

REPORTS TO ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 13 MAY 2012

POLICY GROUP

The Policy Group was asked to work on the Church Profile to assist the Circuit Stewards in their task of finding a minister to replace Peter. Since then the group has not been active, but plans to reconvene when Malcolm has had time to get established here.

Stephen Grice

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RESOURCES GROUP

CHURCH ACCOUNTS

The accounts referred to in this report are for the half year, ending February 2012

We are still experiencing some difficulties in profiling costs given the lack of historical data however overall the position is becoming more encouraging. We continue to meet the repayment terms of the loan and income is close to expenditure. Actual income is slightly down on that projected however the work of the Finance group is most appreciated; a further update will be provided by them and further actions are planned to round off their activity. A significant bequest has been received and all funds have gone to pay off the debt. A budget of £4,000 has been set aside to cover Guild and Centenary events. We will also assist with The Big Lunch, planned for 3/6/12.

DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The accounts as ever provide a detailed exposition. That due repayments have been made is again due to the phenomenal efforts of the Fundraisers. The group once again urge all members to continue to support this outstanding work in every way they can. Given our confidence that the June payment can be made the debt at the time of the Centenary in September will be c.£67,000. This is a truly excellent effort and we should all be mindful of the opportunity we therefore have for another push towards the finishing line; plans are under development for such an effort.

ROOM HIRE

Room Bookings remain a valuable source of income and our thanks once more go to Barry. A number of long term bookings are confirmed. The PMA have "outgrown" the office space they leased from us- they will pay to the end of May. The Group congratulates them on this success and continues to wish them well. The Group has postponed a decision on the future of this space until the new minister had had chance to express a view.

PREMISES

Heating, the front doors, the need for maintenance provision and the state of the tarmac at the front of the church are all being addressed. Action has begun to ensure the church is in excellent condition for the Centenary. The group wishes to again thank our cleaner Mr. Richard McClay for all his hard. In addition we express our sincere and warmest thanks and appreciation to Peter for his unstinting work in managing so many of the property issues with both patience and dogged determination. We are sure the whole church will wish to echo these sentiments.

David Beavers

Resources Secretary

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CHURCH LIFE

We have enjoyed the year, sharing thoughts and ideas. Here is a summary of some of the areas we have covered:-

Centenary:- This has its own planning committee who have dedicated a lot of time and thought to ensure our centenary is a success

Youth Work:- please see full report on OMG, Junior Church and Friday night youth clubs. It has been felt that the older teenagers (16+) have not got their own group and support network. An initial discussion has taken place and hopefully this will develop into a regular group meeting.

We still have a superb junior church which is led by a group of very dedicated leaders. It is hoped we may work towards and apply to be 'A Child Friendly church'. If we can obtain this award it will hopefully attract some more younger families.

Other fellowship groups- All the groups are continuing to do well. We continue to encourage particularly the groups which care for the older members of the church

Worship- All the services were well received over the Christmas and Easter period, particularly the Preston Passion which was a great success. The introduction of a dedicated 'Nativity Sunday' was again well received and will hopefully grow from strength to strength.

We have a new style of worship in the form of 'Messy Church. This is led by a small group of leaders and is aimed at families on the periphery of the church. We hope to develop this over the next 12 months.

Many Thanks to all the Church life group who attend and support this committee

Wendy Bennett

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CHURCH OUTREACH

The activities of the Outreach group have grown since our return to the new premises and I am pleased to report on the "story so far".

The group works under three umbrellas – World church matters, World, District and Local events and communications, and Community activities.

WORLD CHURCH.

Ali Birkett leads our World Church group and continues to keep us up to date with what is happening in the Methodist Church worldwide. In January we held an afternoon of food and information about Sierra Leone. Members of the District Mission Group who visited Sierra Leone in 2011 showed slides and talked of the work they did enabling medical teaching in a hospital, work in a school and support to the Red Rose Skills Centre. We shared a meal made from Sierra Leone recipes and enjoyed the fellowship of meeting and learning from people from other churches across the District.

Our church project for the Centenary year is to support the District World Church Projects in Sierra Leone, Papua New Guinea and Uruguay. We would encourage you all to join with others across the District when World Church events are advertised in the notices. It is always refreshing to hear of what others are doing in very different situations.

Ali is still waiting for updates on the Columbia building project which we supported during our "year of exile" and she will share the details with the whole church later.

METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS

Lesley Birkett continues to send out all the information on events which take place, locally, within the Lancashire District and further afield. She does this by email so if you do not receive her regular notes then please contact her to be added to her address list.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

Libby Stone heads up the very active Community Group and as well as old favourites several new and exciting ventures have begun to spring up in the increasingly busy calendar. Over the past year we have held the Charity Christmas Card Sale, joined with the Lancashire Sings Christmas event with Radio Lancashire and held our Friendship Lunch in the Christmas holidays. We have decided that we will drop the Card Sale from our calendar this year as support has been waning and people are using other methods to send their Christmas Greetings to friends. We hope to have catalogues available from charities for a few weeks in September or October for those who wish to order direct.

Thanks to an initiative from Edna Armstrong the Wednesday coffee morning has graduated into a very successful Welcome Wednesday, open for coffee, lunch, and afternoon tea. Board games are available and it is an opportunity for anyone to come and share food and friendship in a safe environment. There is also a New to You stall and Tea Dances follow on some afternoons. This is a wonderful way to let people see that we are open to the whole community and each week we are welcoming new faces across the threshold.

The Tuesday Coffee continues although not as well attended it still provides an opportunity for us to open our doors. The Coffee shop is also open during the Music Exams where the toasted teacakes go down a treat with the youngsters before returning to school!!

The Farmers' Markets have been a great success over the last year and we will continue to hold them through the summer – watch out for the dates in the notices.

Another new venture has been the introduction of Messy Church. This is an opportunity for families to share in activities, food and worship and up to 40 people of mixed ages have joined in. Future Messy Church dates are 15th May, 19th June, 16th October and 29th November. Why not come along and try something new!!

We hope that by now you will all be aware of the Big Lunch taking place on 3rd June 12.30 – 2.30pm, on the grass outside the Preston Business Centre on Watling Street Road (the old Workhouse). This is an event for everyone to come and share with our neighbours from Christ Church, URC and the Mosque in a genuine community venture. Bring your picnic and celebrate the Jubilee in style!

We are hoping to hold a Guild Street party on the afternoon of 8th August. The idea would be to hold it on the front car park (in the Hall or Willow Grove if wet). We are aware that this is summer holiday time but if you would like to help in any way to get this off the ground then please contact me or Libby Stone to see how you can be involved.

We held an Open Evening recently where all the above items were shared. Unfortunately it was very poorly attended. I can only presume that everyone thinks that events happen like magic without any planning or manpower!! We are always looking for more help. You know what interests you and where you can be of use. Please don't be shy, and come and chat to any one of the group leaders to see where you can help us continue to share the love of God to all our community.

Margaret Squire
Outreach Group Co-ordinator

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PASTORAL CARE

Rev Peter Sheasby and Sister Myrtle Poxon continue to support the Pastoral needs of the church family. Mrs Elizabeth Ellison continues her support of people in and out of hospital. The Pastoral visitors and many others try to meet our needs in different ways.

During the last few weeks we have Celebrated the Lives of Doreen Carsley and Cath Rae and we continue to keep their families and others who have lost loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

Through the prayer line, Wednesday Fellowship prayers and prayer in Worship we continue to think and pray for the needs of different people within our Church Family.

The Methodist church wants to support Pastoral Visitors and has provided safeguarding training throughout the circuit so all visitors are aware of good practice and who to contact if they encounter difficulties.

The care of this large Church family needs everyone to help by supporting people, telling the Ministers, Pastoral team or Stewards if they have any concerns. Help can only be given if we know about the need.

Please continue the help you give and help us to meet the expectations of care we can give to those feeling vulnerable.

Sue Penrith

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FUND RAISING

We have had another good fund raising year with the highlights being the Flower, Music and Craft Festival and the Craft and Christmas Fairs. We get a steady income from the monthly Cakes Stalls, the Crafts and the Books table but the sales of the centenary memorabilia are a little slow. We have been running a weekly Knitting Circle which brings in a small amount. Other successful events were the Flower Monkeys Gig at St Pius, the two plant sales and the Lancashire Night. We are running more Table Top Sales and the regular Farmers' Markets are bringing in a nice income. The Textile collections are an easy form of fund raising and we try to run another event along side. The last one brought in an extra £42.00.

Sadly we had to leave the Thrift Shop at Ingol and we regret both the loss of outreach and income. However, we now receive some money from the New to You stall at the weekly Welcome Wednesdays. The Tea Dances which are held monthly as part of W.W. have made a promising start. The income raised from the sale of lunches etc on Wednesdays goes into the Kitchen funds.

We have organised two social evenings since Christmas, both quiz nights, the last one being to raise money for the Guild expenses. It is because this is both our Centenary year and also the Guild year, that we have not arranged any major events. We realise that folk will have a lot on their plates this year. However, we are planning a "Come and Sing the Messiah" in September which will be run on similar lines to the John Rutter Day with folk coming to take part from outside the church family.

The bequest from the estate of Mary Rushworth of over £60,000 has been a wonderful boost to the Development Fund and we are delighted to be in the happy position of being able to meet the instalment payments of the debt.

Barbara Hothersall

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WELCOME WEDNESDAYS

For some time now, some of us have wanted to explore the idea of opening up our premises for people to drop in for a coffee and chat during the week. We realise that we are not in the town centre or on a route that many people walk but we felt that we needed to investigate the possibilities.

We settled on Wednesday for the main trust as there were people who had regularly given time on that day to help at the Thrift Shop at Ingol. We no longer do this as Ingol wanted their premises for alternative Wednesday use.

Early in November we were galvanised into action, leafleting parts of Fulwood and we began 'Welcome Wednesdays'.

We serve coffee, tea cakes from 10.00am, light lunches from 12 o'clock and then coffee and cake again throughout the afternoon. We also run a 'Second Time around' stall. There is opportunity to chat, play table games, browse and meet new folk.

It is growing. We have an increasing number of people from outside the church dropping by. Members of our own church family can enjoy an extra time of fellowship and the company for a meal. Some of the young mums who come for the Baby Signing Session held in the Hall (an external organisation) come for lunch and stay for coffee afterwards. This gives them a chance to chat with others who are passing through similar worries and joys. Tea Dances have just begun and we are looking to start other activities like craft on some afternoons. The financial income is also growing.

Please drop by, pass on any ideas for development, offer to help and above all pray for this to be a place where our community can see God in Action.

Edna Armstrong

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CRECHE

Another busy year in the creche ! Several children attend most Sundays with family service being the most popular along with Baptism services.

I would like to thank all those people who volunteer to run the creche each week. You all do a fantastic job!

As of September I will no longer be coordinating the creche rota due to work and family commitments and wish my successor (yet to be confirmed) every success.

Thank you again to all those involved.

Joanne Seddon

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TODDLERS' CLUB

Toddlers' Club is going from strength to strength thanks largely to toast and teacakes.

We currently have 136 children on the register with an average weekly attendance of just over 50. Thankfully they have never all turned up at once.

The Christmas party last year was a huge success and we already have the rooms and the entertainer booked for this year. Father Christmas has also been informed of the date.

Toddlers' Club finances are extremely healthy and we are in a position to buy any new toys and equipment we feel we need. We have recently donated a new, red toaster to the kitchen for those eagerly anticipated teacakes.

Before we break up for the summer holidays we will be making a donation to the Church but are unable to say, at the moment, how much this will be.

Janet Porter

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JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church continues to be effective and valued because of the commitment of the leaders who give their time and energy each week to ensure that the baptismal promises of the church are carried out. Attendance patterns have changed however and children and young people nowadays experience many pressures which may prevent them attending church on a Sunday each week: football, family commitments etc. It is therefore essential to see Junior Church as one aspect of our provision for children and young people and our work is complemented by OMGs and Messy Church. Although we plan our work in themes, each session stands alone as we cannot assume that the same children will have attended the previous week. This means that in Juniors and Seniors particularly, we have to constantly put the sessions into context and make no assumptions about previous knowledge. Not easy but necessary.

The themes we have been studying this year are 'This is me', 'Christmas', 'Prayer', 'the Church year / Lent', and 'Stories Jesus told'. Probably the most successful topic was 'this is me' based on Psalm 139 as it appealed to every age group from Beginners looking at all the things they could do, to Seniors questioning their identity and relationship to God. At certain points we have been able to use the paintings from the Methodist Art Collection to stimulate thinking about a topic. Throughout the themes we have appreciated the support of Peter both in the planning and his willingness to link our work with that of the adult 'learners' in the church.

Although the pattern of attendance has changed, the number of children and young people who are 'touched by the work' remains almost the same and we still need extra help with each of the four groups. We try to ensure that there are always 2 adults with each group as this is best practice from a safeguarding perspective and leaders teach for one or sometimes two Sundays a month. Obviously the more leaders we have, the less demand is put on individuals and we need members of the church to seriously consider whether they could offer to help once a month. Please have a word with any of the leaders to find out more about the work.

Janet Wales

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MESSY CHURCH

Building on the very successful Good Friday Messy Church session last year, some of us decided that we would like to try to hold a Messy Church session on a regular basis. We felt that there were parts of our Church family to whom we would like to have more opportunity to present the Gospel. We identified our target audience as the families of our Mums & Toddlers and the families of our younger uniformed organisations plus our own Church family. Messy Church is not a Kid's Club but a session for families to spend time together making things, eating together and learning about the Christian life together.

We began in November and have held a Messy Church session once in each subsequent half-term. This term's are on 15th May and 19th June.

We have been averaging about 40 children and adults at each session, although not the same 40, so that means we are reaching more than that number.

We are on quite a steep learning curve but it is an exciting project and we feel that it is something we have been led to do. Please pray for those involved in this venture and if you can help, even on a one-off or with a specific skill, I am sure that the Stewards can point you to someone to talk to about it!

Delma Whitman

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OMG - OUR METHODIST GROUP

We have had another successful year and our numbers have increased to around 25 regular members. We still meet once a month at church between 4-6pm. The group enjoy activities such as cooking, arts and crafts, big games and the food and tuck shop are always popular. The activities planned for the rest of the term is a treasure hunt, a walk up Nicky Nook and an Olympic themed sports afternoon.

We will soon be sending out invitations to the new year 5 age group so they can join us in September.

Thank you to all who help and support this group

Wendy Bennett

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WOW

Wow has had another good year. Our numbers vary from month to month depending how busy people are. We have been out for drinks or a meal. Generally we meet at Myrtles and try and discuss current issues but are very easily side tracked. Although we don't meet too often it is felt that the group offer support to each other throughout the year.

Wendy Bennett

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4TH FULWOOD (METHODIST) SCOUT GROUP

As a Group, 4th Fulwood have been successful in creating an Executive Committee which is able to support the Group Scout Leader. In turn the sections have extra support and assistance if required. The committee was established after a fantastic Family Camp which was held at Waddecar in July last year. Children from the group along with siblings, parents and leaders all had a great weekend doing 'Scouting' activities and camping. The theme was the Wild West and we wore costumes on the Saturday night when attending a big campfire. We held our 1st AGM which was the encouragement for some parents to step forward and take up positions on the Exec. We are very grateful for their time and efforts so far....

Each section has been running with good numbers, the Beavers and Cubs in particular, to capacity. The Scout Troop numbers have also increased. We have been lucky enough to have leaders in each section who are training new leaders and giving the boys and girls a fantastic programme to enjoy on week day nights and weekend trips.

We had another family event in January when we held a Beetle Drive for 100 parents and children at the Church. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we had some presentations made by our District Commissioner to some leaders and Exec members.

Although our numbers are high, it is recommended that you give us names of children who would like to join from 2012 so we are ready to bring them in to the Group. Beaver Scouts join at 6 years old so to avoid disappointment please give us names prior to 6th birthdays.

Our leaders are so enthusiastic and we are lucky to have them all but if anyone would like to assist in any capacity, not necessarily directly with the children on a weekly basis, please do come forward and speak with one of us.

Lesley Thomas

Group Scout leader

4th Fulwood (Methodist) Scout Group

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BROWNIES

We currently have 27 Brownies and a very healthy waiting list which is due to our Rainbow Unit.

Over the past twelve months our brownie unit has continued to go from strength to strength. We now have another warranted Brownie Leader, Katrina Charlton.

The Brownies have had a fun packed year starting off in September going on Brownie Pack Holiday to Littledale Scout Camp near Lancaster. It was a wet weekend but we made the best of the weather by doing archery, rock climbing, going on walks, doing crafts and on the Saturday night we had a campfire with a local scout group along with marshmallows on sticks and bananas with chocolate inside !

We had our annual trip to the Pantomime at the Playhouse along with the Rainbows. We have been to see Father Christmas on the Steam Railway near Preston Docks they Brownies thoroughly enjoyed both events.

In the Spring term the Brownies had a go at doing Zumba ! and working towards their Ruby Challenge Award. They have also been very busy making peppermint fondant sweets and bags to put them in for mothers day. We had our annual sleepover in March where we had 24 Brownies and 5 leaders sleeping in the hall and the Cedar Room the Brownies had pizza and garlic bread for supper and then in the morning they enjoyed cereal and toast for breakfast. The theme for the evening was Indians. The sleepover was in readiness for our Brownie Pack Holiday in July when we are going to Waddow Hall in Clitheroe where we are going to have an Olympic theme and celebrate that our Brownies are 70 years.

This term we are very busy undertaking a Guild Challenge Badge, we are doing glass painting, circus skills, going to the park for a walk and games and in June we are attending a mass camp fire for the guild celebrations on the flag market and also On your marks get set go ! fun sports event at Cottam Sports Arena the day after ! with rainbows, brownies and guides for all over our District.

Claire Richardson

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39TH PRESTON GUIDES

We currently have 23 Guides on the register and 3 leaders as Karen Tunstall joined us in September.

We shared our summer holiday at Bibby's Farm with Guides from St. Clares, a very enjoyable time was had by all. The guides chose Pirates of the Caribbean as the theme, creating new verses for an old pirate song, walking the plank, canoeing and devising new ways to wear a bandana!

The guides completed the Ruby Challenge Badge, this was to commemorate North West Region being 40. We decorated umbrellas, ate a red meal and many other challenges including searching for red post boxes in the local area.

We have 3 groups of guides working towards their Baden Powell Challenge; they have organised and planned some interesting evenings so far.

The Guides have completed various badges this year including the Personal Safety and Craft Badges.

We are looking forward to our Summer Camp at Waddow Hall, Clitheroe.

Allison Allcock

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BEAVERS

More and more young people are enjoying Beaver Scouting within 4th Fulwood – currently we're at 27 which is fantastic and testament to the hard work and enthusiasm of the whole leadership team.

Once again we've been busy exploring with trips and events locally and further afield to inspire and enthuse our young people and leaders alike. We joined the District trip to Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry early in the year discovering technologies of bygone ages as well as future concepts of what may be. The District Fazackerley Challenge was reintroduced after a few years rest with teams from across the district taking part in mini challenges testing their team work and persistence, their memories and creativity. The event has to go down as a highlight of the year as 4th Fulwood were joint winners with 5th Preston – congratulations to all those who took part and a very proud moment for us all!!

Nationally a change was made meaning Beaver Scouts can now enjoy "proper" camping under canvas whereas previously we were limited to indoor accommodation. Whilst we didn't immediately rush to take advantage we had a fabulous time at the first Group family camp at Waddecar in early July. The weather was great, some of the time, but the spirit of all those taking part was never dampened and we came away even more enthusiastic and invigorated than before!

There are so many exciting activities that we've taken part in I cannot possibly mention them all sufficiently. However, here's a taste of what we've been up to...

"World Wide Waddecar" – a fabulous event in glorious weather taking part in several activities from around the world including totem pole making, finding out about Shelterbox and taking part in Paddington Bear's race to the marmalade sandwich!!

The County "Big Beaver Bash" - the 25th anniversary of Beaver Scouting couldn't pass without a celebratory party!

We tried roller skating with great success, explored Brockholes Nature Reserve and had a picnic there, we went to the pantomime at Preston Playhouse, visited Blackpool Illuminations, the Sikh Gurdwara on Bow Lane and Gujerati Temple on South Meadow Lane, presented the Remembrance wreaths to the Queen's Lancashire Regiment Museum at Fulwood barracks on behalf of the Group, the Guides and the church

December saw us again host the District Christingle led by Peter Sheasby and Ray Borg. An inspiring way to celebrate the story of Christmas and seeing the church filled with over 300 Christingles was truly heart warming.

8 Chief Scout Bronze Awards, the highest award within the section, have been presented over the last twelve months or so – congratulations to all the Beaver Scouts who have worked so hard for this top award.

Thanks must go to all the leaders, helpers and parents for their support and enthusiasm – without them the weekly programme, events and trips would not have been as enjoyable as they were or even possible.

We're looking forward to the next 12 months which no doubt will be just as big an adventure if not bigger for all our Beaver Scouts!

Fiona Jackson,

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4TH FULWOOD (METHODIST) SCOUT TROOP

The Scout Troop currently has 16 Scouts (boys and girls) aged between 10.5 and 14 years of age and meets every Tuesday night between 7 and 9pm. This has been a very enjoyable year for the

Scout Troop as we have undertaken a lot of different activities including climbing, abseiling, kayaking, raft building, sailing, gorge walking and hiking to name but a few. Of course been a Scout Troop we have been camping, with over 6 camps over the last year. One of the highlights was the District Guild Camp at the start of May where we camped with the rest of the Group and District to celebrate the Preston Guild. An activity and fun filled weekend was had by all.

We have also had the pleasure of awarding 2 Chief Scout Gold Awards over the past 12 months, which is the highest award achievable in the Scout Section. This award takes years of commitment and a lot of time and effort to complete. Congratulations to those Scouts who achieved their Chief Scout Gold Awards

The Scout Troop is going strong and we are always happy to invite new members to the Group. If you would like to know more or give Scouts a go then please feel free to grab me at the next Church Parade or email me on stephen_280@hotmail.com.

Steve Williams

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LADIES AFTER EIGHT

Ladies After Eight continue to meet fortnightly at 8.01pm in the Cedar Room. We have some new members this year, and average attendance is between 25 and 30. We have had a number of interesting speakers, from within the church and beyond, who have spoken to us on a wide range of interesting topics. We had a very successful stall at the Christmas Fair, and our Christmas meal at Vincent's Restaurant was very well attended. In February members attended the Ecumenical Evening at Our Lady and St. Edward's and in March we enjoyed Gilbert and Sullivan at the Playhouse. We will end the year with a trip on the Lancaster Canal in June. the AGM, chaired by Myrtle, will be on June 28th. Meetings will start again in September, and we look forward to welcoming our new minister and his wife.

Libby Stone

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WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP

During the past session we have been pleased to welcome three new members, we hope that they have enjoyed our meetings and our fellowship.

Sadly we have lost Doris Wheeler and Cath Rae, and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Once again we have had a very varied and enjoyable programme from Sept 2011 - April this year.

We have planned three outings for the summer, (Thurs 21st June, Weds 11th July and Tues 4th August).

We are also meeting for lunch in Willow Grove on the 1st. Wednesday in May, June and July.

We extend a very warm welcome to any ladies who would like to join us any of these dates.

Muriel Crossley and Kathleen Speight

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AM CLUB REPORT

We have met at regular fortnightly intervals from September to April for times of enjoyable friendship and fellowship. Our programme of speakers and presentations have been enjoyed and appreciated.

Sickness and bereavement have affected our attendance numbers. Charles Wisbey has been unwell throughout our season and we were greatly saddened by the death of Derek Clarke. Our average attendance is 12 and we have been pleased to welcome two new members, Alan Smith and John Fazackerley.

Valuable contributions have been enjoyed from active and retired ministers, retired professionals and the City Council Recycling Manager. Our Christmas lunch was much appreciated at Ferrari's country hotel near Longridge.

We have paid expenses to some speakers as required and contributed £50 to our own church and £50 to the Methodist Relief & Development Fund: our cash balance is £15.51.

We would gladly welcome any retired men to come and join the group on alternate Tuesday mornings at 10am.

Alan Clarke

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CHOIR

We maintain our choir number of 17 regular members happily augmented when Geoff Bond plays and therefore Margaret Bond sings with us and also for special occasions when extra singers join us.. As family problems have prevented regular rehearsals over the last months we have concentrated since Christmas on preparing hymns and the Easter Anthem.

Prior to that we have sung anthems on special occasions and as the choir attendance allowed, always bearing in mind the wishes of the person leading the Service. The music for Remembrance Day when Andrew Bennett played clarinet as we sang "Pacem" was very much appreciated by many and the splendid trumpet playing of Ben Jarvis thrilled us all.

Christmas music too, especially for the carol service is always a high spot in the choir year.

We continue to rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9.45 when we prepare the hymns chosen that day to ensure we give a confident lead to the worship. We prepare anthems if time allows and try to meet on the first Friday of the month from 6.30 – 7.30 to do more detailed work on anthems. We would welcome new members even if you cannot commit to attending every week. Why not come and join us when you can on our Sunday morning practice if only to learn the hymns! Check with Barry Crossley or Mavis Fletcher about our Friday night practices which you are also most welcome to attend.

ORGAN/BAND

Our rota has worked very happily and satisfactorily allowing us to worship as a church family with different styles of music. The loyal team of organists and the growing band are a rich resource for which we are grateful. Please share your talents as offers of involvement from other musicians and singers are essential to the continued growth of our church in its worship. We thank most sincerely all those who already share their talents to enhance our Church music.

Mavis Fletcher

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THREEONESIX

ThreeOneSix (or 316, we don't mind!) meet weekly - usually on Tuesday evenings - to rehearse and try new songs. Currently, we try to commit to playing in Morning Service once a month – this helps maintain a good balance between traditional worship music and what may be described as a more modern approach! We have enthusiastic members with a good mix of age groups, and it is really good to see teenagers in our ranks. We hope that the Church family see us as a resource

that can encourage people to think differently about how varying forms of music in worship can be used.

Recently, we have recorded a Christmas song "The Secret Stillness". This was another foray to our local recording studio – always good fun, and we were pleased to sell a small number of CDs to raise funds towards "Building Together".

Going forward, we'd like to continue to develop ourselves to be able to deliver a wide range of music to a high standard of performance, both as part of the Church activities and also as a means of presenting modern Christian music outside our Church – examples include our taking part in the recent series of services held at the Minster and we have been invited to participate in the 2012 art event "Visible Faith".

We're always keen to welcome new members, especially younger people! (We're happy to take a broad view of the definition of "younger"!). The only requirement is an ability to sing or play any instrument to a reasonable standard. We'd love someone to step forward and act as our Sound Engineer.....please contact Mike Cushing on 07866 476639 or via email m.p.cushing@gmail.com to learn more about how you can join in with ThreeOneSix!

Running a band and maintaining equipment is not cheap. It's worth noting that, even apart from instruments, much of the equipment we use either belongs to individual band members or has been funded by band members. It costs £2 per week to rehearse with 316! All money from weekly "subs" goes to the benefit of the band and, by default, our Church. Recording studio costs have also been met from the band members' contributions.

Finally, I'd like to record my personal thanks for the support and effort that all band members put in. A commitment to weekly rehearsal is not easy to make – we all have busy lives – and it takes a lot of time and effort to keep the regular rehearsals going!

Mike Cushing

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ACTS

ACTS has not been very active this year for a variety of reasons. We decided to re-organise what we usually do in response to an offer from an outside group. Sadly this did not materialise. We decided to do something at Christmas but as the Festive Season was looked at, we wondered what to do and when – the calendar gets very full! We did contribute some drama to some of the Services over Christmas.

Our plans for the Century of Variety did not take off as, very few people volunteered items for the Show. It was perhaps for the best as the Preston Passion rather dominated the time around Easter. There were however a good number of Fulwood folk involved in that production to a greater or less extent. It was great to share fellowship with other Christians from across Preston in a large, professional production.

We hope to be more active next year!

Delma Whitman