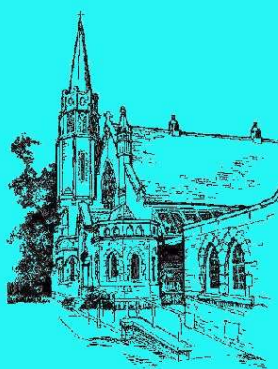
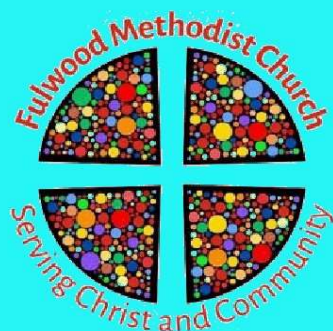


**Fulwood Methodist Church  
Crossroads Centre**



**2025**



**Twinned with the Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche,  
Recklinghausen, Germany**

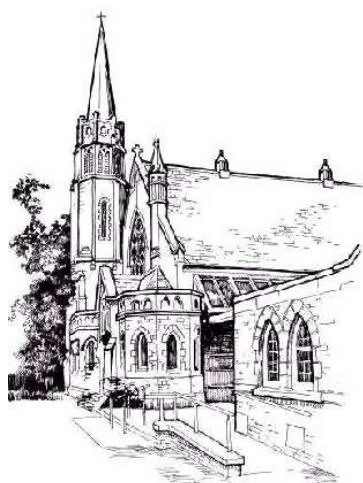


**THE FULWOOD METHODIST**

# FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8EA

Tel. Preston (01772) 718741



## MINISTER

Rev. Jane Wild - [jane.wild@methodist.org.uk](mailto:jane.wild@methodist.org.uk)

Tel. 01772 715134

## YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

Darren Arnold - [darrenarnold.church@gmail.com](mailto:darrenarnold.church@gmail.com)

Tel. 07811 775825

## CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

Denise Johnson - [djpastoral@outlook.com](mailto:djpastoral@outlook.com)

Tel. 07719 200451

Registered Charity No. 1133929

## SUNDAY SERVICES

9.45 am. SINGING PRACTICE (occasional)

10.30 am. MORNING WORSHIP & SUNDAY CLUB

We offer a welcome to all ages on Sunday mornings, there is a CRÈCHE for babies and toddlers while parents are in worship. The first 15 minutes of worship are for all ages and then on most Sundays the children leave for their own time in SUNDAY CLUB, where there are groups for different ages. Parents can go out with the younger ones to see them settle, and then come back into Church for worship. Sunday Club and worship finish at the same time and an invitation is extended to everyone to stay and share in fellowship in the Willow Grove, where tea, coffee and orange juice are served.

The CHURCH MINIBUS provides free transport to and from Church on Sunday mornings. The timetable and route information are available at Church. Should you wish to make use of it please complete one of the request cards in the Willow Grove.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated monthly and once a month there is ALL TOGETHER WORSHIP involving children from the youth groups.

For BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS contact Rev. Jane Wild

\* \* \* \* \*

**If you need any help, or have any concerns, please contact  
Rev. Jane Wild or Mrs. Sue Penrith (862273)**

## PASTORAL LETTER FROM DENISE

The last couple of times that I led an ‘All Together Worship’ at Fulwood, we explored our feet (we even saw some of your feet on the screen?) and we celebrated Pentecost with balloons. Do you remember those? I really should have let go of that helium balloon ? We shared together about where our feet may take us, and we considered what it feels like to lead a life full of the Holy Spirit. I often wonder what impact these messages have and whether we have felt inspired to change anything in our lives or have been influenced in some way to do or be more.

Worship is about offering ourselves to God but also brings challenge to us. We come to worship to receive but also to be a part of all that is offered to God in that time together – it is a living act and can be life changing. My mind is taken back to a service that I sat in as a young teenager, when I heard a message based on the story of Esther in the Old Testament – the words “For Such a Time as This” stayed in my heart all of my life and I often whisper them silently to myself as I arrive at situations when I have to deal with or deliver things. The message I heard was preached by Rev George Sails, who then seemed elderly (most preachers did when I was 14) but he had such a presence as he spoke. Although he spoke well, maybe it had something to do with where I was at too– I was open, wanted to hear, wanted to be more, wanted things to be different.

How do we feel when we attend worship? How do we prepare? How do we engage with what is happening? Do we feel a part of it? If worship is our source of energy for the week ahead, do we feel fully charged afterwards? I know that we all have individual preferences when it comes to worship and that’s natural – some of us love loud and some quiet, some enjoy interaction and others feel safer in their own space, some enjoy listening to theological depth and some enjoy the gentleness of paddling in the shallows. We are a rich and diverse group, and I guess it’s all about balance, but it’s also about our own need and willingness recognise the needs of others. Worship All Together is just that – all of us together, coming in our need and holding the needs of those around us sensitively.

As we prepare ourselves for worship in the coming weeks, I encourage you to do three things:

1. Pray for whoever is holding the service of worship together that Sunday (or any day that it is held on) and for all involved.
2. Be open to what may be said, expressed or sung.
3. Take one action away with you – however small.

May our worship be enriched and meaningful, may our hearts be kind and may we grow together more and more.

God Bless,

***Denise Johnson***

Lay Pastoral Worker, on behalf of the Pastoral Team

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ladipo Adepoju: **God for All**, John Ferris: **Property**, Mavis Fletcher: **Worship**,  
Karen Hunt: **Outreach and Service**, Amanda Latham: **Finance**, Judith Lowe: **Worship**,  
Laura Pavlikova: **Learning and Caring**, Sue Penrith: **Learning and Caring**,  
Sonia Phillips: **Communications**, Margaret Squire: **Governance**.

\* \* \* \* \*

## COMMUNION STEWARDS

John Butterworth, Jacqueline Clarke, Anne Garsed,  
Sue Hogarth, Judith Hodgson, Olivia Parkinson, Laura Ayles

\* \* \* \* \*

## MAGAZINE EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR Roy Smith 7 Southgate, Fulwood Preston PR2 3HX  
Assisted by Ken Wales, Ann Done  
Computer layout - John Butterworth  
e-mail [fmc magazine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fmc magazine@yahoo.co.uk)

\* \* \* \* \*

## EDITORIAL

**Since the panted version of the Summer magazine has been available, it has been decided that the Harvest magazine will not now be published. The deadline date does not now apply. Please read the questionnaire on page 17. Thank you.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## FAMILY NEWS

### Baptisms

Jack Esslemont  
Lottie Ashcroft  
Lucas Max Kok

### Funerals

Gordon Rowland  
Jane Martin



*We remember the families in our prayers*

\* \* \* \* \*

## DIARY DATES

26th July 9.30am **Farmers' Market**

11th August and

1st September 7.30 pm **Out of Embers** Bereavement support at the Black Bull

2nd September 7.00 pm **Bible study** Cedar room

7th September **Circuit Service** time & venue TBA

8th September 6.30 pm **Alternative Church** Black Bull

9th September 2.00 pm **Friends at Fulwood**

6.30 pm **Worship Planning**



## KING DAVID

*As part of our Easter observances this year, Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit invited the Rev. David Wood to lead us in thinking about David, the champion of huge significance to the Jewish people. David Wood is an Old Testament authority and loves communicating his knowledge in an engaging way. Recently he published his latest book 'David's Portrait Gallery'. We are delighted that David has accepted our invitation to write an article for our magazine, to help us all to be challenged by King David's story.*

### DAVID : A MAN CHOSEN BY GOD

We live today in a celebrity culture. Well, there's nothing new under the sun! For the Old Testament has its own celebrities. And foremost among them is David. In the Bible, David is portrayed in many ways, as shepherd, warrior, king, lover, father, adulterer, musician and poet. The time of his reign, about a thousand years before Christ, was remembered as a "golden age" in Israel's history. Yet two related themes run like a thread through the stories about David: he was a man chosen by God and he was a man after God's heart.

The narrative about David is found in the books of Samuel and Kings. It begins in 1 Samuel 16 with the story of his anointing by Samuel, and ends in 1 Kings 2:10 with a note of his death. Another account of David's life and reign is found in 1 Chronicles, with interesting similarities and differences. Add to that the Psalms that are attributed to David and you realise how much material there is about him in the Old Testament – a sign of his importance.

His story is the classic tale of the rise and fall of the superhero. The first part, stretching from 1 Samuel 16 to 2 Samuel 8, is an account of David's rise to power as King of Israel. It follows his progress from humble beginnings as a young shepherd, his famous encounter with Goliath, his years on the run from Saul, to his becoming king of a large empire based on the capital city of Jerusalem. This represents the zenith of his career. The second section, 2 Samuel 9 to 1 Kings 2, is an account of his reign and his fall from grace. This begins with the infamous story of his adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah. Much of the account centres on his family life, especially his complicated and disastrous relationship with his children. This leads to the death of two of them, Amnon and, more famously, Absalom. A major theme in this section is that of the succession to David. The story charts how Solomon, not the oldest of David's sons, nonetheless succeeds his father as king. A mark of his



*King David*

fall is that, on his death, there is no record of any mourning or state funeral. Yet he has continued to be remembered down the years with great love and affection.

David's tale is a classic piece of literature. It contains all the elements of the best storytelling. Here you will find drama, suspense, intrigue, ambiguity, plotting, romance, altruism and violence all rolled together! Both parts of the narrative contain some wonderful and famous stories which are to be savoured and enjoyed in their own right! They match anything Hollywood or Netflix can offer. (Other streams are available!)

It is worth remembering that David's story is part of a much larger narrative that actually extends from creation to the Babylonian exile (Genesis to 2 Kings). Indeed, in many ways, David's reign is viewed as the high point of the drama, the fulfilment of the promises made so long before to Abraham (Gen.12 : 1-3) and confirmed at Sinai (Ex. 19-24). Like Abraham and Israel, David is the recipient of a covenant promise from God (2 Sam. 7), in which God assures him that his dynasty will reign forever from Jerusalem and that through this dynasty, Israel's life before God will be blessed. Sadly, after David, the story goes horribly wrong, beginning even with Solomon! His successors do not live up to his faithful obedience to God, so much so that in the end God's patience is exhausted and, according to the terms of the covenant, Israel and the Davidic dynasty are punished by exile. Of course it is this failure on the part of David's successors that leads to the messianic hope, expressed in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and others : that, one day, God will send a son of David, a ruler after David's heart, who will restore the fortunes of Israel. In the New Testament this hope is said to be fulfilled through Jesus, the Christ, who according to the family trees in both Matthew and Luke is a direct descendant of David. Indeed, in the New Testament, he is portrayed as a "greater than David".

### **Pause for thought**

Finally, like all good literature, David's story is rich in pertinent and relevant themes to explore. Here I simply list of a few that speak to me!

- a) Firstly, God is active in our real, messy and ambiguous world. Our narrative is about both public and private life, about national and international politics and about family tensions. In all of these, God is close and, often in mysterious ways, trying to draw us and his world to himself, to fullness of life. We are called, prayerfully, to discern where and how God is involved and then to join in faithfully.
- b) Secondly, God works through ordinary, flawed people – just like us. David's story is told "warts and all". He is a mixture of the good, the bad and the ugly! Yet God is with him and, sometimes because of him and often despite him, still works through him. Obviously God is forever calling us to holiness of life, but who we are now is no bar to his using us as a blessing to others.
- c) Thirdly, the Goliath story raises a crucial question about who are today's true heroes. Our present cult of celebrity can so easily blind us to real heroism,

courage and sacrifice when we meet it. And perhaps there is a call to us to the heroic life, however small and insignificant we consider ourselves to be. After all, David was an insignificant runt when he challenged Goliath!

d)Fourthly, the famous Bathsheba narrative deserves much consideration. It challenges each of us to true self-knowledge and self-examination. How easily we can fool ourselves about our true motives and desires. And how quickly we can turn from God's ways. It is also a profound study into the nature and experience of forgiveness, a quality so badly needed in our world.

e)Lastly, the whole Absalom saga invites us to ponder questions of what makes a good parent, how do we cope with family tensions, and how have we dealt with experiences of grief and loss. And, more widely, granted the context, there are issues about private and public morality. Is there consistency between them or do we act very differently in different spheres?!

So David's story gives us much to ponder. One final suggestion! As we have briefly considered David's life story, you might like to do a review of your own life, tracing the divine footsteps through the good, bad and ugly of your own living.

***Rev. David Wood***

*Thank you David for taking this opportunity to think again about King David - and for the challenge you have offered us.*

*Many readers will remember that David and his wife, Kathleen, were both ministers in our circuit in previous years. They are now retired from active ministry and live in a beautiful area of North Yorkshire. If you would like to know more about David's several publications, please ask Rev. Jane Wild or Ken Wales.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP**



This picture was taken on a Wednesday morning when we have a prayer / discussion group at 10.30am in the Cedar room. It helps us to feel peaceful in the middle of the week. If some of the people who come are not here, we can pray for them and for those on our mind.

If Revd. Jane is with us, we have Holy Communion as well. This helps us to reflect and pray on the past week and people in our lives and helps us to go out in confidence. Why not join us?

***Judith & Wendy***

## WHAT LED ME TO FAITH?

*During the Sunday morning service on 22 June, Naz Shah was introduced to us and she recounted her story that she is quite a new Christian and a lot of her background comes out in her poem. Naz was brought up in a Muslim family but is now a member of the congregation at Central.*

I'm going to tell you a story, straight from my heart,  
How two different journeys, played a brand new part.

I was raised Muslim, truth be told,  
My wife, Mika, Catholic, brave and bold.  
She touched down in England, in July 2023,  
Her Filipino family said, "Find community!"

So in Preston, she found an LGBT group,  
Met Davina there, with a warmth so true  
Talkin' about Central Methodist Church, how good it made her feel.  
Mika got curious and felt a pull to experience  
February 2024, she said, "Let's check it out, alright?"

I was like, "No, you're good to go on your own,"  
But she insisted, "No, Naz, I need you to come along!"  
And as a supportive spouse, I caved and gave in,  
Stepped through central Methodist church doors, where the journey would begin.  
I was surprised by the welcome, no judgment, just grace,  
A warmth I hadn't known, in the unexpected place.

Then something shifted, deep inside my soul,  
No longer just for Mika, I was losing control.  
I was the one now, like, "Hey, let's head out!"  
A pull to this teaching, no longer in doubt.  
The words of Jesus, they hit different, for real,  
"Turning the other cheek," how that made me feel.  
Not weak, but powerful, a strength I'd missed for years,  
Clearin' my vision, conquerin' all my fears.

Then came the cyclist, a moment to prove,  
He was wildin' out, tryna make a move.  
Accused me of lying  
But I knew my truth, 100 percent, he was acting a fool.  
The old me would've blown up, gone off in a rage,  
But the new me was different and turned a new page.  
At the red light, he's yellin', straight out the gate,



I rolled down my window and, sealed my own fate.  
“Did you see me?!” he screamed, his voice full of spite,  
“I hadn’t seen you, I’m sorry,” I said, shining my light.  
I caught him off guard, he wanted a clash,  
But my calm response, just diffused all his flash.  
“That’s not good enough!” he roared, still on a high,  
“I’m going to report you to the police” he threatened. And I gave a small sigh.  
“I’m really sorry,” I said, with a look in my eye.  
A soft, compassionate glance, then the window went up,  
the light turned green and I drove on up.

I later pulled over, and checked both my dashcams, the footage was clear  
He was lyin’ out his mouth

I was innocent, plain for me and for all.  
Mika said, “Don’t bother calling the police Naz, just let it all go,”  
No vengeance, no anger, just peace deep inside.  
He wanted a scene, maybe troubled, God knows why?

I left it alone, let the situation compose.  
Weeks passed, no police, no drama, no call,  
Just a guy lookin’ for trouble, watchin’ him fall.  
I felt sorry for the dude, a missed chance, you see,  
If not at the traffic lights, I could’ve set him free.  
Talked about the peace that Jesus can bring,  
Showed him my footage, and asked, “What’s really upset you my friend?”  
Not about vengeance, but hope, light, and grace,  
He seemed like the one who needed church in his place.

Mika was shook, like, “Who are you, now?  
Where’s Naz? Is that calm, really part of the plan?”  
And yeah, it was real, my thoughts clear and steady,  
A whole new me emerged, truly ready.

Communion, for ages, I’d always stood by,  
But one day in Longridge, I gave it a try.  
A 3 PM service, Reverend Thraves, so kind,  
Brought the bread and the wine and she eased my mind.  
Too rude to refuse, so I took it, no fuss,  
And then I realized, “Nothing bad happened to us!”  
After that, Central Church, I couldn’t resist,

Had to take it there too, check it off my list.  
I found that I liked it, the ritual, the grace,  
Just sad I missed a blessing, in that sacred space.  
Next time, I see Reverend Jane, I'll ask for that too,  
A blessing for me, somethin' fresh and new.

This Christian faith, it's flipped my whole script,  
Taught me forgiveness, where old thoughts had slipped.  
Humility's strength, found peace in the tough,  
It changed me completely, it's more than enough.  
It's meant leaving behind my old Muslim ways,  
My family, my career, through these challenging days.  
I gave up everything, for the church and for God,  
And soon, God willing, my faith will rise to the top.  
Baptism awaits, a new life to embrace,  
Thanks for tuning in, I'm still finding my place.

*Naz Shah*



*Near the Spar shop on Plungington Road, Preston*

## COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CHURCH

Thank you for the responses there have been to the two articles in the last two editions of this magazine about the community services which the Church has developed over the past few years.

Recently, we received some very interesting reflections from Dorothy Cuthbert and with her permission these are reproduced below.

*“I recall that in 2008, I joined a Tuesday morning Support Group at Derby House run by the Alheimers' Society. A small group of twelve or so ladies many of whom had experienced loss through bereavement or as a result of a loved one now being in care. The numbers grew and friendships developed.*

*By 2013, the group and the Alzheimer's Society staff had increased in size, to the extent that new venues needed to be sought. Meetings would be less frequent, and these changes caused considerable distress. Might there be a way matters could be improved by finding another venue? By that time, of course, our own Church had commenced a Tuesday morning 'Open House' along similar lines and swiftly it was agreed that a large number of people from the Derby House group could become involved.*



*So it was that in January 2014, our own extended Tuesday morning session developed. I cannot praise too highly the welcome we received and the services and support which were offered as a result. The volunteers and the premises were a blessing to us all. Swiftly, 'New to You' stalls became available. Over the years, occasional Jacob's Join buffets have enhanced celebrations of birthdays and other occasions.*

*Then, of course, in 2020 we all experienced a period of lockdown to seek to prevent even worse effects from the COVID virus. Now the telephone took over and many of us stayed in touch with each other to offer encouragement, support and, occasionally, our condolences. I recall that it was in 2021 when some normal activity could resume, even though there were further disruptions to come.*

*Along with some original Derby House friends, I remain a stalwart member of the Tuesday morning group here at Fulwood. The group remains healthy, but even so membership changes as time goes along. Now it is a group of firm friends who make use of the hospitality and wonderful volunteers who together create times which can be enjoyed whatever the circumstances.”*

It is good to repeat that Dorothy and all her friends would be delighted to welcome you or to talk to you if you would like more information.’

Thank you, Dorothy, for sharing this with us.

**Ken Wales**



# DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He was a pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi dissident living in Germany at the time of the Second World War. As Hitler rose to power in Europe, Bonhoeffer loudly and defiantly spoke out against him. As a result, Bonhoeffer was forbidden to teach publicly and was forced underground. He taught seminary students for several years until his arrest and imprisonment in 1943. Incredibly, Bonhoeffer continued to teach from prison until he was moved to Flossenburg concentration camp.



*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

While in Flossenburg, Bonhoeffer was condemned to death, without witnesses, records of proceedings, or a defence. At 39 years old, he was executed, just one month before the war ended. Some of his parting words were “This is the end-for me the beginning of life.”

Bonhoeffer’s legacy lives on through his writing and through the powerful witness of his defiant stance against the injustice of his day. He once wrote -

*When a madman is tearing through the streets in a car, I can, as a pastor who happens to be on the scene, do more than merely console or bury those who have been run over. I must jump in front of the car and stop it.*

Bonhoeffer’s theology is deeply centered on the question, “Who is Christ for us today?” He emphasized the importance of understanding Jesus Christ as the living, present reality in the world.

## **Ethics and Community**

Bonhoeffer believed that Christian ethics should be lived out in community. He stressed that the church must exist for others, reflecting Jesus’ role as “the man for others”.

## **Costly Grace**

One of his most famous concepts is “costly grace,” which contrasts with “cheap grace.” Costly grace involves a genuine commitment to discipleship and the willingness to suffer for one’s faith.

## **Concrete Revelation**

Bonhoeffer emphasized the concreteness of revelation, focusing on the tangible presence of God in Jesus Christ and the church. He believed that God’s revelation is not abstract but is lived out in the real world.

## **Resistance and Faith**

His involvement in the resistance against Hitler and his execution by the Nazis highlight his belief that faith must be active and engaged with the world’s injustices. Bonhoeffer’s theology is a call to live out one’s faith authentically and courageously in the face of the challenges of society.

*Ken Wales*



## HAZEL BEARDSWORTH'S LEGACY

I'm sure many of you will remember Hazel and her family and that she was a prolific and excellent knitter. I have been reacquainted with her daughter Susan since my Dad, Cyril, moved into Bethany House, where Susan is one of the Care Managers.

I often take my knitting and crochet to do whilst visiting dad and we've chatted about her mum and the Knitting Group's projects. The staff and residents have been very good customers for our chocolate orange creations too.



One day Susan asked if we could do something with a carrier bag crammed full of knitted squares that Hazel had made. She really wanted them made up into a blanket or throw so she could use them and remember her mum. We started after Easter this year sewing all the ends in and checking the sizes. All but two were absolutely bob on for being the same size!

Absolutely typical of Hazel's work. That can't be said of other squares we've worked on over the years.

We were just about to start looking at colours and patterns for designing and assembling the blanket when Susan asked if we could do something else with them. Susan, who doesn't look old enough, has a granddaughter of nearly three who has lots of dolls and she wanted a blanket for each one! Now if Hazel were still alive it's something she would have done for her great granddaughter, so we were happy to oblige.

We spent a happy afternoon choosing sets of nine squares to go together, discussing the colour and pattern combinations and sometimes disagreeing on choices on 'artistic grounds.' We took photos of the placements, chose the colours of the joining threads and set to. We made seventeen blankets of nine square arrangements and one of six. These are the photos taken on the day Susan brought Cassia in to receive them. She was delighted with all of them.



*The members of the knitting group who made up the blankets.*

**Veronica Frost**

## METHODISTS

Have you seen the new Notice Board which Sonia Phillips, who leads on Communications for the Leadership Team in the Church has prepared? It is near the entry to the Cedar Room and the toilets in the Willow Grove. It is a splendid example of her skill in helping us to understand who we are. Do take a look! Recently, Sunday Club has used a quiz based on this display as part of their work on the topic 'The Living Church'.



Now you know more about us, the Methodists Church in Fulwood, you might also enjoy reading a piece by the American humourist Garrison Keillor whose books you may have seen elsewhere. He clearly knows what he is writing about in an article called 'Methodists'. This can be read online by typing this short version of a long web address - [tinyurl.com/24bjrbz3](http://tinyurl.com/24bjrbz3) Ask if you would like a copy.

Now it is your turn. Below the notice board is a quiz for you to complete. Answer the questions, add your name and put the completed sheet in the new suggestions box.

Names of those who entered will be listed, if they wish, in our next magazine and there will be a modest prize for the first fully successful sheet drawn at random. Closing date is the end of September.

*Ken Wales*

### WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH?

Our current theme in Sunday Club is 'The Living Church - People and Building'. One of our topics will be to use the new display outside the Cedar Room (opposite the toilets!) to find out some of the things that happen in our church. Can you answer these questions? Answers can be found on the notice board or contact Sonia Philips or Janet Wales.

1. How often does Messy Church meet?
2. When does the AM Club meet?
3. Name three activities that children aged 7/8 years could attend.
4. What can you buy at the Farmers' Market?
5. When are the coffee shops open?
6. Which group could you attend if you enjoy reading?
7. What can you do in Connexions?
8. Which groups need more volunteers?

*Janet Wales*

# CROSSWORD

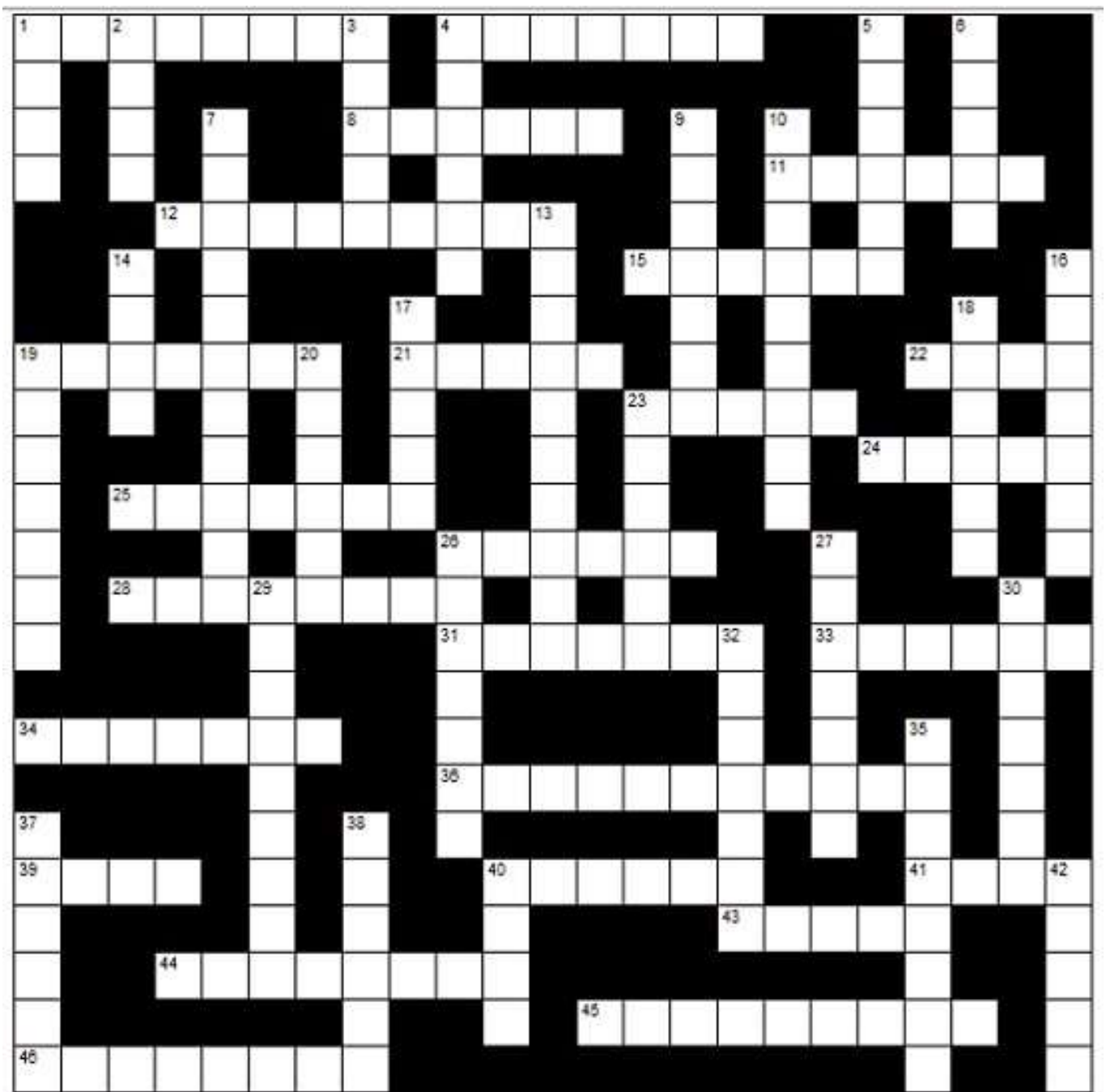
This crossword puzzle is based on places, capitals and countries. Perhaps during these longer days you are thinking of your travels in the past or planning those of the future. Enjoy, with a nice cup or glass of something.....

Most clues offer you the name of a place (the answer to which is the name of the country) or a country (where the name of the capital is required).

Two or three are a bit tricky but you will quickly spot why that is so. The answers to those which are simply represented by an \* are places you may have visited which are a little nearer to us here in Preston.

Happy travelling!!

*Ken Wales*



## CLUES

### ACROSS

- 1    Bridgetown
- 4    Beirut
- 8    Monaco
- 11   Ireland
- 12   Singapore
- 15   Austria
- 19   Wales
- 21   Port au Prince
- 22   Switzerland
- 23   Egypt
- 24   Damascus
- 25   Tallinn
- 26   Oslo
- 28   Australia
- 31   Reykavik
- 33   Portugal
- 34   Kingston
- 36   \*
- 39   \*
- 40   \*
- 41   Baghdad
- 43   Afghanistan
- 44   Malta
- 45   \*
- 46   \*

### DOWN

- 1    \*
- 2    \*
- 3    Apia
- 4    England
- 5    Lusaka
- 6    New Delhi
- 7    \*
- 9    Tunis
- 10   Scotland
- 13   \*
- 14   Lima
- 16   Helsinki
- 17   Beijing
- 18   Iran
- 19   \*
- 20   Paris
- 23   Ottawa
- 26   Kenya
- 27   Brussels
- 29   \*
- 30   \*
- 32   Copenhagen
- 35   Bangkok
- 37   Nicosia
- 38   Greece
- 40   N'Djamena
- 42   Doha

The solution to the Crossword is on Page 32



# CHURCH MAGAZINE QUESTIONNAIRE

We invite you to help us to style of the future magazine and how it could be improved in future editions This can be removed from the magazine if you wish to complete it. You **do not** need to provide your name. However, it would be useful if you could answer the following demographic questions so that we can gather information about who is / is not currently accessing the magazine. If you are able to print pages 17 - 20, complete the details then hand in the completed questionnaire to either Sonia Phillips, our Communications Steward, Ken Wales or post it in the Suggestion's Box on the wall on the way to the Cedar Room and toilets or email it to [soniaphillips12@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:soniaphillips12@yahoo.co.uk) Thank you.

**Gender identity:**

**Age:**

**Ethnicity:**

**1. Did you know that the church has a magazine?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

**2. How do you like to receive information about church and its activities?  
Select as many as you like.**

Through the magazine ☐

Through the written church notices ☐

Through announcements made during the service ☐

On the screen in the Willow Grove ☐

From posters and leaflets displayed in church/out on tables ☐

On WhatsApp ☐

On Facebook ☐

Through word of mouth from friends ☐

Other, please state: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Have you read any part of any issue of the church magazine within the past 12 months?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

**4. If you do not usually read the church magazine, would you be interested in starting to read the church magazine?**

I already read the magazine ☐

Yes (Great - It's also available on the church website.) ☐

No, please state why

**5. If you do read the church magazine, what are your favourite parts and why?**

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**6. Would you prefer the church magazine to:**

Have a theme linking the majority of items throughout an issue ☐

Be a collection of different items, not necessarily linked by any particular theme ☐

No preference ☐

**7. What (if anything) would make the church magazine appeal to you/appeal more to you?**

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**8. What kinds of articles/features/items would you personally like to see in the church magazine? Select as many as you like.**

Articles about a wide variety of issues – no particular link to church/Christianity ☐

Articles related to Church / Christianity ☐

Updates from different groups within the church ☐

Updates from Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School ☐

Updates from around the circuit ☐

Interviews with different members of the community/church congregation ☐

Upcoming events ☐

What's on at church on a regular basis ☐

Content aimed at younger readers/children ☐

Prayers ☐

Bible study notes ☐

Poetry ☐

Short stories ☐

Jokes ☐

Artwork ☐

Photography ☐

Comic strips ☐

Competitions ☐

Recipes ☐

Book reviews ☐

Puzzles e.g. crosswords, wordsearches, logic puzzles, sudoku ☐

Other ☐

**9. Would you be interested in writing for the church magazine on occasion?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

**10. What are your views about having adverts in the magazine?** ☐

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**11. Would you be willing to make a small voluntary contribution , say £1, if we print more copies for collection in church?** Yes ☐ No ☐

**12. How many editions should there be each year?**

3 - For Easter, Summer and Christmas. ☐

4 - To also include Harvest. ☐

Other - Please suggest \_\_\_\_\_

**13. How do you read the magazine?**

Print version ☐

Internet version (in colour) ☐

Both ☐

Did you know that many years of back issues are available on the Church website? Yes ☐ No ☐

**14. Any other comments?**

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**Many thanks for you suggestions.  
Sonia Phillips, Communications Steward, 2025**



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## A FARRAGO

This time church magazines, weekly information sheets, orders of service and the like have come to us from the North Cumbria Circuit and from the Carlisle Methodist Church, Wigton Road (which included a surprise reference to Edward Steele-Wilson, a former member at Fulwood, who attends the Dalston Chapel, apparently; (see extract below)

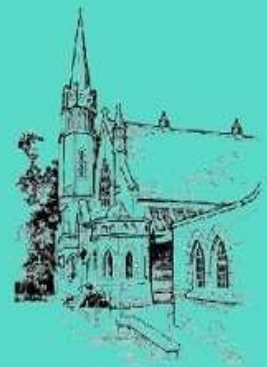
Also others from Wimborne Minster, Dorset (where, if ever you visit, there is the opportunity to hear an excellent talk on its chained library); from Wooton New Life Methodist Church and from the North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit; from the Parish of Ampton, Great Livermere & Ingham, Suffolk and from Bury St Edmunds Cathedral.

***We also regularly receive*** a copy of the magazine from our twinned Evangelische-methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany. This is available, translated to English, on our website via a link on the front page. **Roy Smith**

*The Revd David Newlove and friends of Carlisle Methodist Church, Wigton Road arranged a Burns Night Supper on Saturday 25th January and what a grand night it was. The Chieftain o' the gathering was 'Laird Edward Steele-Wilson' an Englishman from Dalston, who we must praise for his excellence in recitation of Scottish Literature.*  
(Extract from their church magazine)



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## BOOK CLUB

Usually, our Church Magazine article about the Book Club item comments upon recent meetings and what has been that has interested us in the book(s) we have been reading and discussing. In this edition, the Book Club article will look forward....to what might happen in our meetings from September onwards.

We meet in the Cedar Room at Church at 7.00pm on the second Tuesday in each month. We also have a page for those involved with the Club (some cannot attend in person) on the Church's WhatsApp site where we regularly swap comments and ideas – some serious, some not – with each other. Ask me if you would like to be a member of the WhatsApp group.



Our programme is normally planned out up to a year in advance but only after quite a bit of discussion amongst ourselves over what might be of interest. For the coming programme, we have decided to be aware of several factors.

1. We want to make sure that everyone is welcome – that means we want to offer reading opportunities which are attractive to a wide range of people.
2. We want to make sure that everyone feels welcome – so we intend to continue to provide an environment where everyone can feel relaxed and contribute (or just listen) as they wish.
3. We want to make sure that everyone can use books as a gift from God – they are there to benefit us spiritually, emotionally and sometimes to lead us into pastures new or to offer comfort and simple enjoyment.

So, what will be up to in the year ahead? Soon, we hope to provide a programme on a printed card which you will be able to find in the Willow Grove. Maybe some topic will be of particular interest to you. The programme itself will demonstrate one or two new approaches:

- Increasingly, we will be thinking about a particular 'topic', as opposed to a specific book, allowing members to bring to the Club books which have interested them in the past which connect to that topic.
- Sometimes, we will be following a particular book but not every month for we don't want the Club programme to become a burden which dominates our other interests.
- Sometimes, we will be having fun – quizzes will feature and last year we started a secret Santa ritual which was a huge success and on which we intend to report.
- As ever, we will enjoy some good biscuits together and share books which are leaving our bookshelves before we offer them to the Church or to Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School.

Amongst the topics we expect to include from September are these: my favourite crime writer, learning from other worlds or cultures, slavery, my Desert Island choice, space and, of course, in this special anniversary year, Jane Austen. We would love to welcome you to any of our future meetings.

*Ken Wales*

## COMMUNITY CHOIR

As we approach our summer break we have extended our range to over 70 songs and a wide variety and we now have several new members who are from outside of our church family but still would welcome any who wish to join in our “not too serious ensemble”

Three of our regulars are octogenarians and they see the choir as the highlight of the week even though they hire a taxi to join us.

*David Topping*

### A NEW HYMN

Blessed are the pure in heart, the meekest and the mild  
Blessed are those who see their God for they shall be his child  
Blessed are those who mercy give to neighbour friend or foe  
For he will hold them in his hand and his mercy show

Blessed are those who suffer now for standing by the faith  
Blessed as they will live with God and they shall see his face  
Blessed are those who strive for peace who shall God's children be  
And as a father's child, shall sit upon his knee.

This is the gospel of the Lord  
This is the gospel of the Lord  
This is the gospel of the Lord and we should live by his true word

Blessed are those who hear the truth your Sermon on the Mount  
Blessed who live a Christian life and Satan's power surmount  
Blessed are those who love the Lord and through him will not fail  
For they will surely see the truth prevail.

This is the gospel of the Lord  
This is the gospel of the Lord  
This is the gospel of the Lord and we should live by his true word

Song based on “The Beatitudes”

Words *David Topping*  
Music *Mike Cushing*

\* \* \* \* \*

Recompense injury with justice and recompense kindness with kindness. (*Confucius*)

What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness? (*Jean Jacques Rousseau*)



## GIANT SCARF FOR PRESTON NORTH END

The first we heard of this project was when Dave Topping asked our knitting club if we'd help to knit a scarf in PNE colours to go all round the ground! We're always up for a challenge so we said "Yes" and hoped we weren't the only ones doing the knitting. We were assured that lots of people in the area would be taking part.

He arrived earlier in the year with some balls of wool and instructions, which we think hadn't been written by a "Knitter", as the diagrams didn't match the written pattern!! The wool was shared out amongst those who wanted to do it and we started, with a lot of trial and error, undoing and restarting to get our pieces the correct size, so they would fit together. The sections could be one colour (either white or blue), striped or with any combination of the colours.

Then more information came in about why this was being done. Apparently, a scarf was made to commemorate PNE's famous run in the FA cup to get to the final in 1964 This scarf had names stitched into the sections. This is the original scarf.



The new one is to be 200m long, considerably longer than the original, knitted in 800 sections by volunteers then stitched together by more volunteers!! About 15 of us took part knitting about 20 sections of the 800 needed, but we didn't do any of the construction work. We ran out of yarn, so the knitting club purchased more balls of yarn to complete our sections

The finished scarf, or muffler, was unveiled on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Deepdale where the knitters and stitchers were special guests at the event, which was broadcast on BBC TV. I believe it's going to be displayed at the Football Museum in Manchester.



Photo- Blog Preston

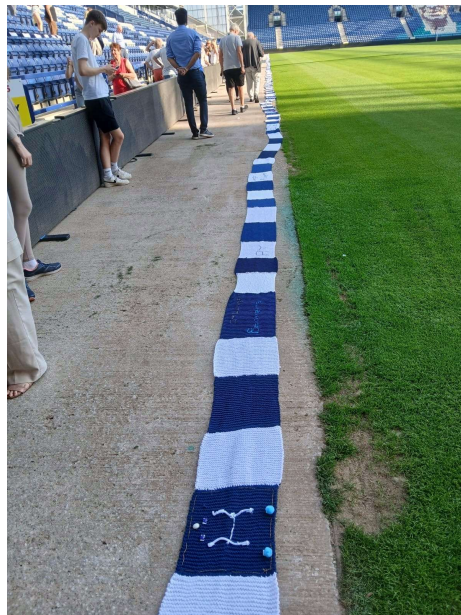
I was talking about the scarf project to Jean Preston who lives at Bethany House with Alan Clarke and Dad. She is a lifelong supporter of PNE (79 years) and has her name on her seat in the Tom Finney Stand at Deepdale. She explained that the names on the 1964 scarf were of the players in that FA Cup team. She could name them all.

There is are articles to read by typing these shortened links - [tinyurl.com/bdnadc8b](http://tinyurl.com/bdnadc8b) and here [tinyurl.com/5cy8ryvt](http://tinyurl.com/5cy8ryvt) where you can read more.

**Veronica Frost**



## THE NEW PNE SCARF DISPLAYED AT NORTH END



Photos by *Dave Topping*



## SOME MORE CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS

St. Swithin's (or Swithun's) Day comes on 15<sup>th</sup> July and there are still people around who will quote to you:-

*St. Swithin's Day, if it doth rain,*

*Full forty days it will remain.*

*St. Swithin's Day, if it be fair,*

*For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.....or something similar.*

So, what's that all about? Well, St. Swithin was a Saxon and also Bishop of Winchester. His dying wish was to be buried outdoors, and not inside the cathedral. However, after nine years his remains were brought inside (on 15<sup>th</sup> July that year) to rest in a glorious shrine and – according to legend – there was a heavy rainstorm during the ceremony.



*Winchester Cathedral*

It wasn't on that particular day, and it wasn't in July – but I can vouch for the tremendous rainstorm my daughter and I passed through in the Winchester area earlier this year!

Curiously, on 15<sup>th</sup> July each year a special service of thanksgiving is held, commemorating the diver (William Walker) who saved the cathedral.

How did a DIVER do that?? Well, in the nineteenth century there appeared signs of the building's settlement: large cracks began to appear and chunks of masonry frequently fell off. It had been built on peaty soil with a high underlying water table and it had obviously been slowly sinking for centuries.

Urgent action required a deep sea diver to excavate a series of trenches, which were then filled with concrete. The ground water was pumped out and the walls were underpinned. In addition, a line of supporting buttresses was added to the south side of the building.

Late July sees the long-standing 'Swan Upping' on the River Thames, a ritual dating back into the mists of time. It's an annual census (and a check on their health) of the swans along a 79 mile stretch between Sunbury and Abingdon. It's carried out by the Royal Swan Marker and representatives of two of the ancient livery companies: the Worshipful Company of Vintners and the Worshipful Company of Dyers.

As reigning monarch and Seigneur of the Swans, Queen Elizabeth II herself actually presided over the ceremony 17 years ago..

A more recent late-July tradition has been the start of the BBC Proms programme: two months of world-class music.

1<sup>st</sup> August is Lammas Day, once one of the Church's great festivals. The word is derived from Hlafmaesse – or Loaf Mass – when loaves were made from the new wheat and given to the local church. St John the Baptist Church in Axbridge, Somerset, has revived this tradition in recent times and it's an impressive sight at the Harvest Home meal to see, laid out, bread for more than 500 guests.

Early August sees two weeks of the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival at Buxton's impressive Opera House and this is usually followed by the Bristol International Balloon Festival. Mass ascents of more than 100 balloons – twice daily, weather permitting – must be a mind-blowing experience.



*Buxton Opera House*

This formula for fixing the date of the Saddleworth Rushcart Ceremony is “the second weekend following the 12<sup>th</sup> August” so that means Saturday & Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> August this year. Saturday sees the ‘traipse’ around the local villages: Uppermill & Greenfield in the morning; Dobcross & Delph in the afternoon. Sunday morning: at St. Chad's Church, then dancing, singing, gurning and wrestling at the two neighbouring pubs.

Late August also sees the World Gravy Wrestling Championships, Rossendale. Honest!!!!

Another event with a formula for the date is the annual outing of the Abbots Bromley Horn Dancers. This is probably the oldest English tradition still in existence. It takes place on “the first Monday after the first Sunday after the 4<sup>th</sup> September”. (I think I've got that right!) They'll be out and about in their home village (near Uttoxeter) for most of the day.

Other September events include The Great North Run; Heritage Open Days; Whitworth Rushcart (Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>); Egremont Crab Fair & Sports (Cumbrian coast, near St Bees) - includes its famous Gurning Championship; the Black Pudding Throwing Championships at Ramsbottom; St Giles' Fair in the centre of Oxford; Widecombe Fair (Dartmoor).....The list goes on and on!!

In this day and age you can easily discover further details of these events via Google.

*Roy Smith*

## **RAMJS ON THE MOVE: HOW SPORTS ARE SHAPING BRIGHTER FUTURES**

*At Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School, sporting spirit is more than just running races and scoring goals—it's about courage, confidence, and community. And this year, things have gone to the next level.*

In a school where ambition, courage, and respect are more than just words on the wall, Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School (RAMJS) has supercharged its Physical Education (PE) offer to reflect its deeply held values of love, hope, and faith. And the results? A dynamic, energised school environment where every child has the opportunity to thrive—body, mind, and soul.

### **A Sporting Evolution: What's New at RAMJS?**

This year has seen major changes in the way sport is delivered across the school. With a full-time sports coach now on the team, every class enjoys high-quality, coach-led PE sessions weekly—adding excitement and variety to their usual routine. Teachers are learning alongside the children too, with ongoing development that's improving the overall standard of PE teaching school-wide. Outdoor learning also got a boost, with new fortnightly outdoor education mornings. Think smaller groups, skill-focused sessions, and the joy of learning and moving under open skies.

### **Moving More, Smiling More**

At RAMJS, keeping active doesn't stop at PE lessons. Daily active break and lunchtime sessions mean children are getting structured, high-energy play every day—helping burn off steam, build social skills, and reduce playground conflicts. After-school clubs and inter-school competitions have also taken off, giving children a taste of the buzz that comes from teamwork, perseverance, and the sweet thrill of competition. Whether it's netball, cricket, or football, there's something for everyone.

### **Investing in a Healthy Future**

From shiny new equipment to funded outdoor education trips, the school has made serious investments in making sport inclusive, fun, and far-reaching. The goal? To give every pupil - not just the sporty stars - a chance to feel confident, resilient, and ready to tackle the challenges of school and life.

### **Voices from the Field: Pupils Share Their Sporting Highlights Sports Day Spectacular**

*"It was a bright morning and the sun was shining - a little too much! We were buzzing with excitement, grouped by our House teams and ready to go. The music was blasting, our parents were cheering, and even our teachers joined the fun by*



*spraying us with water pistols! The races were intense, the medals were gleaming, and by the end, we got soaked with the hosepipe and celebrated with ice pops. It was brilliant!” – 6R*

### **Girls Cricket Triumph**

*“We took part in a girls’ cricket competition with eleven other schools. Our kit looked really smart and we played three matches—won two, lost one. Out of twelve teams, we came fourth! We were proud, but next time—we’re aiming for the top!”*

**Lily-Mae, Year 6**

### **Festival Fun at UCLAN**

*“Over 40 of us went to the UCLAN Sports Festival—there were more than 1,300 people there! We played netball, cricket, tennis, football and more. In cricket, we won three out of four matches, and in netball we had a great run too. There were biscuits, juice, and tons of fun!”*

**Brooke, Year 6**

### **More Than Just a Game**

Sports at RAMJS is about so much more than fitness. It’s about character. It’s about community. It’s about lighting up young lives with the confidence, energy, and teamwork that builds brighter futures - one kick, catch, and cheer at a time.











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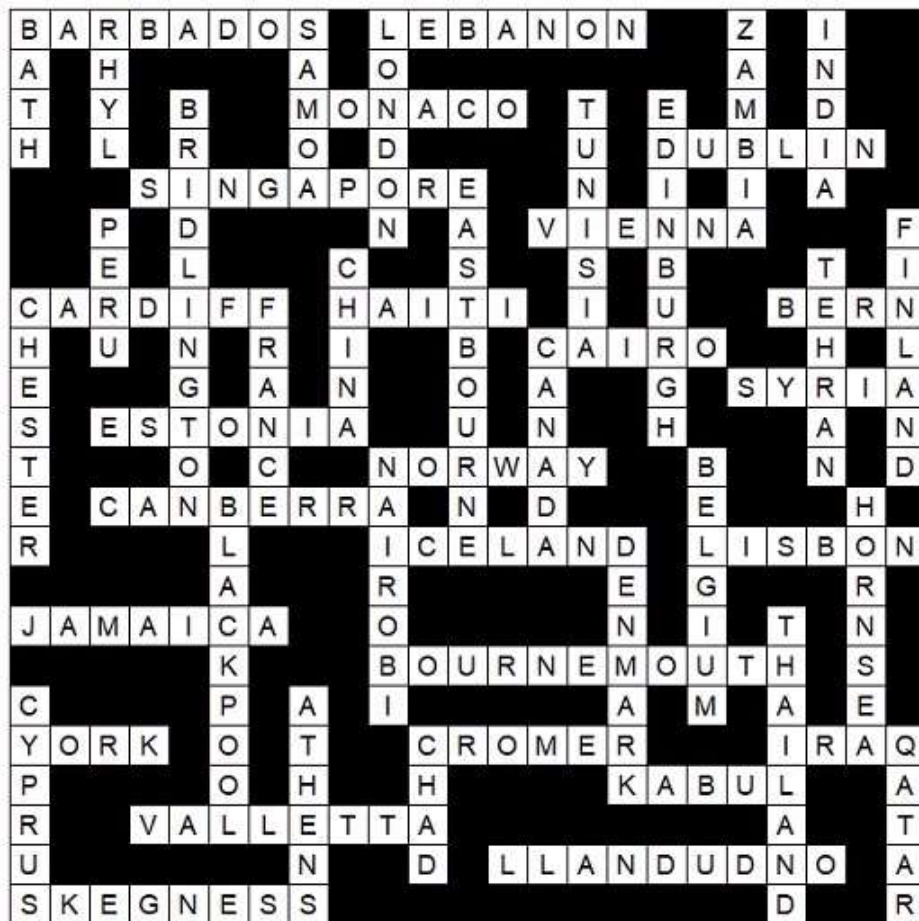
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## A PRAYER BY A NINETEEN YEAR OLD SERVANT GIRL

Lord of all pots and pans and things, since I've not time to be  
A saint by doing lovely things, or watching late with Thee,  
Or dreaming in the dawn light, or storming Heaven's gate,  
Make me a saint by getting meals, and washing up the plates.  
Altho' I must have Martha's hands, I have a Mary mind,  
And when I black the boots and shoes, Thy sandals, Lord, I find,  
I think of how they trod the earth, what time I scrub the floor,  
Accept this meditation, Lord, I haven't time for more.  
Warm all the kitchen with Thy love, and light it with Thy peace,  
Forgive me all my worrying, and make all grumbling cease,  
Thou who didst love to give men food, in room or by the sea,  
Accept this service that I do, I do it unto Thee.

First published in '*The Westminster Record*.'

\* \* \* \* \*

Today is our's - let's live it. And love is strong - let's give it.  
A song can help - let's sing it. The past is gone - don't rue it.  
Our work is here - let's do it. The world is wrong - let's right it.  
If evil comes - let's fight it. The road is rough - let's clear it.  
The future vast - don't fear it. Is faith asleep? - let's wake it.  
Today is free - let's take it.

*Lydia A Roberts*

(From the Fulwood Methodist of July 1948)

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## ONE LITTLE ROSE

I'd rather have one little rose from the garden of a friend,  
than to have the choicest flowers when my life has come to an end.

I'd rather hear a pleasant word in kindness said to me,  
than flattery when my heart is still and my life has ceased to be.

I'd rather see a loving smile from friends whom I know are true,  
than tears shed around my casket when this world I bid adieu.

So bring me all your flowers today, whether pink or white or red,  
I'd rather have one blossom now than a truckload when I'm dead.



*Author unknown*

\* \* \* \* \*



PRAYER is like watching for the Kingfisher.  
All you can do is be where he is likely to appear, and wait.  
Often, nothing much happens;  
There is space, silence and Expectancy.  
No visible sign, only the Knowledge that he's been there  
And may come again.  
Seeing or not seeing cease to matter,  
You have been prepared.  
But when you've almost stopped  
Expecting it, a flash of brightness  
Gives encouragement.

*Ann Lewin*

*From the parishes of St. George, St. Luke and St. Perran, Barrow*

\* \* \* \* \*

You can give without loving,  
But you can never love without giving.  
The great acts of love are done by those who  
habitually perform small acts of kindness.  
We pardon to the extent that we love.  
Love is knowing that even when you are alone  
You will never be lonely again.  
And great happiness of life is the  
Conviction that we are loved.  
Loved for ourselves,  
And even loved in spite of ourselves.

*Victor Hugo, Les Misérables*

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### Sunday

10.30 am	Sunday Club	Janet Wales
12.30 pm	The Sunday Group (2nd Sun of month for years 5 to 8/9)	Darren Arnold

### Tuesday

10.00 am	AM Club - (fortnightly)	Dave Topping
2.00 pm	'Friends at Fulwood' (fortnightly)	Edna Armstrong
5 - 7.00 pm	Messy Church (half-termly) for families	Delma Whitman
7.00 pm	Bible Fellowship (monthly)	Margaret Holmes
7.00 pm	Book Club (monthly - 2nd Tuesday)	Ken Wales

### Wednesday

10 till 12.30	Welcome Wednesday - food, activities, games and New2U stall	
10.30 am	Midweek Communion with prayers	
7.30 /8 pm	WoW (monthly Women's Group)	Wendy Gaskell
7.00 pm	Community Choir	Dave Topping

### Thursday

2.30 pm	Knitting Group	Veronica Frost
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### Friday

9.30 am	Toddlers' Club (under 5s & parents/carers)	Janet Porter
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### Saturday

10.30 - noon	Who Let The Dads Out? (monthly)	Darren Arnold
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## FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### Monday

5.45 pm	Beavers (6 - 8 yr)	Fiona Jackson
7.00 pm	Cubs (8 - 10½ yr)	Dave Killingback
4.45 pm	Squirrels (4 - 5 yr)	Ketran Eastham

### Tuesday

7.00 pm	Scouts (10½ - 14 yr)	Chris Thomas
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### Thursday

5.45 pm	Rainbows (5 - 7 yr)	Jayne Myatt
6.15 pm	Brownies (7 - 10 yr)	Diane Bird
7.30 pm	Guides (10 - 14 yr)	Hannah Jones

### Friday

6.30 pm	Escape (7- 11 yr)	Darren Arnold
8.00 pm	Youth Club (not meeting at present)	Darren Arnold



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