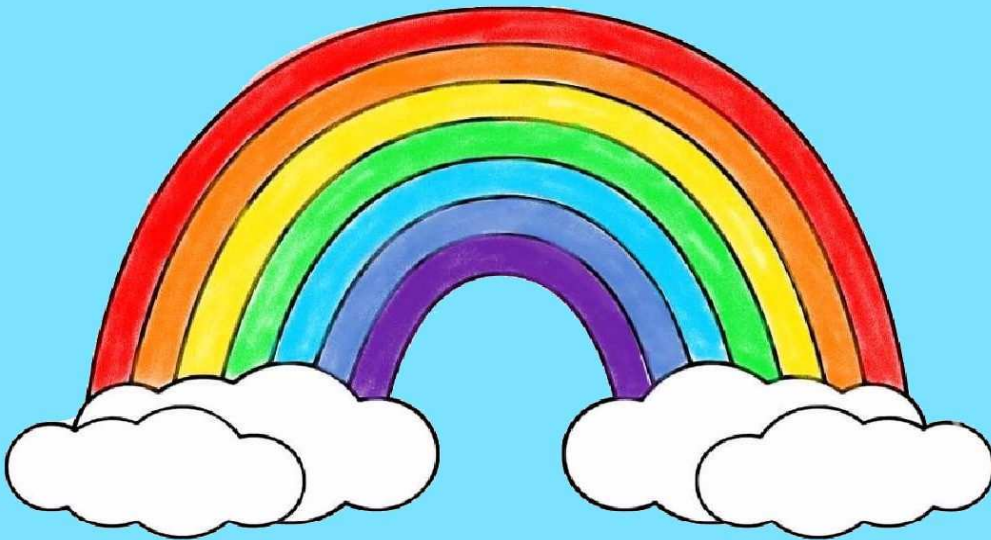
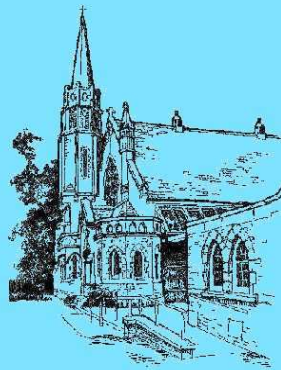


**Fulwood Methodist Church
Crossroads Centre**



Summer 2020



Twinned with the Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche,
Recklinghausen, Germany



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FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

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Registered Charity No. 1133929

MINISTER

Revd Jane Wild - jane.wild@methodist.org.uk

Tel. 01772 715134

YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

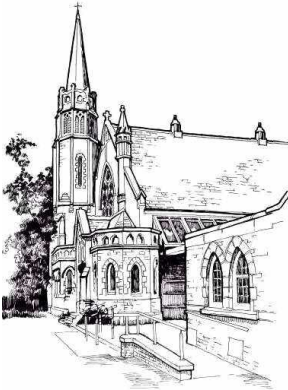
Darren Arnold - darrenarnold.church@gmail.com

Tel. 07811 775825

CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

Denise Johnson - djpastoral@outlook.com

Tel. 07719200451



NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

9.45 am SINGING PRACTICE

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 Willow Grove.

6.30 pm. EVENING WORSHIP. With every 2nd Sunday of the month from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm - **SPACE** - Multiplex Worship and Discipleship for all, at various circuit churches. (*See weekly notices for details*)

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated monthly (morning and evening) and once a month there is ALL-AGE 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
Revd Jane Wild or Mrs. Sue Penrith (862273)**

or contact Tel.....

PASTORAL LETTER

From Revd Jane Wild

Dear Friends.

I recently came across this surprising piece of information. In 1920, the US Postal Services said that children could not be sent by parcel post. Prior to this it was the cheapest way to travel for children weighing less than 50 pounds.

When the US Postal Service began parcel deliveries in 1913 it wasn't long before some ingenious parents cottoned on to the idea of mailing their children. A 10-month old baby boy, the child of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Beauge from Batavia, Ohio, was posted for the cost of 15c in stamps, though his parents did insure him for \$50. In the most famous case 5-year-old May Pierstorff was mailed via train from her home in Idaho, the stamps stuck to her coat.



The practice is not as callous as it first appears, postmen were trusted local officials whom rural people usually knew personally. May Pierstorff was herself sent by a cousin who was a postal clerk. Nevertheless the US Postal Service tried to shut the practice down and had to issue a directive that no humans were to be carried in the mail.

I wonder if what we do now, in a hundred years time people will think ridiculous?

We have recently been in circumstance that, in the future, may be described as surprising with people confined to their homes and all businesses restricted. We have rediscovered who to look to for help, NHS staff, and supermarket online pickers to name just a few. Trusted because in the face of difficult times they continue to do their jobs, as have many of you. I have a big vote of thanks for all of you who have kept in touch with members of the church family, ensuring people are safe, not in need and supported. We may not be able to worship together, but we can still be the disciples of Christ, who is at work in the world.

The idea of children being delivered by post is ridiculous; so is the idea of a church existing without buildings. We are doing just that at the moment. How often I have heard passionate disciples say, “think of what we could do if we did not have to” Now is the chance.

One aspect of the story I like is that it demonstrates human initiative. As we begin to return to our normal activities we need to consider which things we have had to innovate should we keep and how can we learn from the events of the last few months to move forward.

Whatever happens I am certain that the same God who has led us, guided us and guarded us, will be with us for ever.

God Bless,

Jane

EDITORIAL

What signifies wishing and hoping for better times? We may make these times better if we bestir ourselves. (Benjamin Franklin)

Well, there's been plenty of wishing and hoping and bestirring already – and perhaps we'll need to do more before we see the back of Covid-19. However, as one who's labelled as 'at most risk' I can't say a big enough 'Thank You' to Jane (our Minister) and to those others of Fulwood Methodist Church who've worked so very hard to keep in touch with people and to maintain some semblance of order.

We also need to acknowledge the kindness of our German friends for their practicality by sending a large box of home-made face masks at a time when many people were finding it difficult to obtain any at all.

The **copy date** for our **Harvest issue** will be **Sunday, 23rd August, 2020**. Any material in advance of that date would, of course, be most welcome. Please do remember that articles may be subject to editing!

Roy Smith
(editor)

FAMILY NEWS

FUNERALS

Sadly during the past few months we have shared in the funerals of these Church Members

Jean Simmonds, Justin Morlese, Gordon Hinnells,
Kath Boardman Muriel Heane and June Robinson.

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* * * * *

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For the time being, this magazine is only available at www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk
and click the Magazine cover graphic or the **Online Magazine** tab on the 2nd page. We
may be able to print some copies eventually.

If you have a smartphone, scan the QR-code alongside to access the site.

Copies going back to Harvest 2001 are available!

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FROM DENISE JOHNSON, Our Circuit Pastoral Worker

Hello to you all. I hope that you are all keeping well and managing to stay connected with your family and friends. I am just back from a 'staycation': a week off work without being away on holiday. Instead of camping in my tent on the Island of Anglesey I was out and about across Lancashire enjoying the beautiful countryside on my doorstep. The highlight of my week was hugging my Mum - I had not been 'allowed' to do this for 12 long weeks; it was an emotional moment.



I have found some of the language used during the Covid-19 situation quite challenging. Phrases like 'Social Distancing', 'Self Isolation' and 'Shielding' are not very positive and have added to my discomfort at times. In fact I think we have not been socially distant (many of us have made extra efforts to keep in touch) but we have been physically distant. We may have felt isolated at times but hopefully we have been able to connect in many ways during that time of being alone.

I read an article recently which preferred the term 'Safer Socialising' and I quite warmed to that. As we begin to explore what returning to church may look like in the future, we need to consider safety, but also need to connect socially and spiritually. It will be wonderful, but it will be different; it will be emotional, but maybe it should be; it will be worth waiting for.

I have been regularly praying for you all and particularly for the Pastoral Visitor Team as they have tried to keep everyone connected. I greatly value each and every one of you. Thank you for all you do.

Every Blessing,

Denise

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LOCKDOWN MISCELLANY

Cottam Fun

Those of us who live in Cottam have experienced the most amazing sense of community spirit throughout lockdown. We have had people painting stones and leaving them for children to find in the woods, as well as fun trails around Cottam Green and even fairy doors appearing on tree trunks along the many woodland paths which we have across the estate! But – the most recent initiative has been by far the most engaging and fun – the Cottam Scarecrow festival! This is the Latham contribution:

It was great fun building the scarecrow – stuffing old pairs of tights with hay and dressing ‘Sir Chris Hay’ in his dashing outfit was the easy part – getting him to stay in the right position on the bike was the biggest challenge. Luckily we have two engineers in the family – as well as a lots of wire and string!!



Amanda Latham & family

Safe International Travel (Donald Trump rules !!)

Geoff and I were holidaying in Naples, Florida in March. When we flew out to Orlando there were no travel restrictions for Europeans and distancing was introduced just after we arrived. That didn't cause us any problems – we had a rental car, a small apartment and the restaurants had fewer customers as the days progressed.

Then “The Trump” announced a block on travel to and from European countries, with the exception of the UK and Ireland – again, no real concern until two days before we were due to fly home, when he included us Brits as persona non grata and announced the ending of flights to the UK. Virgin Air was fantastic and reassured us that we were OK for our scheduled flight home. However, when we arrived at Orlando International all personal safety was forgotten. We were herded through Emigration Control, literally pushed into the overcrowded shuttle train to the Departure Terminal, then ‘enjoyed’ a 9 hour flight back to Manchester with people coughing & sneezing all around us (Face masks weren't available at that time). As we were about to land the flight crew informed us that we were on board the last scheduled Virgin flight from Orlando, so we decided not to complain about the overcrowding or lack of hygiene controls! We were never so glad to return home.

Our first 14 days of self-quarantine were quite worrying after that germ-ridden flight So far we have survived.

Chris Oldham.

What the Cubs have been doing.

Although all face-to-face Cubs meetings have ceased due to Covid19, we are still holding our sessions weekly.

Thankfully, due to modern technology and ZOOM, the children can still interact and complete badges online at home. They are enjoying still being able to talk to each other. We have done quizzes, a virtual scavenger hunt and blindfold challenges, as well as making dens out of blankets and chairs for our virtual sleep over.



The parents have been joining in to help prepare and set up our evenings at home. We have Ollie's Bongo Bingo next week and lots of fun activities for the coming weeks.

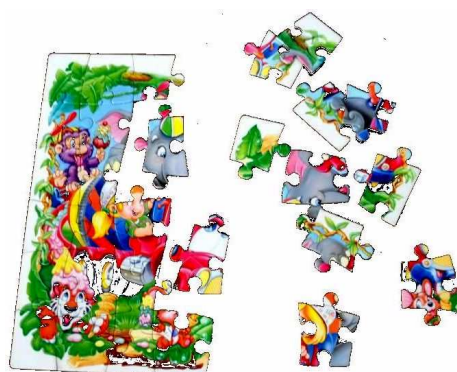
Unfortunately the group had to postpone this year's family camp which was due to be held at Bibby's Farm, but in traditional scouting terms 'BE PREPARED' We are going to be holding a virtual camp in early July for all sections from Beavers to Scouts and their families, camping out in our gardens, with various family challenges, campfire and SMORES.

We are looking forward to getting back to normal with our face-to-face meetings, but until we can, the Cubs will carry on regardless and have fun, no matter what.

Karen Smalley

Life in Garstang

Janet and I have used the time allowed for exercise to discover footpaths around Garstang and in the Bowland area. We have enjoyed listening to the birds and seeing the views over Morecambe Bay. It has been a wonderful time for us and we feel so fortunate. Janet has just finished a 1500-piece jigsaw, and we have both done a lot of reading. We have not been into a shop since before lockdown, as Helen and Thia have insisted on shopping for us, so we sometimes find some interesting things in our fridge!



Our Thursday evening 'claps' have been accompanied by our neighbour playing the bagpipes and this has drawn people from all down our road to listen and chat. We have 'Zoomed' with Jane and others on Sunday mornings and done very badly on Zoom quiz nights with members of the church band.

I miss our friends in L'Arche terribly and they are all finding isolation difficult. Twice a week I am doing a musical session with both the L'Arche houses, which everybody seems to enjoy. Could I make a plea? We are going to find it very challenging to recruit new assistants to live in our houses as a result of the pandemic, new visa rules, and Brexit. It may be that you know someone who is to take a gap year before or after university, or has lost their job, or who is seriously considering care as a worthwhile career. Please pass on the following message to anybody who may be interested. Thank you!

L'Arche urgently needs to recruit live-in assistants, not only in Preston but throughout the country. More information can be found at www.larche.org.uk where you can listen to some assistants talking about their life. I would be happy to talk to anybody about the opportunities available – my telephone number is 01995 602622.

Steve & Janet Grice

Rebuild time

One week in Autumn, when we went out to collect the 'Welcome Wednesday' advertising boards, the one by the crossroads had 'disappeared'!! We asked some nearby painters if they had seen it. They replied "Oh, some lads were carrying it down the road!" Searches locally proved fruitless. Fortunately I managed to buy the necessary materials from Savoy Timber before 'lockdown', plus other materials online later. Then in the glorious sunshine I spent many hours in the garden building not only a new frame and replaceable boards, but also renovating the existing sign and rebuilding the rear carpark signs that had completely rotted! Other folk, notably Alec Marshall, Ray Armstrong and Roy Smith have done a marvellous job cleaning up the gardens and Derek, our caretaker has been in the building regularly to look after the inside.

Oh! We also missed out on a Swiss holiday, but have now booked two weeks in our caravan in the UK.

John Butterworth



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Lockdown in Portugal

When we set off on the 3rd of March, for a twenty-four-day holiday to Albuferia, we never expected to be there until 30th April. The shut down in Portugal happened on the 19th of March, when, as in England, everything closed. The Portuguese Government acted very swiftly and fortunately the Algarve area had very few cases of the virus. Ian and I were staying in a one-bedroom apartment which had a washing machine and cooking facilities, so we were able to adjust very easily. The only time people were allowed out was for an hour a day of exercise, and a visit to either a supermarket or a chemist.

The weather was really nice and we were allowed to relax by the pool. Jet2 cancelled our return flights from Faro as lockdown occurred, offering us no alternatives. We immediately booked flights with Easy Jet which were still being advertised on line. After five different dates from Faro airport being cancelled, we realised the only way we were going to get back was to travel to Lisbon. On 21st of April we booked with British Airways for a flight due to go on the 30th. We then had to arrange transport to the airport, 260 kilometres away, plus a taxi from Heathrow to get us home to Preston. Fortunately, this flight went ahead, and apart from a long day of travelling, we arrived home safely.

Ian & Lyn Fenton

Community Choir

As with everyone else, we have not been able to meet since early March but have tried to keep some contact, particularly with our more vulnerable members. We look forward to returning to some form of reality and are planning on how we can mark that time. It has often been said that Methodism was born in song and there is little doubt that it enhances fellowship and a community spirit. With that in mind we hope to invite our ‘family and friends’ to join us as we sing together in a one-off session. If this is to happen we will notify our intentions through the Church communications.



In the meantime we wish everyone safety and wellbeing and keep your spirits up.

David Topping

* * * * *

A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all other virtues. *Cicero*

To God be humble and to thy friend be kind. *William Dunbar*

Lockdown Pastoral Work

Once upon a time the whole world went into lockdown! People didn't know what to do! Then someone came up with the idea of panic buying toilet rolls! This would certainly help us through a global pandemic and make everything better! Urm No! If anything, this time has taught the majority of people about care, respect, family and how Zoom meetings have rescued us.

As a circuit team we have provided daily reflections and weekly Sunday worship. For my part, I have tried to do something a bit different each time I do a reflection, so I've talked about hymns, looked at modern worship songs, used my puppet – Scruffy, used Power Point presentation with quiet music and just sat and reflected in front of the camera. I am not sure which is scarier, standing in front of a large congregation at Fulwood, or doing reflections on camera!



On Sunday mornings, I run a breakfast church session for the families This is a great way of keeping up to date with how they are all doing, asking what they would like to pray for as well as doing a craft, story and song on the theme chosen. We have covered a lot of the characters from the Bible, such as Moses, Jonah, Joseph and Noah.

The OMG youth group have been meeting on Wednesdays for an hour, where we play games, ask how each one is doing and have a five minute talk about any current situations. I am in contact with Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School and just before the May half term break I delivered some sweets/chocolate (donated by Escape/Youth group) and cakes to the staff and children. Up to that time they had about 20 children from both the infant and junior schools. I did try and do a cooking session online too where we baked Party Rings; we were 'live' in Preston, Horsham & Switzerland! I am currently working through getting in touch with the uniformed organisations and seeing how they are doing.



Even though I can see they are doing loads of stuff online. With the other circuit family workers I am also looking into joining together for an online Summer Holiday Club.

On a personal level, we are doing well; maybe a bit stir crazy like the rest of you staring at the same four walls, but it's given me the opportunity to do some

DIY. The kitchen, a bedroom and living room decorated and new carpet laid; garden spruced up, and roof repaired. We've also had a gas leak and the battery and boot locking system on the car failed to work! Cheryl and I do go out for long drives and we were meant to be away in Spain during our 20th Wedding Anniversary mid-June, but obviously that was cancelled. We have tried to celebrate special days the best ways we can – don't you just love the creativeness of your brain during these times! Jack is now back at work at Next and has been doing his college work. Joshua hasn't really left the house, but is doing some art work. We have been chatting by various means with our family back in Nottingham, but can't wait until we can properly visit them. However, we are well and I am truly thankful to God for that.

Please take care and look after yourselves, and I look forward to the day when normality (whatever that is?) resumes

Darren Arnold

Youth, Children and Family Worker

Slovakian Lockdown

We travelled to Slovakia on the 9th March for a visit to see my mum and family. Planning to stay for a week we arrived on 10th March, but unfortunately Slovakia closed the airport and borders the day after we arrived! And then started our extended Slovakian holiday. I would never have believed that we would end up staying there for 3 months!

We were worried about everything for the first few weeks trying to search for a way to get back home to England but were told that it was better to stay as we might get stranded in another country. My work at Aldi was safe and from that point onwards I stopped worrying about how to get home and accepted the situation.

I then started enjoying the time with my family, looking after Dominik as Laura was working 'from home'. I helped my mum around the house doing lots of jobs and helped my sister with the dogs she breeds, 26 at the last count! Dominik began to speak a lot more Slovakian towards the end of the trip.

Lockdown in Slovakia was very strict at the beginning, but they were very fortunate and only had 28 recorded deaths when we left. Wearing a face mask was compulsory. Slovakian restrictions were slowly eased and children returned to school and Laura got a hair cut before we travelled home. The airports still remained closed in Slovakia, so we got a flight home from Budapest. We are so grateful that we got to spend this unexpected time in Slovakia with family and cannot imagine how those people coped who were stranded abroad on package holidays.



Bran Pavlik

A longer version of this is available on the web at <https://tinyurl.com/ydh9hbys>

A RATHER DIFFERENT LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCE

How did lockdown affect me, you ask? You may or may not be aware that I embarked on a 'Round the World' cruise departing Tilbury in Essex aboard Cruise and Maritime's flagship, the MV Columbus, on a cold and damp day on January 7th this year for a 120 day voyage.

Luckily, all went as planned for the first 70 days, visiting a few of the Caribbean Islands, then transiting the Panama Canal, crossing the equator and the International Date Line, then onto the south sea paradise (Robinson Crusoe) islands where I incidentally swam with stingrays and little sharks on Bora Bora Island. However, just on a cautionary note, fortunately, I was told to only 'pet' the stingrays, not the sharks. Why? - The sharks are a bit 'pointy' and can become rather snappy at times, Good job I was warned about this in advance, being one of your organists here at Fulwood!



However, our first rather small encounter with 'lockdown' occurred at the tiny island of Tonga. On the evening prior to our intended arrival, the island chiefs said OK to our request as planned. However the following morning they said no and why should they risk so much? A tiny island I guess with rather limited health equipment and resources, with 1000+ passengers from our ship eagerly wanting to get ashore in the middle of February when the virus was by now seriously taking hold around the globe. Incidentally I believe nobody on the island has contracted the virus! Obviously they did it properly, locked down big style!

Where next? Yes that's right, New Zealand, then through the Tasman Sea to Sydney, Australia ('good'ay sport' & all that). On this occasion I scaled the harbour bridge, long overdue having missed out last time twenty years ago by a few weeks, as the bridge climb tours have been operational for just 19 years now.

We then crossed up to the Whit Sunday Isles where I encountered another fantastic experience that I will remember for a long time: an amazing flight over the Great Barrier Reef in a little single engine, 6 seater, fixed wing aircraft.

Next ports of call, Darwin in the Northern Territory, Bali and Lombok, Indonesia. Hang on a minute! None of these destinations were on my itinerary! What's this all about? Things were now closing in on us big style. However. one thing you soon learn when cruising: ports of call can be added or deleted,

sometimes at less than a moment's notice. What do they say? "Sorry about that, but its all rather fluid".

Well you might expect the captain's announcement to passengers and crew was



delivered on - wait for it - yes, you guessed correctly: Friday 13th March, that Columbus would be returning with immediate effect to its home port, with one refuel just outside Maltese territorial waters. We did stop for a few hours however, to do a passenger swap, of about 240 via lifeboats with another liner going the

other way, for folk going the 'wrong way' home. The journey then took a calendar month, arriving at Tilbury on 13th April (Easter Monday). I'm looking forward to the next cruise.

*Steve Anyon
(part-time organist)*

RECKLINGHAUSEN

If coronavirus had not cancelled all our plans, our friends from our twin church in Recklinghausen, in the Ruhr region of Germany, would have been with us on June 11th. Hopefully, when the present situation is past and the future is clearer, we will be able to plan a replacement visit.



Early in the lockdown, we received a parcel of face masks made by one of the church members in Recklinghausen. At the time, our local care homes were very short of personal protection products, so we donated nearly all of the masks to them.



To date, we understand that none of our church members have suffered with the virus and we hope this situation will continue.

Anne Garsed & Jacqueline Clarke

PRAYER FOR THE GLOBAL CHURCH

Dear God, thank you that we get to be a part of Your Global Church at this moment. Thank you for the opportunity to spread your love and hope to a world living in darkness and despair. Your Word says that if your people humble themselves, turn away from wickedness and call on your name, that you will answer them and heal their land. So we, your people, are asking your forgiveness for the times we've chosen not to love the people you put in front of us. Allow this time to strengthen your Church and to remind us of how much you love this hurting world. Please heal our land and use us to meet the needs of others. Grow our faith as you grow your global Church. Come, Lord Jesus, and do what only you can do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*"The secret things belong to the Lord our God."
(Deuteronomy 29:29a)*

Mavis Fletcher writes: "This is a prayer for our time, sent by Diane Schmuck. Some will remember Rev. Keith & Diane Schmuck who exchanged pulpits with the Poxons some years ago and spent time with us at Fulwood. They have visited us on several occasions subsequently and a few of us are still in touch – particularly Chris & Geoff Oldham.



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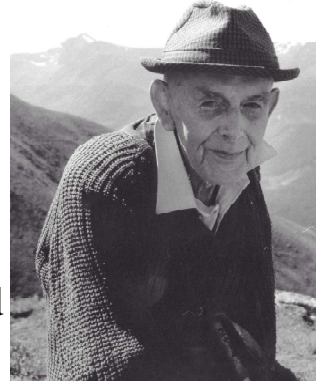
A FARRAGO

- Did you notice, in early April, that a cloth bag in which astronaut Buzz Aldrin carried his lunar communion kit had been put up for sale? It was given a price of £200,000.

Aldrin - an elder at the Webster Presbyterian Church near Houston – celebrated communion on 20th July, 1969, at a little table in front of the ‘abort guidance’ system computer.

- Soon after the end of the Second World War, Bert Bissell – a Methodist lay preacher from Dudley was leading a party of youngsters on a trek in the Scottish Highlands. To mark VE Day he took them to the top of Ben Nevis and there they built a peace monument.

He repeated this every year for the next 46 years, before calling it a day at the age of 90. He was awarded the MBE and the World Methodist Peace Prize for his work as a peace campaigner.



- When you read this our church may still be closed. However, here’s a cheering thought for when it does open. Whether it’s the singing of hymns, the companionship you find there or the reassurance of prayer, going to church could help you to live longer.

Mario Bruce of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, has collected data on over 5,000 people to predict the risk of mortality based on church attendance. Risk fell by 55% in those who attended services of worship, with those between the ages of 40 and 65 benefitting the most. Too blessed to be stressed?!!

- *We also regularly receive....* a copy of the magazine from our twinned Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany.

Roy Smith



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Jennifer Holland

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FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE - THE LADY WITH THE LAMP

This article was first published in the Easter 2016 edition of the magazine and we considered it relevant to reprint it, as this May was the 200th anniversary of her birth and to think about the recent Nightingale Hospitals.

The image of a plainly dressed Victorian lady carrying a lantern is one that comes to mind when one thinks of Florence Nightingale and it is universally known that she was a nurse during the Crimean War but there is much more to Florence than that! Her drive and determination, her concern for the plight of men whose deaths were not being brought about as a result of enemy action but by neglect and ignorance, her persistence and her undying belief in her call from God saved lives and revolutionised medical care and the nursing profession.



She was born in Florence in the spring of 1820 and named after the Italian city. Her father William Nightingale was a wealthy landowner from Derbyshire. He was a man of letters and tutored his daughters in modern languages, history and mathematics. Both he and his wife Fanny led active social lives and in the general scheme of things Florence, being intelligent and accomplished, would have been expected to make a brilliant marriage. Florence had other ideas however. She was a devout Christian and felt she wanted to spend her life as one of service to God.

In her early twenties she decided to work as a hospital nurse. This decision horrified her parents because at that time nursing was not viewed as at all respectable and conditions in hospitals were terrible. Undeterred she managed to visit some hospitals and eventually persuaded her parents to allow her to spend a few months at a German training school for nurses and female teachers. She also spent some time working in Paris which all helped to widen her experience. She was obviously successful and in 1853 she became the superintendent of the London charity-supported Institution for Sick Gentlewomen in Distressed Circumstances.

1853 was the year of the outbreak of the Crimean War and it was one of the first wars to be reported in the British press. The reports of vast numbers of casualties who were dying through lack of medical treatment horrified the British public. The following year Florence volunteered to go to the Crimea. She took thirty eight carefully selected nurses (Florence had very high standards) out to the military hospital in Scutari. She was horrified by the terrible conditions and moved to anger at the state of the wounded. She said, “The British High Command has succeeded in creating the nearest thing to hell on earth”.

At first the nurses were only used to clean but the increase of casualties became so overwhelming that Florence and her nurses very quickly became hands on. Their nursing skills, their visibility on the wards (they wore a distinctive uniform), and the much improved hygiene standards reduced the mortality rates. The wounded began to see Florence and her colleagues as angels of mercy and very quickly the news of their work filtered back to Britain. By the time she returned home in 1856

she had become a national heroine and she received several awards and decorations. Although somewhat uncomfortable with her fame and attention, there were benefits. A fund of £50,000 was subscribed to her to set up a school of nursing at St. Thomas's and King's College hospital. She used her friends in high places and her influence to bring about reform of the entire system of military hospitals. She became an expert on military and civilian sanitation in India. Her experiences in the Crimea were instrumental in bringing about changes in the War Office. Her ideas and methods set the standards for nurse training and her book "Notes on Nursing" went through many editions.

Her years in the Crimea had put a strain on her health and after 1861 she rarely left her home and she was often confined to bed. She died in London in 1910. A few years after her death the First World War broke out, the war to end all wars as it was called. One can only speculate on how many lives in that conflict were saved because the military establishment had taken heed of the work of Florence and her fellow nurses. The image of the lady with the lamp does not reflect Florence's nature. She was certainly not a gentle angel of mercy. She was a woman of steely determination who was quite ruthless in her pursuit of what she believed were the rights of ordinary soldiers who were giving their lives while an indifferent establishment did little. She is to be remembered as much for the work she undertook after the Crimean War in raising nursing into the admired and respected profession it is today.

Barbara Hothersall



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Stuart Black

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, DAD?

As you'll appreciate, it hasn't been possible to carry out the planned interview and, accordingly, I've had to be inventive. I thought it might be an idea to tell you about what some of my neighbours did at that time.. You may not know the people referred to, but you'll appreciate that these memories from a small corner of England reflect what was going on elsewhere.

Out on the West Lancashire Plain we lived at New Lane head: a T-junction formed by New Lane (running southwards to Eccleston) and the east-west Southport Road. Maps actually referred to this rural area, where three parishes met, as Newtown: a somewhat grandiose title for a small collection of houses, smallholdings and farms, a sawmill, a pub, a small shop and a public telephone box.

My family lived at 1, New Lane, and you've already learnt of my Dad's wartime exploits. The man next door (at number 2) served in the Army as a storeman (he had worked at a local Co-op, after all!) and was based in Shetland – which, to me, seemed a very long way from any conflict. It was only when, in later years, I came to read *The Shetland Bus*, and discovered he had been involved in a covert operation using fishing boats to smuggle people, information and materials into and out of occupied Norway.

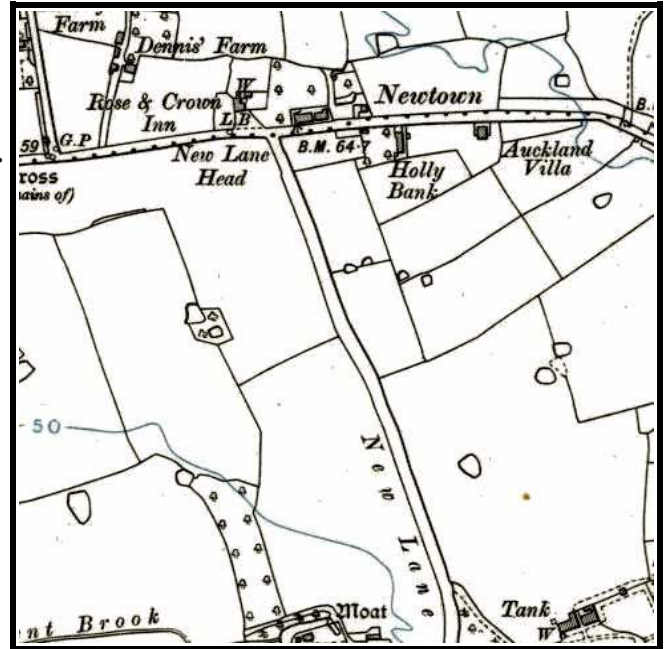
Jackie, the son of the family at number 3 served in the Royal Navy and – thankfully - returned home safely, as did John (Army) at the next house beyond.

Several local men worked at the sawmill and one on the railway; theirs were reserved occupations, as were men employed at the Royal Ordnance Factory between Leyland and Chorley (now the site of Buckshaw Village), at Leyland Motors and at the several rubber works in Leyland.

The manager at the sawmill was the local Air Raid Precaution warden while other men served in the Home Guard and the son of the local potato merchant was a member of the Auxiliary Fire Service.

The Evesons at the first house around the corner (on Southport Road) had moved there from Liverpool (to escape the bombing I suppose). It was a big family: parents plus seven children (6 of them adults). Of the boys Tommy (Royal Navy) was lost at sea; Freddie (Paratrooper) was captured but later returned alive; Maurice (Royal Navy) was lost at sea and Len (Royal Navy) survived.

How their Mum, especially, retained her sanity through all that I don't know and yet – on the surface - her Scouse humour never wavered; she would give help



to anyone and she worked full time at 'The Dump', a large ammunition storage area, which was a satellite of the ROF. (It is now the site of the Garth and Wymott prisons.)

Next door to them lived Mr & Mrs Dennell. He was a test driver at Leyland Motors and it wasn't unknown for him to arrive home at lunchtime in a tank! This delighted the local children as you can perhaps imagine: we crawled underneath it, climbed on it and listened to the various ticks and squeaks as the engine cooled.



Then there was Sam Smith, another Army man and further down was the home of 'Jolly Joe'. It was rumoured that he'd spent much of his Army life in jail; on returning home he spent much of his time in the Rose & Crown!

One of the saddest sights was my pal Eric's uncle Tom: discharged with shell shock. His wife, and young son too, must have had a tough life looking after him, for he never recovered

One other memory: Leyland with its industries was an enemy target and along Southport Road, just into Croston, a searchlight was positioned in a farmer's field. Long after the war was over you could still see the circular pit where it had stood, the foundations of the huts used by its attendant crew, and the remains of a diving board they'd built for swimming in a nearby pit (pond to some people).

Roy Smith

Martin's

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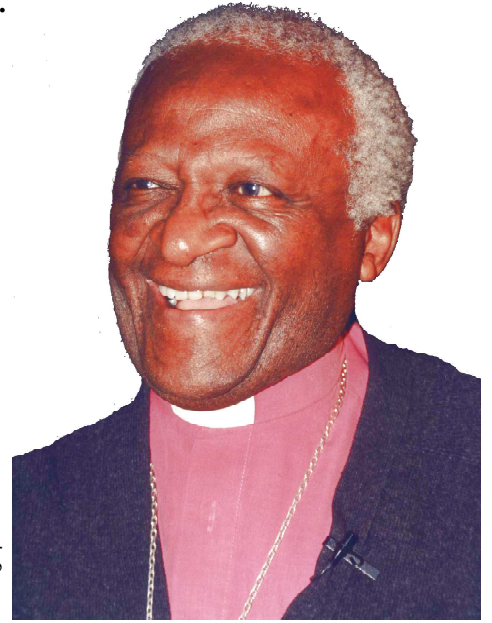
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POINTS TO PONDER from Desmond Tutu

Desmond Mpilo Tutu is a retired Anglican bishop. In 1978 he was appointed general secretary of the South African Council of Churches. During the 1980s he played an unrivalled role in drawing national and international attention to the iniquities of apartheid, and in 1984 he won the Nobel Prize for Peace. Tutu stands among the world's foremost human rights activists; his teachings reach beyond the specific causes he advocated to speak for all oppressed peoples' struggles for equality and freedom. What makes Tutu so inspirational and universal a figure is his unshakeable optimism in the face of overwhelming odds and his limitless faith in the ability of human beings to do good.



- Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.
- We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven. God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low.
- If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.
- God's love is too great to be confined to any one side of a conflict or to any one religion.
- In the end what matters is not how good we are but how good God is. Not how much we love him but how much he loves us. And God loves us whoever we are, whatever we've done or failed to do, whatever we believe or can't.
- We must be ready to learn from one another, not claiming that we alone possess all truth and that somehow we have a corner on God.
- Religion is like a knife: you can either use it to cut bread, or stick in someone's back.
- We were made to enjoy music, to enjoy beautiful sunsets...to be thrilled with a rose that is bedecked with dew...Human beings are actually created for the transcendent, for the sublime, for the beautiful, for the truthful...and all of us are given the task of trying to make this world a little more hospitable to these beautiful things.

- Our maturity will be judged by how well we are able to agree to disagree and yet continue to love one another, to care for one another, and cherish one another and seek the greater good of the other.
- God’s dream is that you and I and all of us will realise that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion.
- Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another.
- Forgiving is not forgetting; it’s actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It’s a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don’t want to repeat what happened.

* * * * *

The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth and to have it found out by accident. *Charles Lamb*

Progress in the spiritual life comes from climbing a ladder of which the rungs are made alternately of belief and doubt. *Edward Patey*

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“WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN?”

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, “What does love mean?”

The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined, See what you think:



Rebecca - age 8 “When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn’t bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That’s love.”

Billy - age 4 “When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.”

Karl - age 5 “Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.”

Terri - age 4 “Love is what makes you smile when you’re tired.”

Danny - age 7 “Love is when my mum makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.”

Emily - age 8 “Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mum and Dad are like that. They look gross when they kiss”.

Bobby - age 7 “Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.” (Wow!)

Nikka - age 6 “If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate,” (We need a few million more Nikka’s on this planet)

Noelle - age 7 “Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday.”

Tommy - age 6 “Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.”

Cindy - age 8 “During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn’t scared anymore.”

Clare - age 6 “My mum loves me more than anybody. You don’t see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.”

Elaine - age 5 “Love is when Mum gives Dad the best piece of chicken.”

Chris - age 7 “Love is when Mum sees Dad smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford .”

Mary Ann - age 4 “Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.”

Karen - age 7 “When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.” (what an image!)

Jessica - age 8 “You really shouldn’t say “I love you” unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.”

And the final one

The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbour was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman’s yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, “Nothing, I just helped him cry.”

Ladan Lashkari

The composer Irving Berlin wrote this ditty: “*When I’m worried and I can’t sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep*”. Do you count your blessings?

The advertisement features the Amazon Smile logo at the top center. Below it, the text reads "Support Fulwood Methodist Church" and "Be part of something bigger". A large orange number "£3.6 million" is prominently displayed, with "donated to charity" underneath. A yellow button says "Start shopping". A grey box states "Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases." Below this, the text says "Supporting your favourite charity is easy". A search bar contains "smile.amazon.co.uk" with a mouse cursor pointing to it. Below the search bar, it says "Search for FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH". On the left, there are icons for various charities (heart, paw, cross, etc.) and text: "Choose your favourite charity" and "Thousands of local and national charitable organisations." On the right, there are icons for currency and a shopping cart, and text: "Amazon donates to your chosen charity" and "Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases." At the bottom, there are three columns of text: "Choose your favourite charity", "Shop at smile.amazon.co.uk", and "Amazon donates to your chosen charity".

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IN GOD'S HOUSE

There's a faithful few who work unseen
and unobtrusively give their best.
Who spend their lives perfecting little things,
which often goes unnoticed by the rest.
There are hands that dust the altar rails,
that change the flowers and keep the linen fair.
They sweep the aisle with cheerful reverence
And polish silver with a murmured prayer.
These are the quiet ones who freely give
Their time and thought and love with glad accord;
Who softly tread the byways of resolve,
And share the peace of God for their reward.

Jean B. Howes

* * * * *

MEETS THE CUT?!

There's a wildness in my hairdo
Like the wildness of the weeds;
Gone the styling, gone the colour –
Scene of desperate, deadly deeds.
Yes, I took the scissors, sister,

Cut the fringe so I could see;
Got my eye on husband's whiskers,
Though he swears it shall not be!

If our life were but more simple,
Image consciousness absurd;
Then my shaggy dog appearance
Wouldn't raise a single word!

Maybe there's a message somewhere,
Does it matter how we look?
Just afraid to see the hairdresser:
I'll be struck off from his book!

P.S. As you've guessed: I chopped the rest!



(Can be sung to 'There's a wideness in God's mercy')

Mavis Fletcher

CHURCH ACTIVITIES (UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES)

Sunday

9.45 am Singing Practice (Cedar Room)

Tuesday

10.00 am	Men's AM Club (fortnightly)	Graham Johnson
2.15 pm	Women's Fellowship (weekly)	Muriel Crossley
5-7.00 pm	Messy Church (half-termly) for families	Delma Whitman
7.00 pm	Alphabites (monthly fellowship)	Margaret Holmes
7.00 pm	Book Club (monthly)	Ken Wales

Wednesday

10 till 1.30	Welcome Wednesday - food, activities, games and New2U stall	
10.30 am	Midweek Communion with prayers	
7.30/8.00	WoW (monthly Women's Group)	Wendy Gaskell

Thursday

7.00 pm	Knitting Group (Copper Beech Room)	Veronica Frost
8.01 pm	Ladies After 8 group (fortnightly)	Barbara Hothersall

Friday

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

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Monday

6.00 pm	Beavers (6 - 8 yr)	Fiona Jackson
7.00 pm	Cubs (8 - 10½ yr)	Karen Smalley

Tuesday

7.00 pm	Scouts (10½ - 14 yr)	Chris Thomas
7.00 pm	Explorer Scouts (14 - 18 yr)	Operated by Scout District
7.00 pm	Scout Network (18 - 25 yr)	Operated by Scout County

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 (Secondary School age)	“ “

Sunday

10.30 am	Sunday Club	Janet Wales
12.30 pm	OMG (2nd Sun of month for years 5 to 8/9)	Wendy Bennett

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