

Good News

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Prayers of the
Day
from
Methodist.org.uk



You shall have no other gods before ME."

Exodus 20:3

God Almighty, Jehovah God, King of Kings,
we bow before You and Praise all Your HOLY
NAMES. Let us not be led away from Your
Truth.

Be to us, O Lord Jesus
Christ, the joy
prepared for those
who are faithful, the
vision granted to the
pure in heart and the
light that shines on the
path of those who love
your word; now and for
ever. Amen.

*Symeon the New
Theologian (949-1022)*

The next edition of Good
News is due 11th July.

Can all contributions be
sent to

Rev Stephen Foster

At the email address
below

by

Monday 5th July

stephenfoster533@btinternet.com

END OR THE BEGINNING?

Is the end in sight? Although we will have to learn to live with the Covid virus for some time to come the end of restrictions are in sight and we hope and look forward to planning our lives again.

What the pandemic has taught every single one of us though is that we can no longer base our lives on certainty. We used to take for granted that we could plan ahead in our church calendar. But who could have imagined that we would be unable to worship together last Christmas or for the last two Easters or that we would be unable to organise fund raising activities, social events and meetings? All these things we took for granted as the norm how wrong we were!

No-one could have predicted in March 2020 when we had our last

service at Tarleton that we would not return for another 15 months. But hopefully all that is behind us and we need to move on having a mind to the future and not going back to doing everything we always did in the way we always did them. The pandemic has given us time in our personal lives to reassess and this should be so in our church life.

On Saturday 22 May a group of Tarleton members turned up with rubber gloves, buckets, mops, dusters, hoovers and set to so that the church would be ready for opening on 31 May. We were so pleased to see each other that half an hour had gone by when we realised, we had not done a single scrap of cleaning because we were too busy chatting. But the pleasure in seeing each other again made us realise



how we have missed our services and the fellowship of working together to raise funds or have a social event.

Churches mean different things to different people. Obviously worshipping God is the overriding reason we meet but it is acknowledged that the community spirit and support system that comes from being part of a church congregation actually gives people a better quality of life. Indeed, we churchgoers are supposed to live longer which is attributed to having a loving support system which grows out of our love of God and having him in our lives through our church family.

But in my view, we have to spend time considering how we spread that message to people who have never been to church but who maybe need the care and support that we can offer. So much is in the news about mental health at the moment, how the past year has impacted on people of all ages and how they live their lives. It should be a priority to make our churches relevant and available to everyone who would benefit from becoming part of God's community. But how do we do that? How do we make contact and encourage them to pay us a visit? Is this what we need to work on in the 'new normal'?

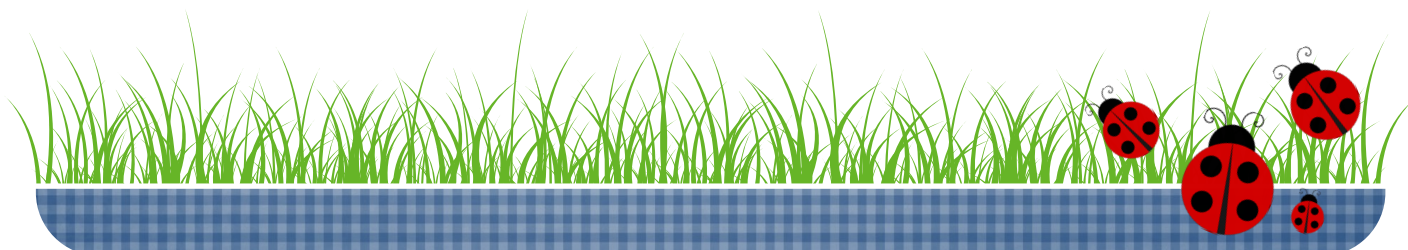
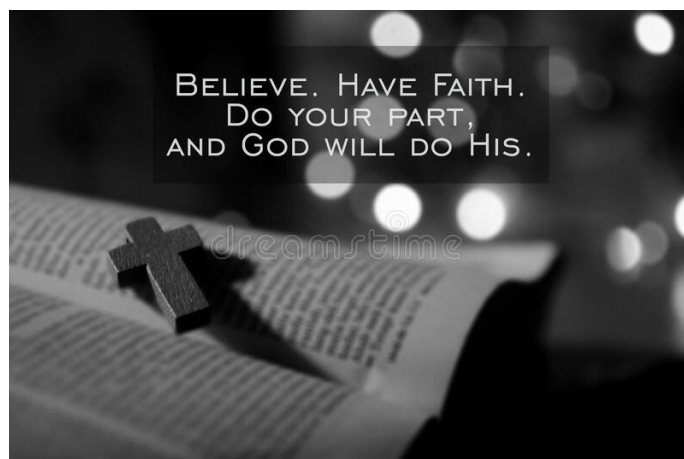
Because of the pandemic many things have changed and we have been given the opportunity to reevaluate how we as a circuit are working together. No man is an island so the saying goes and this applies to each of our chapels so is this the time to think of coming together?

Now is the time to look to new beginnings, new ways of working together so that we all benefit from larger congregations along with the pleasure of worshipping in larger numbers. Then, maybe we will have church communities that look attractive to families and younger people who are after all our future.

Blessings

Margaret Tarpey

Tarleton Methodist Church



Christian Aid Walk

At our service at Up Holland a few weeks ago Revd Michael showed some film clips of women who had to make long walks each day to collect water for cooking, washing etc. I have previously completed several organised Christian Aid sponsored walks so decided to walk 100 miles before the end of May and try to raise some money for Christian Aid to help with the project of building earth dams to enable water to be available locally for villagers.

The walks included:

Skelmersdale to Parbold, Rainford, Ormskirk, Burscough, Billinge & Orrell and a circular walk from Scorton in The Forest of Bowland.

Total distance walked was 101.3 miles.

My target was £250 but I've raised £665 so far. Thanks to everyone who sponsored me.

Linda Wedge

Upholland Methodist



Thinking about becoming a Circuit Steward?

- What does being a Circuit Steward entail?
- Do I have the skills and gifts to be a Circuit Steward?
- Is God asking me to take a role in the leadership of my Circuit?

An opportunity to explore the role of the Circuit Steward and ask questions.

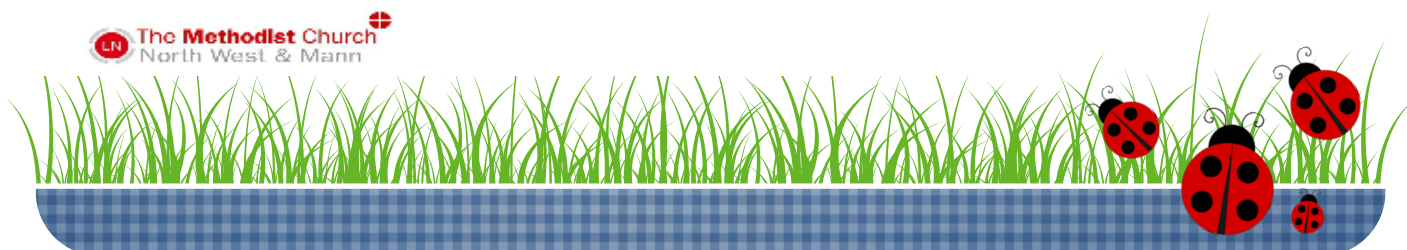
On Zoom

Monday 19th July 7.30pm until 9pm

Facilitated by Brec Seaton (Learning Network) and experienced Circuit Stewards from the Kendal Circuit

Email Rob Glassonbury to book your place
nwmannnetwork@gmail.com

For more information contact Brec Seaton
seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk



Holmes in Lockdown

Our Sunday Club has been busy. Last Easter the children made Easter cards, which Helen Hindle took to Alsley Lodge residential home.

This year some of the children have been busy painting stones which are on the chapel steps. Some have rainbows, others flowers and others with the words showing some of the fruits of the Spirit. People passing by will have seen what the children have been doing, another witness that gives hope in difficult times.



As the chapel has been unable to open they have been unable to send out flowers each Sunday. It was decided as a church family that if anyone from the community was sick or housebound they would take them flowers or small gifts as well as a card. This wasn't just for members of the church, but for anyone known to church members. When anyone passed away, cards and flowers were given to family members from the family of church. Cards and flowers have also been given to members celebrating very special occasions.

At the Sunday they should have celebrated the harvest festival, flowers were taken out once again. At Christmas, cards and gifts were given to members who live on their own as well as those who were unwell or house-

bound. Daffodils and Easter cards were also sent out. Some Christmas and Easter cards were sent to people by post living out of the area.

Many of the church family have kept in touch by phone, email and WhatsApp.

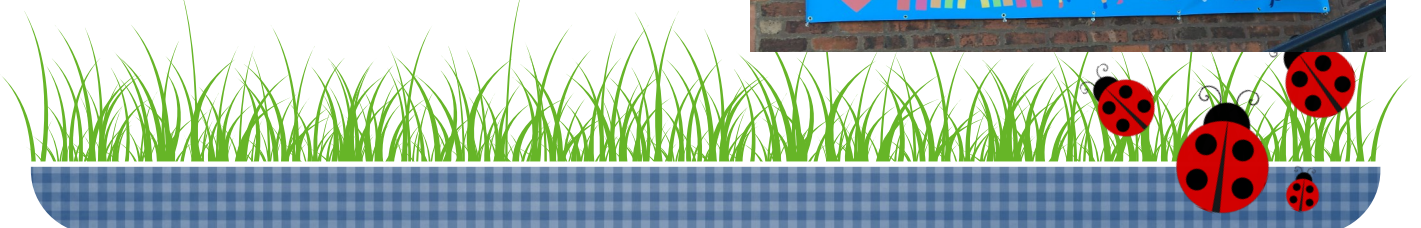
Haley Fisher has used her God-given talents in creating large weather-proof posters that have been placed on the wall as you go up the chapel steps. One of the stewards sketches the theme and then Haley brings it to life using her graphic design skills. A harvest poster was produced in this way, then in November for Remembrance, Advent and Christmas and Lent The theme for Easter was three days that changed the world.

The posters have been very bright and colourful so that vehicles coming from a long way down the road could see them as well as cyclists.

Cyclists and fishermen have been able to use the chapel's outside toilet, which has been cleaned by Andrew Ascroft every week.

The chapel feels that the posters have been an effective way of witnessing the Good News and have been much appreciated.

Barbara Meynall





A Christening Celebration

Welcoming Rosie Alice Golding into the Church

Our family felt very privileged to be in our lovely Holmes Methodist Chapel last Sunday for our daughter's Christening Service; the first service to be held in the building for over 12 months. Rosie Alice, who is now 10 months old, was born right in the middle of the pandemic and is therefore used to masks and sanitised spaces.

It was certainly very different to what we are all used to at Holmes but with the same welcoming message and it meant a great deal to have Rosie christened in the building where so many life events have taken place for our family.

We are very grateful to all the stewards and members of the chapel who put everything in place to make it happen and for attending on the day to ensure the guidelines were adhered to. We also

thank Rev. Stephen Foster for leading the service at such an unusual time.

My sister Hayley wrote a poem for Rosie which I think sums up the event wonderfully.

Today is your day

When we can all come together

However small the gathering

It's a moment we will treasure

Mask wearing, sanitiser,

No singing in the pews.

Please know our hearts are full of song,

and silently we sing for you.

So enjoy your special Christening Day

We all love you very much,

Know that God is watching over you

and in Jesus' name we trust.

Onwards and upwards - we'll soon all be together at chapel again.

Katie, David, Bobby, Annie and Rosie Golding



Family and Schools Worker: The Messies!

One of the highlights of the role of Family and Schools Worker has been to establish the 'Messies' as regular groups meeting (for now) via Zoom.

As a Circuit we have a monthly Messy Church, a fortnightly Messy Youth and our newest addition; a fortnightly Messy Vintage. These are all wonderful ways of 'being church' in these unusual times! I hope to bring you regular updates—this time about our recent

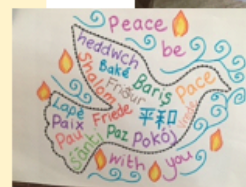
Messy Church:

Which runs monthly on a Saturday, with families being sent packs of ideas and resources, in advance, based on a theme. In May the theme was 'Happy Birthday Church!' (Pentecost). Families can be involved together with the activities described in the pack and some fabulous items are created, and experiences had, in the days running up to the Zoom session or on the Saturday afternoon before we meet.

This month there was an activity for each aspect of the Pentecost story:



A dove to represent the Holy Spirit; streamers to blow in the Wind and make a noise when we shook them; Flames to wear on our heads and the message of peace for everyone to understand.



There was also bunting to make so we could celebrate the birthday of the church in the Zoom sessions and display our creations as we used each one in the retelling of the Pentecost story.

Families made paper helicopter spinners that twirled as they thought of people and situations in need of prayer.



Each month, there is a separate activity contained in the Messy Church pack that families are asked to save until the Zoom session.

We complete this activity together as well as having a time for sharing, a time for story, a time for singing (and usually some amazing dance moves!), and a time for prayer.

This month, for Pentecost, we decorated some lovely wooden crosses as a reminder of God's love for us and the help we receive from the Holy Spirit to share God's love with all those we meet.



If you'd like more information about any of our Messies, please get in touch with Cheryl O'Connor at family.schools@lancashirewest.org.uk

CIRCUIT INFORMATION

Revd Stephen Foster

01704 893281

stephenfoster533@btinternet.com

Revd Michael Tindsley

01704 620053

michael.tindsley@methodist.org.uk

Revd Sue Guénault

Phone 07468 518260

rev.sue@guenault.co.uk

Jayne Chard

Circuit Administrator

Lancashire West Methodist Circuit
Office

01257 404742

office@lancashirewest.org.uk



Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Children & Youth—

Messy Praise (nursery/primary age)—Every fortnight, on a Sunday morning at 10.00am, we meet for 15 minutes of singing, dancing & story. Dates tbc.—for details contact rev.sue@guenault.co.uk

Messy Church (nursery/primary age)—Once a month, Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm. **Next One is 19th June**

Messy Youth (for youngsters at High School) Every fortnight, on a Sunday evening 6.00pm via zoom. **27th June**

If you would be interested in taking part, please contact

Cheryl O'Connor

family.schools@lancashirewest.org.uk



Lancashire West Methodist Circuit

Messy Vintage session for the Over-60s (though we are joined by some in the 40-60 age group too!) are held fortnightly on either a Monday afternoon at 2pm or a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm over Zoom for now. Before the session you will receive the resources needed to participate in the creative activity.

Up coming dates

Monday 21st June 2.00pm

Tuesday 22nd June 7.30pm

Monday 5th July 2.00pm

Tuesday 6th July 7.30pm

If you would be interested in taking part, please contact

Cheryl O'Connor

family.schools@lancashirewest.org.uk

Stop Press!!!

The new circuit website is very close to being launched. We hope it will be live before the next edition of Good News. So please keep checking.

www.lancashirewest.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

* Please note, plan is provisional and subject to change

Burscough Methodist—Note: new time of 10.30am email: bmc.stewards.2021@gmail.com or phone Debbie: 01704 892452

Mawdesley Methodist—email keithallen73@btinternet.com

Trinity, Skelmersdale—email derekashcroft@tiscali.co.uk or phone Derek on 01695 726494

Upholland Methodist email linda.w@talktalk.net or phone Linda on 01695 622414 & 07956816837

Trinity Methodist Croston-Note: time is now back to 10.30am Bookings for test and trace via George Lloyd on 01772 600705

The circuit ministry team will continue to deliver weekly on-line worship services.

See <https://emmanuelormskirk.org.uk/worship/> Or <https://crostonmethodist.org.uk/worship/>

*	June 20th	June 27th
Burscough 10.30am	Jonathan Richardson	o/a
Croston 10.30am	Rev Sue Guénault FS	o/a
Holmeswood 10.30am	o/a	Rev Michael Tindsley S
Mawdesley 10.30am	Rev Stephen Foster S	?
Tarleton 10.30am	?	Rev Stephen Foster
Trinity, Skelmersdale 11.00am	Gordon Wareing	o/a
Upholland 11.00am	Rev Michael Tindsley S	Malcolm Roxburgh
ON– LINE WORSHIP	Rev Sue Guénault	Rev Michael Tindsley

Key S = Sacrament/Holy Communion FS =Family Service o/a =Own Arrangement