  
the Church Life Committee*

**Proceeds for the Community Defibrillator Project  
and Wesley's Café and Larder**

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## **LANCASHIRE SINGS CHRISTMAS**

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

***Thursday 15 December 2022***  
***from 7.00 p.m to 8.00 p.m.***

*Churches Together in Lancashire & Radio Lancashire's  
Carol Singing Event across the county*

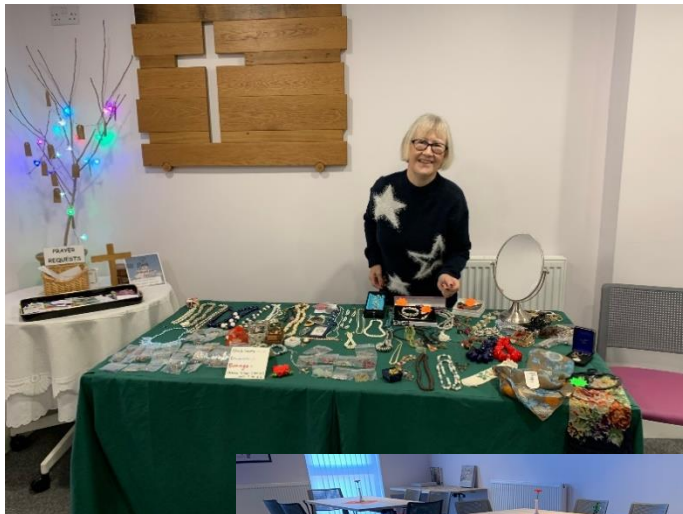




# CHRISTMAS FAIR

**THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning on Saturday 19 November. Also, a big thank you to Linda Butcher and all those who helped with its preparation and management. We are pleased to say that over £700 was raised for the Community Defibrillator and Wesley's Café.

The morning was not only successful as a fundraiser, but a great opportunity to meet friends for a social catch-up. We were pleased to welcome visitors from other churches and the local community.



*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

John 1:14

## THANK YOU TO OUR RETIRING TREASURER

Andrew Whitley has recently retired from the position of Church Treasurer and on behalf of the whole church, we would like to send our grateful thanks to him for all his hard work in this capacity over the years. Andrew has been a faithful and diligent custodian of our financial resources, providing detailed advice to our Ministers and Church Council members, thus ensuring that our spending decisions were sound and backed up by the necessary funding. His expert financial guidance was invaluable during the recent redevelopment project.

The work of a Church treasurer is crucial to the effective management of church affairs and Andrew has ensured that not only has our money been well managed, but that we have also been fully compliant with all our legal obligations and the requirements of the Methodist Church and Charity Commissioners.

Thank you, Andrew - and all good wishes to you and Sheila as you enjoy more time to relax!

The church accounts are now being managed by a firm of accountants and further local arrangements will be confirmed as soon as possible. In the meantime, approved cheque signatories are Mike Bennett, Monica Bissett and John Mayes and they can also receive any payments or donations.

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*Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and man, at war with man, hears not  
the love-song which they bring.  
**O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
and hear the angels sing!***

# The Sound of Silence.....

*“When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour”.*  
*Revelation 8:1*

I have yet to visit heaven so I don't know how noisy it is, no doubt full of the sound of joy and praise, but it is interesting to read that for about thirty minutes there is silence when the seventh seal is opened, possibly a deep and solemn expectation of the stupendous events about to take place which the opening of this seal has produced.

We live in the age of noise - road traffic, television, aircraft, loud music (or what some people consider to be music), dogs barking, chatter and the noise of humanity generally. Wouldn't it be wonderful to experience something similar on earth, thirty minutes of silence when politicians have their lips glued shut, traffic is halted, music is muted, dogs are given a biscuit, nobody is chattering or shouting and all that can be heard is the sound of the natural world we live in.

The world is in a hurry, people to see, places to go, altogether far, far too busy. As Louise also mentioned in her letter, the poet W.H.Davies asked –  
*“What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare?”*

One of my greatest joys is taking my dog for our very early morning walk around Fairhaven Lake and then to stand and stare at an armada of ducks slowly and elegantly floating across the water. My dog is also attracted to the sight, but for different reasons.

(I dreamt the other night that five minutes after I took my dog out for a walk it started pouring down. Then I woke up, started the day, took my dog out for a walk and after five minutes it starting pouring down. Isn't it wonderful that in these days of doom, gloom and uncertainty that dreams can actually come true!)

But I intend to take time this Christmas, longer than just thirty minutes, to block out the 'noise' of commercialisation, indulgence and tradition to reflect on the day that changed the world, the day my Saviour was born and the enormous debt I owe that He paid for with His life, a life that began quietly in a manger in Bethlehem.

Best wishes  
Chris Jones

## **INTERFAITH MEAL**

### *Dining with a difference*

I recently received an unusual invitation – for dining out with a difference. Lesley Turner had been invited to an ‘Interfaith Meal’ to be held at the ‘Pensioners’ Hall’ - probably because of her ongoing involvement with the English Lessons – and in turn invited me to go with her. Priya came too!

The hall was set for about 80 people, with a tempting buffet set out. But we had to contain our appetites for a while, during a video and some chats from a variety of notable guests.

Our host Mehmet told us that the event was sponsored by the Dialogue Society - a registered charity, which aims to ‘advance social cohesion’ by connecting communities through dialogue. It brings people together through discussion forums, courses, publications and outreach and operates nationwide with regional branches across the UK. People of all faiths, and none, and of all ethnic origins, are wuntilelcomed.

The first to speak in support of the event and its aims was Andrew Snowden, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, and a Christian. He was followed by Allan Oldfield, Fylde Borough Council Chief Executive. Norah – a representative of Amnesty International spoke about how this kind of dialogue was becoming more important in our troubled, and often divided, modern world. St Anne’s Mayor, Karen Harrison also spoke.

Serena , a Sephardi Jew, spoke passionately about her own experience as a refugee. She was born in Cairo to a prominent family (who knew King Farouk) and lived happily amongst Muslims until 1956, when Jews were expelled from the country. Her first ‘home’ in UK, aged 22, was a former POW camp in Birmingham where the December snow created a very unpleasant contrast to her former life. Fortunately, her Turkish mother had ensured she was educated in English so language was not a problem. She still cooks Egyptian food! She has returned to Egypt since and the Muslim occupants invited her into her former home. Her family’s carpets and furniture were still in use there. Although she still did not feel ‘at home’ anywhere, she assured us she had no hatred for Muslims or anyone.



Nasrin came here from Iran to study 45 years ago. She was unable to return to Iran due to the war. She stressed the need for us to appreciate each other's culture and religion.

A Turkish gentleman, who not only demonstrated his artistic talent with a traditional water marbling painting technique, then entertained us on the Turkish guitar, whilst Hanifi sang.



The meal cooked by local volunteers was, unsurprisingly, varied and delicious. We sampled stuffed peppers, stuffed vine leaves, pasta dishes, baklava, and Noah's Pudding, to name but a few (because I could only name a few!).



Noah's Pudding (a Turkish tradition) is so named as it represents what may have been left in Noah's stores at the end of the Ark's journey, and may contain dried fruit, nuts, grains and seeds, cooked in one pot with sugar and fruit juice, and possibly even beans or chickpeas. Very healthy (if you overlook the sugar!) and delicious.

We chatted to several people, at our table and elsewhere and an enjoyably friendly atmosphere persisted.

I wonder whether anything else like this will be arranged later? This kind of get-together can only produce positive outcomes, I feel.

And in any case, I hope Lesley invites me again next year!

*Janette Farley*



## **Oberammergau 2022**

*and the mishaps and adventures of travel!*

by Judith Smith

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, my friend Pippa and I set off to visit the Oberammergau Passion Play, two years later than our original booking. The play is presented every ten years, but as a result of Covid, it had been put back two years.

Our journey was, to say the least, eventful! A storm around Heathrow resulted in our being shuttled around the airport runway until it was safe for us to take off. Eventually, three hours late we took off for Nuremberg and received a complimentary bottle of water and bag of crisps for our delay. (I'll not name the airline but it had a union flag on its tail!)

Arriving around 9 p.m. that evening we were asked to wait on the plane as my friend needed assistance to get through the airport. We waited and waited, with the crew becoming ever more anxious as they were due to leave at 10 p.m to return to Heathrow and we were still sat on the plane. Finally help arrived and we headed out towards the exit with a nice young man with very little English pushing the wheelchair, and me with passport in hand ready to go through passport control. As we reached the lift marked baggage reclaim he looked at my passport and realised that he had failed to take us through passport control! We turned around but not very far as he couldn't go back down the one-way corridor. "Just take us to baggage claim" we chorused aware that the other people on the coach would by this time be getting rather fractious as we still had a three hour journey to the hotel.

Baggage reclaimed, out we went through the exit doors with two police officers following to say we must be escorted back in. I dropped the baggage in front of our tour guide who remained quite calm as if it was an everyday occurrence. We were taken into a little room and questions began to be asked as to how we managed to get out of the airport without getting our passports stamped. At this point I had visions of being returned to the plane we had just come off and returning back home! However, a senior Customs officer arrived, and after more questioning stamped our passports. You can imagine the reception we received on the coach as we settled down ready for our journey to the hotel!

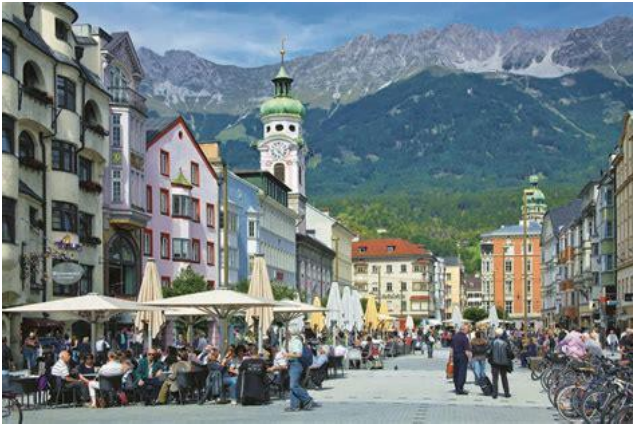
We finally arrived at an unpronounceable village in the Tyrol area of Austria, where the view next morning was a picture postcard, surrounded by

mountains, green pastures and a ski lift. The rest of the week we saw little of the mountain tops but the cloud had its own majestic appeal. We visited places throughout the week, Kitzbuhel was very pretty with its cobbled streets but the next



day the weather proved somewhat of a challenge. The Tratzberg 16<sup>th</sup> century castle followed by a quick lunch before boarding the ferry on the Achensee lake. Looking through the rain and mist coming down from the mountains was a challenge, as was taking the mountain railway down the mountain. Bearing in mind we were just coming out of our summer heatwave at home, I really hadn't much in suitable clothing with me. It was cold and wet and rather miserable.

The following day we were off to Salzburg, a beautiful city, I had visited once before. Chewing a humbug on the coach, what should happen but my crown dropped out. Needless to say, I haven't had a humbug near my mouth since! So, the first call in Salzburg was to find a pharmacist and some cement to stick it back in. I'd stuck it on so well the dentist had trouble getting it out when I arrived home and half a filling came off with the cement. So, beware all you fellow travellers. In Salzburg though, tooth at least temporarily fixed, we went to a wonderful Organ recital in the cathedral and explored the coffee shops to keep out of the rain!

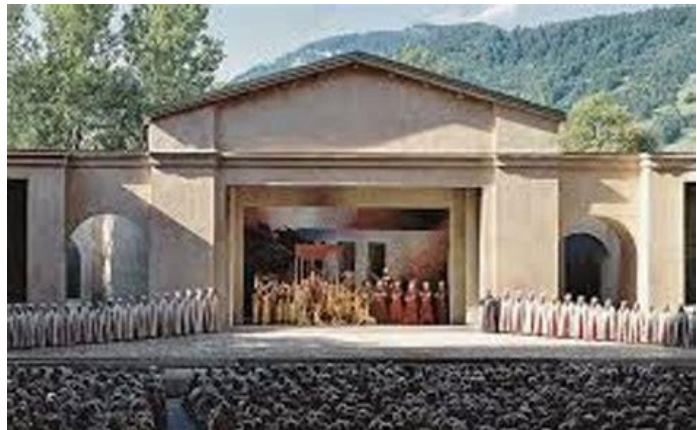


The next day in Innsbruck showed a promise of some sunshine and it was a bit warmer and well worth the visit, though the cathedral was closed for repairs. It was a Saturday and quite busy and we must have seen half a dozen couples who had got or were getting married parading round the town. The strudels looked amazing,

like all the flavours and colours you would find in an ice-cream parlour but I can't say the same for the savoury ones. On the way home we called in at the small medieval town of Rattenberg by the River Inn. It was sunny and warm with the sort of gift shops that entice people like me in. it was our last afternoon before we left Austria to drive to Germany, on to the highlight of the tour and Oberammergau and the Passion Plays.

It was a very early start, up at 5 30am, breakfast and off. The weather didn't disappoint that day, damp and misty, rain at times. It was packed with people, all trying to squash into the shops and cafes until the gates opened just before 1pm. The hall is enclosed except for the back of the stage but they had to seat 4,500 people ready for a 1.30pm start and they did it. Very organised. It ran until 4 30pm when there was a break for a meal and then we returned for the second half, 7.30 to 9.30pm 'ish. By midnight we were checking into our hotel, wide awake by that time.

As you can image the concert hall was massive and I have never seen such a huge stage, holding nearly five hundred people with the choir and crowd scenes. I counted seventy-two in the choir and they were magnificent. There were numerous children, in the first half, camels, sheep, goats, horses, and let's not forget the donkey, all appearing at the appropriate time.



The actors took us from the Creation to the Resurrection, all in German but I had my trusty handbook to translate it all, until it became too dark. What an experience. Something I had wanted to do since I was a teenager but in retrospect probably more appreciated as an adult.

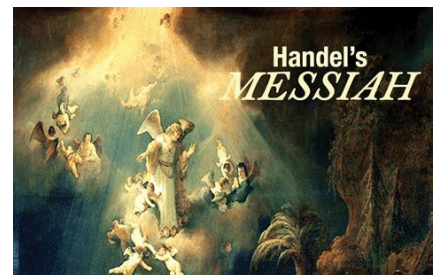


The journey home wasn't quite so exciting as our outward one, at least not until I arrived at Euston to discover the 11 30 and 12 30pm trains had been cancelled!

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## HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Performed by the Keighley Vocal Union  
at Freckleton Methodist Church  
on Sunday 11 December  
from 2.30 p.m.



This is a unique event, organised by the Freckleton Music Festival Committee, offering the quality of a concert hall performance in the intimacy of a village chapel. It has a history of over a hundred years which was only paused by Covid restrictions.

The Keighley Choral Union Choir have been singing the Messiah at Freckleton for over 40 years. Their conductor, Frank Smith, has been coming for all of them and says "Our Christmas begins when we come to Freckleton to sing The Messiah. It is a highlight of our year." This year we are joined by Soprano Laurie Ashworth; Alto Joyce Tindsley; Tenor Huw Rhys-Evans; Bass Terence Ayeboore; Ben Jarvis on trumpet and Organist Karen Au.

The event starts at 2.30 p.m. with a break for tea around 4.00 p.m. The performance resumes again at 6.00 p.m. for the second and third parts. There is no charge or booking to attend but donations are welcome and needed to keep this event going.



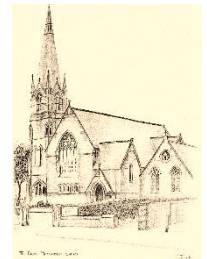
## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Following the closure of our Church Fellowship group at Church Road, we have donated an amount from our outstanding funds to Church Road and also an amount to the Methodist Women in Britain, Lancashire District project, which is Medecins Sans Frontieres (or Doctors without Borders in its English translation).

Médecins Sans Frontières is an international humanitarian medical non-governmental organisation of French origin best known for its projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases. It was founded in 1971.

### LADIES FELLOWSHIP AT THE DRIVE

However as last year, The Drive ladies have invited us to join them at their meetings once a fortnight. Their forthcoming programme is set out below:



#### DECEMBER

7<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party

14<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert  
Ann Shepherd's Choir  
*(followed by mince pies and a cup of tea)*

#### JANUARY

4<sup>th</sup> Trip around America - Revd Louise Makin

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meal Out

#### FEBRUARY

8<sup>th</sup> St. Anne's Art Collection - Barbara Weston

22<sup>nd</sup> Film Afternoon  
Sister Act 2 with Whoopi Goldberg

#### MARCH

8<sup>th</sup> Static Owl Display by Margaret

22<sup>nd</sup> Nursing in Saudi Arabia - Judith Smith

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

## TIME OUT UPDATE NOVEMBER 2022



*“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”.*

We have had another busy few months finishing Youth Alpha, exploring Church membership, attending 3Generate, sharing our regular meetings where we have explored Nehemiah, prayer and Stepping Out in Faith. We have gained new members and continue to pray for three of our young people who headed off to University.



If you would like to know what our circuit young people got up to please visit the church website

<http://www.churchroadmethodist.org/Youth/Youth/timeout.html>



*Photographs with parental permission*

**Time Out** also supported the defibrillator project and Wesley's through the Christmas Fair.



### **Stepping Out in Faith: Sharing the Good News.**

However, it is the most recent of our regular meetings that we especially wanted to share with you in this edition. We were delighted that as part of our intergenerational work, five members of the congregation agreed to join us at Time Out to explore our theme Stepping Out in Faith: Sharing the Good News.

### **The Leaders perspective:**

*“We had planned the evening to explore Gods calling to share The Good News and how, when, where and why we do this – never knowing where we may help a life be transformed.*

*We wanted to focus on shared personal testimony as a key way to do this and felt strongly that the young people didn't need to hear about this from us (they hear too much of our voices as it is!) but from different members of their own church family. We emphasised that each testimony about coming to faith and faith journeys are personal: some dramatic, some less so, they happen at different ages, in different personal situations and different places. Just as each of us are unique so is our journey with God.*

*We were thrilled that the invitations we extended to members of the congregation were so willingly accepted, but then slightly apprehensive that they would arrive and the young people would freeze up and go mute!*

*We needn't have worried, room 4 (the old ladies parlour) was packed with the 12 young people, 8 adults and a shared sense of respect and enthusiasm! The prompt cards we had prepared for the “speed dating format” were needed at times, but as the young people grew more confident and less self-conscious the conversations flowed – the adults handling the teenage questioning like pros!*

*It was quite humbling and emotional at times to witness the exchanges, the openness and warmth in which the young people were able to listen as well as talk about their faith and then to share in their reflections as to what they had heard and learnt.*

*After a shared time of prayer, chaos eventually descended as we introduced our guests to the very noisy game of Matthew, Mark. Luke and John –we hope that hasn't put them off from joining us again!” **C and S***

### **Young Persons Perspective:**

*“I thoroughly enjoyed speaking to the experienced members of our church family, it was so interesting to learn about the journeys that people go on and the way that each differs. It was comforting to hear that even though there were struggles, they have all found their faith through various different means and it is stronger than ever. It was great to share opinions on Bible versions, quotes and daily routines, as well as just general life advice. It was very impactful – I hope we can do something like this again” **Zara***



### **Church Members Perspective:**

*"It was a joy and a privilege to be asked to spend time with the Young People at Time Out and to answer questions about my faith and my Christian journey and for the interest they showed in what I told them. It is my hope that the different stories from each of the older members of our Church, will help our young people to pursue their own journey, and in doing so enable lives to be changed and transformed. Maybe when you have another session like this one, we older ones can ask the questions?!" Catherine*



Overall, an evening to be thankful for and for which all seem to have been blessed.

We now look forward to joining the JKids with readings at the annual nativity service, before we prepare the Christingles and enjoy a Christmas social! The New Year brings the prospect of a day's retreat to the Chapel in the Fields led by Rev Kevin Johnson, visitors to our meetings and more .....

Thank you to each of the congregation members who joined us at Time Out, but also to those who continually support us through prayer and practical blessings. What a joy to be part of the Church Road family.

*Sharon and Caroline*

**Sharon Hird and Caroline Livesey  
Group Leaders**

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*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*



## BUMBLEBEES



During the Autumn term, the toddlers continue to enjoy playing with the wide variety of toys on offer. These include the slides, play house, train set, cars, dolls, carpentry set and many more. Each session also includes singing, as well as a craft activity, puzzles or an opportunity to play with the 'Kinetic Sand' (always very popular!).

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to Christmas and, our team of leaders will be busy planning our end-of-term Christmas Party, when each child will receive a hand-knitted festive toy. A huge 'thank you' goes to Shirley Grundon who has been busy making these for us since the summer! I would also like to mention all the volunteers who come along and help to keep the group running smoothly.

Bumblebees will start again after the holidays on 10 January. As the group is full, we currently have a waiting list. Anyone who is interested is invited to come along on a Tuesday morning in term-time (9.30am-11.30am) if they wish to see the group in action and add their name to the list.

*Lesley Turner*

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*Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring happy bells, across the snow;  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring in the valiant men and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand.  
Ring out the darkness of the land;  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

*From "Ring Out Wild Bells" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson*



## HELLO from everyone at 6<sup>th</sup> St Annes Church Road Brownies

It's been a little while since our last update but we're pleased to report we have grown in numbers which is really encouraging to see. If you know of anyone looking for a place, please ask them to apply via the Girlguiding UK website "join us" link.

We have been busy working towards a variety of badges this term and also expanding our knowledge on a variety of local topics. We had an enjoyable visit to the St Annes Community Garden where we found out about different plants and vegetables. We also helped Charlie to plant up some tubs with new flowers and took a look inside the giant composter bin!



We collected lots of items for harvest which we donated to the Wesley's Café & Larder project. We also had fun decorating our harvest box with lots of stickers!



*Photographs with parental permission*



Like everyone we were sad to hear the news of the Queen's passing. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was Patron of Girlguiding, having been a Girl Guide herself! We lit candles in her memory and some of the older Brownies wrote and hung prayers on the prayer tree in church.

On the run up to Christmas we have lots of fun craft activities planned, along with a Christmas jumper tea-party and a trip to see Matilda the

Musical at the Odeon cinema with all the other Brownies from around the Fylde Coast.

A big thank you again to the church for offering our group a safe place to meet each week. Next year will be our 94<sup>th</sup> anniversary here, our unit's first meeting being the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1929!



## **ACTION FOR CHILDREN BOXES**

If you are an AFC box holder, please could you let me have your box to empty and return to you during December. If that's not convenient, I can call and pick it up from you; please give me a ring to arrange collection

Thank you for your continued support.  
Shirley Eade. ( tel: 01253 789217)



# 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.

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## CAN YOU HELP?

### Situations Vacant

*The first 2 needs are urgent and critical:*

- **Tea and Coffee service - on Sunday mornings (rota)**
- **Sound desk – on Sunday mornings (rota)**
- **Wesley's café – front of house (weekdays)**
- **Streaming Sunday service to Facebook (occasional)**
- **Communications – posters etc**

*and more.....*

For any offers or further info, please speak to  
Janette on 07958 100041

# Fylde kids Christmas

WE REQUIRE NEW UNWRAPPED GIFTS  
FOR CHILDREN AGE 2-16 YEARS



gift appeal 2022

LEAVING NO CHILD OF THE FYLDE  
WITHOUT A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

DROP OFF POINTS - ST ANNES TOWN HALL. KIRKHAM - AFC FYLDE.  
LYTHAM - FYLDE RUGBY CLUB, THE QUEENS HOTEL, LYTHAM HOUSE  
FRECKLETON- THE SHIP. WEETON - THE EAGLE  
TRACEY.HOPE@IHOPE.ORG.UK 07513 347913



**DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF FOR TRACEY AT WESLEY'S  
ON TUESDAY OR THURSDAY MORNINGS**

## FROM THE FEAST OF ST.FRIEND

*A Christmas Book by Arnold Bennett*



“If then, there is to be a festival, why should it not be the festival of Christmas? It can, indeed, be no other. Christmas is most plainly indicated. It is dignified and made precious by traditions which go back much further than the Christian era; and it has this tremendous advantage-it exists? In spite of declining faith it has been preserved to us, and here it is, ready to hand. Not merely does it fall at the point which uncounted generations have agreed to consider as the turn of the solar year and as the rebirth of hope, it falls also immediately before the end of the calendar year and thus prepares us for a fresh beginning that shall put the old to shame. It could not be better timed. Further, its traditional spirit of peace and goodwill is the very spirit which we desire to foster. And finally its customs – or at any rate, it’s main customs – are well designed to symbolize that spirit.”

*From the “Feast of St.Friend” by Arnold Bennett (1867 – 1931). Of staunch Wesleyan Methodist background from the Staffordshire Potteries, Arnold Bennett is best known for his novel Anna of the Five Towns published in 1902. In The Feast of St. Friend, Bennett shares his views on Christmas as the season of goodwill, which in his traditional writing style includes some thought-provoking ideas, liberally spiced with his wry sense of humour.*

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*John 3:16*

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Start the New Year with a renewed commitment

## Covenant Sunday

10.30 a.m. 15 January 2023

led by Revd Louise Makin

*"I am no longer my own but yours"*



### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed in January. The service in

2023 is being organised by Churches Together in St Annes and will be held on Monday 18 January 2023 at 7.30 pm at St Annes United Reformed Church.



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2023

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

Next year's service has been prepared by the women of Taiwan and will follow the theme **"I have heard about your faith"**.

More details of the service will be in the monthly notice sheet nearer the time.



# FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2023

**MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY to SUNDAY 5 MARCH 2023**



Fairtrade is a system of certification that aims to ensure a set of standards are met in the production and supply of a product or ingredient. For farmers and workers, Fairtrade means workers' rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay. For shoppers it means high quality, ethically produced products.

Choosing Fairtrade means standing with farmers for fairness and equality; with Fairtrade you change the world a little bit every day. With over 4,500 different Fairtrade products available to buy in UK supermarkets and stores, you can't miss them! Choosing and asking for Fairtrade is one way to ensure farmers and workers can farm into the future and earn enough to provide for their families and invest in their communities.



**Fairtrade Fortnight runs every year for two weeks.**

Its aim is to transform the farming industry and to ensure that farmers and workers in the developing world get a fair deal for the crops they grow.

Fairtrade Fortnight brings together consumers, retailers, licensees, businesses, producers and campaigners nationwide to promote awareness and sales of Fairtrade products and campaign on issues of trade justice, by way of action-packed campaigns to raise awareness of Fairtrade products.

- **REMEMBER - Fairtrade Fortnight will take place from Monday 20th of February to Sunday 5th of March inclusive.**
- Start preparing NOW, look out for local events to support and have a fantastic [Fairtrade Fortnight 2023](#).

## BETHLEHEM OR BUST

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the school

The staff were dreading the onset of Yule.

“Don't mention Nativity” came the loud cry,

“If we do it again, I shall lay down and die!”

At the dress rehearsal was heard a loud wail

Two shepherds have measles and Mary looks pale.

Joseph has stage fright and so has the king,

And even the choir has forgotten to sing.

The “tom toms” had tantrums, the angels had fights,

And all the St.Lucia's can't find their lights.

One angel had nits we suddenly found

And by trying on halos had spread them around

Don't worry teachers, just leave it to me

We'll have the school nurse in (disguised as a tree)

And during the crowd scenes, amid the commotion

She can have a look round and hand out the lotion,

The star was entrancing decked out in gold

(except for the plimsolls which looked rather old)

The chime bars played endlessly – Gabriel was late

“He's gone to the toilet Miss, he couldn't wait”

So put on your smiles, staff, do it once more

And we'll have “Silent Night” as an extra encore

And when it's all over, we'll give a loud cheer

For we won't have to do it again until next year!

*Author unknown  
Contributed by Shirley Grundon*

## DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS PICTURE?



This picture was discovered during the clearing-up day on 5 November, and we are wondering about its history. Does anyone remember its provenance? Would anyone like to claim it?

If you have an interest, please have a word with Catherine Irving.

If no one is interested in it any longer, we will take steps to donate it somewhere.



## 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/>



# CHURCH DIARY

**WESLEY'S CAFÉ:** Every TUESDAY and THURSDAY 10.00am to 1.30pm. Contact Linda Butcher

**BUMBLEBEES:** Every TUESDAY in term-time, 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 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 9.00a.m. followed by breakfast together

**aLIVE** at 6.30 p.m. every FOURTH SUNDAY of each month will be starting again in the Spring. Watch out for details in the monthly notices.

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## KEEPING UP TO DATE

For up-to-date information about services and church activities, please follow our monthly news sheet which will be distributed by email. If you do not receive a copy in this way, please let the Church Office know and we will send you one. You can also follow us on our website and Facebook.

[www.churchroadmethodist.org](http://www.churchroadmethodist.org)

**Remember you are never alone. We are never more than a phone call or email away.**