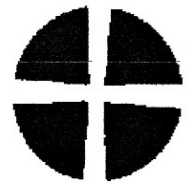


The Avenue Methodist Church



The Living Well Centre
at The Avenue
Methodist Church

Wincham Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 4PL

The Methodist Church
of Great Britain

Love, Serve,
Go & Grow

Newsletter



SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 2018

MINISTER'S LETTER

Peter Hitchens recently made the point in an online article that we 'love fretting about the wrong thing'. It was in response to a comment made about what people look like in certain clothes, I do want to say I'm not in favour of anyone making a comment that demeans another person, silly statements made for whatever political reason need to stay in the gutter where they belong.

One of the points Hitchens made in the article was that the British state loathes Christianity and has fears of Islam. The title of his blog gave me the impression that he was going to identify what we should be fretting about, so reading on I was eager to see who the baddies and goodies were. I'm not sure he identified them – it seemed to be up to the perspective of the individual reading the article.

It got me thinking about the baddies and goodies in the New Testament of the Bible? Was the Pharisee and the Sadducee a baddy or goody? – I suppose it depends on what standpoint you make your judgement from, likewise Jesus?

We can be quick to defend Jesus, but I wonder why? Is it from a theological, historical or cultural perspective? Or, that it just doesn't feel right to think of the Son of God in any other way than being perfect? Perhaps it's much the same way people cannot throw a Bible in the bin just in case . . . in case of what?

Hitchens raises a good question, are we fretting about the wrong thing? I think we are and I think we need to focus on the most important thing of all, how we live, how we love, how we serve and how we grow in the way that our creator intended us to grow.

The Avenue Methodist Church is a centre that seeks to hold no judgement on baddies or goodies, so you won't find us making a pantomime out of a situation.

- We merely want to share our faith as we understand it and live it.
- We believe in God
- We believe God revealed himself in Jesus Christ
- We believe he is Lord and Saviour
- We believe we are called by God to trust and follow Jesus

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at The Avenue. Why not become part of the next Alpha Group as it explores the Christian faith, the group meets on Monday nights, starts with food, watches a presentation and goes into group work for the final part of the evening. It starts at 19.00 and finishes promptly at 21.30. It runs from the 17th of September to the 3rd of December 2018. Sign up through our Circuit Administrator, Susan on 0161 962 2075.

Grace and peace,
Richard

NICK'S NEWSLETTER

Heading home from church today, having finally cleared away the holiday club items from an upstairs storeroom, I am left feeling sad that it's all over for another year.

Looking back on the holiday club week I am so pleased with how it went, all the children loved being part of the week and enjoyed showing their parents the theme song at the end of each morning.

Space academy launched off with songs, games, crafts and fun. The children were trainee 'Astro-o's' being led by group leaders 'lieutenants', The 'space commander' (Richard) shared a story each day about Daniel and his love for God.

The front of the church was transformed into mission control with it's very own space shuttle and even had a rocket cut out for amazing photo opportunities, I could see a handful of children's' faces as they stood behind the astronaut cut out imagining that they were Tim Peake or Buzz Lightyear.

This year we saw 42 children and finished the week with a special church service celebration, recapping the week and presenting the songs we learnt.

I have already been asked for the dates for next years Holiday club so people can book it in,

Dates for your diary...

Monday 29th July-Friday 2nd August **2019 Holiday club**

Lego

Lego club will be back from the 6th September 3:30-4:30 every Thursday

All age service

Sunday 30th September 2018 at 10am

2018 Light party

This year we will be running the Avenue Methodist Church light party, as an alternative to Halloween.

This event will be on Wednesday 31st Oct, time to be confirmed.

Look out for more details on the notice board at church.

Blessings

Nick Owen

The Avenue Methodist Church, Children and Family Worker

THANK YOU

Just wanted to say a massive thank you to everybody who was involved in the holiday club 30/7 - 3/8/2018 Space Academy. Our children Jaxson & Mia had a fantastic time & came home each day excited to tell us everything they had been doing from learning songs to playing games & doing crafts! The songs at the end are definitely a winner for us parents, to be able to watch them join in with everybody else, smiling, laughing & truly enjoying themselves. Everybody is always very friendly & I know our children are well looked after when at the club.

I hope the holiday club will continue to run & look forward to sending the children again.

Thank you to all again!

Michaela Yearsley

CELEBRATE 1/7/18

The Celebrate service on 1/7/18 started with everyone singing

“Everybody’s welcome, anyone can come, to gather in the house of God.

Family together the old and the young, we’ll join to worship as one”

We watched a video of the farmer growing his seeds on various types of ground and which ones grew and flourished and which ones sadly died.

Then we learnt about parables, stories and characters. We had a few minutes to collect 3 items from the display at the front and then met in groups to make up our 2 minute story. We had the story of Noah and the duck followed by the Knight and an egg and then the carrot and Jack with his baked beans.

We then broke off into age groups to develop the story more and some of the groups had craft activities too. During this session the following words were heard "I never expected this to be such fun" Thank you Ben for your honesty, it was a delight to hear. The youngest group played a memory game of "I went to market and bought an Apple, Banana, Carrot, Doughnut etc etc

Later on the children wrote their prayers on a sheaf of corn.

"Listen to what people actually say, don't just hear it" Wonderful words of wisdom from our young people

"Celebrate" meets on the first and third Sunday in the month and is open to all ages and all families. Please come along and join in the fun.

If you didn't get up early enough to attend the **10 am service on the 5th August** you missed a treat. We enjoyed happy, but meaning-full, songs with all the actions (Hip & Hearts on a Sunday!), fun demonstrations of what the children and leaders had done and made and a summary of the story of Daniel that was presented by space commander Mottershead in his best American accent! This was interspersed with short child friendly prayers and a message about how we are all special and unique to God as demonstrated by our own individual finger prints taken at the door as we entered the church!

Following the service there was a crowd of young people and parents enjoying fun and fellowship together over cake and coffee/tea in the Living Well Centre. We do live well together at The Avenue, don't we?

Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it all happen, especially Nick and Dee. Roll on next year!!!

Carole Jackson

SPACE ACADEMY

After days of preparation, a quick get together, a final prayer and the doors are opened to the children attending the holiday club " Space Academy". Some understand the activity immediately others need more time. But everyone one is soon underway making space stations, jet packs and the other craft activities. Then all together for exercise dance and song time followed by the Bible stories about Daniel and his friends described by the Space Commander in his weird headgear.. Games discussion of the Bible message more craft activity a final sing and the day is over.

It goes so quickly, It is such fun that I cannot wait for the next day. The children are delightful and always come with so many questions

I have 2 complaints about the week. Firstly the craft activities involve lots of sellotape and the end always gets stuck hard down when demand is highest, Secondly the number of jokes the children bought in was low, the best was however the following.

Q Which is the heaviest mars, earth, milky way or galaxy?

A Earth, all the rest are chocolate bars

Colin Norman

CAN IT LAST FOR SIX WEEKS?

What are we talking about?

Space Academy of course

The number of children and adults that wanted it to go on, possibly for all 6 weeks of the holidays. They wanted it to last longer than a week. If any adults feel that they could help at next year's event please speak to Nick and maybe we could do more than one week???

Comments received:

I loved singing the songs and dancing

Firing the rockets outside, I enjoyed the rockets

Making moon buggies

Making pencil rockets and firing them

Designing a rocket

All the different crafts, making the jet packs

The leaders were very nice and very funny

Making the lions

I liked the songs

It has been amazing, I cannot believe what has happened in the church. Thank you for a brilliant week

COMMUNITY MATTERS

“I love working in the heart of my community” says the community and centre manager at Woodchurch Methodist Church on the Wirral. I am really proud of the links we have developed locally with our Coop food store. This group applied for funding from the Coop’s local community fund and they have used the money to run and develop lots of courses to connect people in the community, including cooking, card making, computer skills and a weekly lunch. Every Christmas the knit and natter group fills shoeboxes to send abroad to children who might not get any Christmas presents. With the money, the church also organised a Taste and See day aimed at local people who were feeling lonely and isolated. They laid on lots of activities during the day like bread making and exercise classes. One lady who visited and had been lonely loved the bread making course and now visits regularly to meet up with friends. The team from the local Coop visited on the day and joined in the activities and took along foods to sample. A heart-warming story of life in the community

A VICAR’S COLLAR

Barry Myers

“The institution that we value the most, the National Health Service, has been sustained by people whom we value the least.” (*Gary Younge, The Guardian newspaper*)

Nurse Jane (most names changed to comply with GDPR!) arrived at my bedside wide-eyed and eager to share her amusement about Rev Richard’s assertion that she had just served him a “vicar’s collar”. Richard had just left after kindly visiting me during the week which I spent in hospital in June. (Details unimportant – except to me obviously – outcome good.) Apparently a vicar’s collar is visible in any cup or mug of tea or coffee which is not full to the brim when served. (Pause while you visualise what I am describing.) Nurse Jane is a bubbly person – just the sort you look forward to meeting as the lights are switched on in the ward at 6 o’clock each morning. By the time you read this I imagine that most of the hospital staff will be familiar with a vicar’s collar!

I am fortunate in my life not to have spent too much of it hospitalised, but whenever this has happened I have found it to be a fascinating and informative experience. This time my stay was in a four-bed ward with a constantly shifting population and wide variety of people and circumstances.

John and Peter had both experienced the pain of drug addiction and family breakdowns in the past and John had spent four years in prison some time ago and was keen to protest his innocence of the offence for which he had been convicted. It wasn’t long before they and others in the ward discovered that I was a Christian. Maybe it was the Prayer Handbook by my bedside or the visit from my vicar which gave the game away. Either way the discovery opened the door to a wide range of topics including my thoughts on Satanism, whether or not Lucifer existed, why a self-professed “born again” Christian known to John should in his view behave in such an un-Christian way, and whether or not the Pope is a Catholic. (I made that last one up.) I ventured the suggestion that after their discharge they might look for a church local to them which was offering the Alpha course. If ever there should be any doubt in a Christian’s mind that people are not interested in faith matters a week in hospital should be enough to dispel it. As John waited with his family for his paperwork and medication on the day of his discharge he introduced me to his family as “my best mate, Baz.” I haven’t been called by that name since my schooldays!

Throughout the week all of us who spent time on the ward received the very best of care and attention. This was in spite of the evident pressure under which NHS staff are working these days. There was no time as in days of yore for nurses or doctors to sit at bedsides and engage in idle chat. Any conversation was brief and held during “obs” or “rounds”. My blood pressure and heart rate may have been OK, but I wondered at times about theirs. One thing is for sure, there’s no vicar’s collar in the NHS’s cup of care. For all its faults and struggles it is overflowing with love and support for those it serves. It doesn’t get more Christian in nature than that.

BARNABUS CHARITY

Andrew Jeffries

I’ve been to the talk by Neil Cornthwaite to the Church and Society monthly meeting at Sale URC on Barnabus, a Manchester Christian homelessness charity.

Some of the following may well be known to you, and I would appreciate exchanging any information and experience you have with M/c homeless charities like Barnabus, and of course we have been working for quite a few years now with City Centre Ministries [Steve and Irene Brown] with whom Barnabus have a close and warm working relationship.

Barnabus has been in existence for 27 years, and started with a, now defunct, double decker bus.

Neil has worked in a volunteer capacity for the last 20 years, after he became a Christian and finished his degree, and for 2 years he has been full time.

They operate from The Beacon, Bloom St M1 3LY.

They take volunteers, working in sessions from Monday to Friday 10 – 1.30 and 1.30 to 4.00.

They also are open for assistance till 9.00 pm Mon to Thursday.

They have a website barnabus-manchester.org.uk and either individuals or churches can pledge support in the 'Homelessness charter.'

Neil had noticed how much homelessness has mushroomed in the last 5 years, probably due to local authority funding and benefits issues.

There are not enough places to accommodate rough sleepers

As well as giving food, in particular breakfasts, and clothing, they have money to provide NHS medical help [via the Lottery] with a nurse, showers and NHS dental help.

The council assist with the cost of a support worker, but they are wary of taking money from this source because of 'strings.'

Their staff work with people at all stages of homelessness, having 2000 contacts last year, with 600 people going into some form of accommodation ranging from a single night in a shelter to a permanent letting.

90% of their contacts are men, and we were shown a video of various men saying what support they had received and what they wanted, often being contact with their families.

Neil commented on the complexity of different stories, but several themes came through of parental rejection, crime, substance dependency, relationship breakdown, distrust and lack of self esteem.

The majority come from impoverished backgrounds, with no social back-up when they fall on hard times, such as we might have.

In answer to a question, Neil said the large number of different charities was on the whole a good thing because each met a different need, whether immediate food, support to get accommodation and a job, being completely 'dry' rehab places or ones limiting drug or alcohol intake, and being Christian and non-Christian.

He described all their work as building trust, even if by sharing a cup of tea and toast.

He thought beggars fall into genuine and non-genuine categories, some not being homeless, and he preferred rough sleepers to come to them or others for food to make links and re-engage, rather than the public to give food or money, which may feed a drugs habit.

He referred to specifically evangelical 'God slot' sessions which a number attend, always voluntarily, and where Steve and Irene Brown link in.

They have a furniture 'up-cycling' place at Sharston/Wythenshawe which provides them with the satisfaction of work.

They also have allotments at the Nazarene college. One man on a video said the plants were his family.

They work with The Message in Wythenshawe.

I picked up a leaflet listing items they can make use of, the one item which must be new being socks.

Barnabus provide a 'care of' address, so the homeless can obtain benefits.

The denial by Trafford of an issue was referred to, and the inability of Manchester Council to help people from Trafford, although apparently the Mayor is trying to iron out the 'cross-border' issues for Greater Manchester.

They can give out vouchers for food banks and they do get nearly 'used by date' food from big supermarkets.

Not a very coherent report, but I felt greatly enlightened by the information I obtained.

SPACE ACADEMY AUGUST 2018

Jill Fielding

A holiday club based on the theme of space was always going to be popular with young and old alike. How was it was to fit in with the bible stories about Daniel was more of a mystery but we managed it.

Space Commander Rev. Richard touched down from his latest mission each day, wearing some improbable hairstyle and in his Yankee twang told the next story about Daniel. The children were happy to assist in the telling by taking on the roles of the main characters and were soon familiar with Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and King Neb(uchadnezzar).

Day 1 we helped the children make jet packs out of the 2litre bottles that you had supplied, which had been sprayed silver. They were then able to wear them on their backs to sing the Space Academy theme tune for the rest of the week, which was still going round in my head the middle of the following week. There were lots of exciting crafts, songs with actions, games, races and quizzes. More than 40 young people came along, split among 4 groups. Ours was Neptune and there were two of us to look after the children. It was rewarding to share in their excitement as they came in each morning. We would love to have more people involved. My helper was Carol Gilbert who is brilliant at craft ideas from her work with Cubs. Ask her about making a rocket from a single sheet of A4 paper and a straw to launch it.

Thanks to Nick for masterminding the week, to Dee joint presenter, Liz and everyone else involved. The snacks were special, nobody was expecting the strawberry and marshmallow rocket kebabs. It was a lot of fun. Please get involved next year if you can. The service on the Sunday following the holiday club was an opportunity to welcome the families into our church and tell them something of God's love for them. It was a happy celebration of all that had been achieved during the week.

FUN DAY 4/8/18

Sue Jackson

Thank you to all those 'young at heart' aged 1-100 who came to our Circuit FUN DAY on Saturday 4th August. What a time we had! We pre-warned the neighbours about the noise and they said 'go for it' so we did!!

Stalls included:

Produce and Plants – Sinderland

Cakes – Partington

Tombola and bric-a-brac – Trinity

Cards and Toiletries - Sale Moor

Barbecue and refreshments – The Avenue

Books and Chilli Jam – Kingsway Fellowship

Pat was on Jewellery and Tudor and Margaret on Games

Glayne was on fruit and Richard (in the stocks) got soaked to the skin with wet sponges. (Hope you got dry in time for your next appointment Richard)?

Keith in his bright yellow jacket was in charge of the car park.

The Barbecue was so popular we ran out of burgers twice and had to send out a search party for more.

The bouncy castle and DJ were a great success and really made the event.

There are so many people we could thank personally, but it was a TEAM effort, how nice to see everyone all joining together to make this such a wonderful event to remember.

Janet says we made a profit of over £900 Wow !!

Roll on the next one. Any ideas for something different ??

Thanks again and love from everyone on the Circuit Team.

EARTHQUAKES IN LOMBOK JULY/ AUGUST 2018

As you know there have now been several earthquakes in the Lombok area.

Unfortunately many people have not only lost their businesses but also their lives. Many of our local staff have been left homeless and with limited access to food and water. It is our goal to be able to support them and help them rebuild their homes and look after their families as much as we possibly can. Donations will be used to rebuild houses and provide immediate care such as food water and medical supplies..

Thank you to everyone who has sent thoughts and prayers our way

If you wish to donate to this appeal please go to

www.gofundme.com/earthquake-relief-for-blue-marlin

Update

The appeal is going really well and we thank you very much for all your support. People on the ground in Bali, the Gili islands and Lombok are collecting items, sorting them and then distributing them to the remote areas. Everyone is working together as a team and the results are amazing. Thank you for your continued support.

Gili is strong, Lombok is resilient. The Dive Community is United. We have never been prouder to be a part of such an incredible dive community.

While the Gili Islands are rebuilding and will be ready to welcome us home soon, our efforts are still focused on our staff in Lombok. We cannot thank you enough for all of your donations, may they be money, items or your time.

Sunday 19th August. We thank you so much for your wonderful donations given during the **Celebrate** service for this appeal. Together with our friends at St John the Divine on Brooklands Road we were able to send over £200

A GOD OF LOVE

(submitted by Peter Worrell)

(From BBC's Sunday Worship)

From start to finish the God of Jonah is a God of love.

It's because of his love that he reveals himself to his people through his prophets and through his word; because of his love he opposes the wickedness in which people live, not knowing where it will lead them. Because of his love he calls us to repent, stop, turn, go another way. Because of his love he gives a second chance. And because of his love he is patient even with a moody, sulky, ungrateful, disobedient individual who just wants to run away and hide. This is the God of Jonah, the God of love.

Hundreds of years after this story was written down, there came another person sent from God to bring his message of love to a rebellious people, and that was Jesus of Nazareth. This messenger didn't try to run away, but came willingly, and just as

Jonah was thrown overboard and spent three days in the belly of a fish, so Jesus willingly accepted rejection and death, spending three days in the darkness of the tomb, before emerging in glory, the risen, conquering Son, the endless victory of the love of God.

NCS (NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE)

Throughout the summer we were able to welcome 2 different groups from the NCS scheme to our building. The first group held a community afternoon tea here and it was well attended by their friends and family and members of the local community. They very kindly gave us a donation after their fundraising week which we thank them for.

ALPHA COURSE

Charlie and Tricia

THE ALPHA COURSE AT THE AVENUE - FOOD, FILM, DISCUSSION

Alpha - the first letter of the Greek alphabet and a universal synonym for a starting point or a beginning.

Three years ago Tricia and I had noticed Alpha banners around some Sale churches and were then coincidentally asked by a member of the congregation at The Avenue if we would like to try the course -no pressure, no pestering, no charge. We agreed to go since the offer provided an opportunity for us to revisit and examine our Christian faith and maybe start again. We are from different traditions but Alpha caters for that, as it does for those with no faith who want to find out what Christianity is all about.

As you know you're a pretty friendly bunch at The Avenue so it wasn't long before we felt comfortable, firstly with the Alpha Team and then the other people on the course. Having a meal together certainly helped the process of building kinship and community through relaxed conversation.

Our first Alpha Course was a series of filmed talks which ran on a Monday evening over a 12 week period. There was a further Alpha Weekend during which we learnt more about the Holy Spirit. This time also served to consolidate the group and we grew in confidence with one another. All of the talks have a question in the title such as:

-Is there more to life than this?

-Who is Jesus?

-How can I have faith?

You know, just the ordinary run of the mill topics that pop into your head in an idle moment! We found that the discussion after the talks was probably the really substantive part of the evening's proceedings and was full of surprises. Really interesting and sometimes inspiring personal testimonies were shared. We might think our own experience of faith, or lack of it, is mundane but to others your story might provide the very trigger which prompts something significant in their lives. In any case the discussion after the film gives everyone the chance to explore some of the big questions without being self-conscious about it, or be afraid to hazard the odd 'heretical' thought. We found that if you'd prefer just to listen that was OK too - although, before long, everyone wanted to give expression to their views. When do we otherwise get the chance or the time to explore the big questions of life? We have now been on three of the courses and have found something different each time whether it answered a new question or helped to a greater understanding of our beliefs.

Some of the congregation at The Avenue have also been on previous Alpha Courses at the Avenue. The new Alpha Course starts in September so you could help by including hope for its success in your prayers. You may indeed want to come along yourselves or know someone who you think may be interested. You would find the new course similar except now there's less an 'address from the pulpit' approach and more an engaging presentation with lots of different characters from various parts of the world giving down to earth opinions and stories. Nonetheless it's not a 'Christianity light' style since Christ's teaching is very much to the fore. In fact what came over time after time was the reaction to Jesus Christ from some people who really had had unfortunate and frankly awful lives and were stunned to learn that someone still loved them – and went even further. He died for them. This was enough for them to turn their lives around, so joyful were they for this magnificent gift of love.

REMEMBER?

Barry Myers

This year we mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. While in some ways the four years since we marked the start of that war have sped by I have also been aware of how long and drawn out its horrors must have seemed to those who were involved, whether on the battlefields themselves or at home fearing news of the fate of their loved ones. In 1918 there was a determination that wars of this kind must never be allowed to happen again – and yet they have happened and with equal or surpassed venom.

Last year Simon Jenkins wrote in The Guardian newspaper under the headline: “No more remembrance days – let’s consign the 20th century to history.” It was strongly worded and all a bit reactionary perhaps, but nevertheless thought provoking. Here are some excerpts:

“Enough of Remembrance Day. The memorial to ‘the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month’ has become a synthetic festival whose time has passed. The wars of the 20th century are beyond the experience of the overwhelming majority of Britons. The composite of the Last Post, ‘lest we forget’ and Oh! What a Lovely War is impregnated with enmity, atonement, forgiveness and self-congratulation. It has been reduced to the compulsory ‘corporate poppy’. We really ought to get over it. Next year (2018) we should draw down the curtain and have a Forgetting Day, a Move On Day, a Fresh Start Day.

“We should not be remembering, but forgetting. Almost all the conflicts in the world are caused by too much remembering: refreshing religious divisions, tribal feuds, border conflicts, humiliations and expulsions. Why else but for memory does Sunni fight Shia or Hindu fight Muslim? India and Pakistan seem unable to get over memories of Partition. What ancient grievances motivated Myanmar’s viciousness against the Rohingya?

“Societies that manage to ‘let the dead bury their dead’, have tended to succeed and move forward. Those that cannot forget, that wander the stony paths of their past and drink at the rancid well of grievance, are those that decay from within. Britain should write the wars of the 20th century into its history books. It should then move on. It is time to remember the future. No more remembrance days.”

I have recently read a short book, “Homes Fit For Heroes” by Trevor Yorke which traces the aftermath of the First World War and the promise of better times for those who had lived through it. It is clear that, though much was achieved, we didn’t always do well with the general resolve from which the book takes its title either.

As a means of reminding ourselves each year of the horror and futility of war it is difficult to argue that the annual act of Remembrance has not been a success. But that success does not appear to have been balanced by a successful promotion of peace as the norm for future generations. So is it perhaps time now to scale down this act of Remembrance? And if so, to what extent? Discuss.

SUMMER TEAS IN THE GARDEN

The Partington Methodist church summer teas in the garden have been going on for over thirty years now from when they started. The teas were initiated by men who came up with an idea of coming and having teas/coffee in the church garden for five Tuesdays during summer. The aim was to just spend sometime and having a chat over a cup of tea/coffee.

The women after a year offered to make scones for the men to have with their tea/coffee for some time it was only men then slowly women joined them that is how the teas developed. Every year people from Partington community came along and slowly the teas developed to what they have become. Now we have people from other churches coming too and women are on the whole in the majority of those who come.

Partington Methodist church never understood this as a mission programme but rather as the church's way to offer hospitality to the community beyond its walls. It is encouraging that people from other churches in our circuit come every year which is appreciated and people have got to know each other well. What the teas have revealed is that it gives people who live on their own, an opportunity to come and enjoy the company of others once every week during the summer.

For Partington church this is the highlight of the year in the church's programme, the members take it in turn to bake 4 dozen scones for every Tuesday. As the church has grown small in number summer teas is something the church loves and enjoy doing, we thank God that we are able to continue to do this and share God's love this way.

THOUGHTS

We cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must his/her own improvement and at the same time, share a general responsibility. For all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful! (Marie Curie 1867-1934)

URBAN GYPSIES

The group “Being There” meet every other Tuesday at the Salvation Army building on Ashton Lane in the afternoon. They have various activities and also days out, this year they went to Llandudno.

We all sat down chatting to our neighbours, wondering what the afternoon would bring and 2 ladies and a gentleman in very fine attire walked in. The ladies head dress consisted of feathers, jewels, beads and flowers. Their costumes were in vibrant colours of orange, yellow, black and brown with various necklaces and bangles.

First of all we went to Hawaii with them after they had handed out the obligatory garlands of flowers to wear. They started with the Coconut song and moved through to Hula man and then with a change of pace we went to “Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye”, “It’s a long way to Tipperary” “The Siegfried Line, “Que sera sera” and several others. All this time the ladies were dancing and encouraging the audience to join in with the songs or hand actions etc. Later on we were singing “That’s amore” “Lets get together it will be alright” and “By the rivers of Babylon”.

The afternoon was rounded off with tea and cream cakes or juice if you preferred as the weather was so hot. If you want to know more about the “Urban Gypsies” look in a search engine for their name as they appeared on Britain’s got talent some years ago

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS GROUP NEWS JULY 2018

Audrey Binch

We’ve been quite busy in the last few months.

Our first Coffee Morning on May 11th was quite successful, raising £200 for church funds. We had some stalls including bric &, of course, cakes!

The next one will be on December 7th to coincide with setting up the Christmas displays. This will include a toy sale as well as craft stalls.

Thanks to all who donated bags of clothes. The collection was on 25th May & raised £132.20. Well worth it & we’ll be doing it again probably in the autumn, so save all your bobby jumpers.

The circuit Family Fun Day is August 4th. The A & E group will be helping with organisation.

October 20th is the Fashion Show by “Colours”. It was super last time & we hope that all the ladies will buy tickets. Look out for the posters. Again, we are sharing this event with Sale Friends of CRUK. Last time each group raised £500.

We hope to see Jeffrey Makinson doing an organ recital some time next spring. Jeffrey is very kindly donating his time free of charge to raise funds for the church.

If you have any ideas about events that you would like us to organise, please do let me know.

Many thanks.

LEGO CLUB 5TH JULY

We all met for the usual Lego club on Thurs 5th July 3.30-4.30 and refreshments were provided as usual. Hot and cold drinks together with slices of melon, raisins and satsumas. However the highlight of the day was when Nick made the announcement part way through our meeting that lollies (Mini milks) were available. That just shows what a fabulous summer we have had when ice lollies are part of the refreshments!!

MEET CHLOE

The Kings Cross Church received a grant of £30,000 over 3 years. This pays about one third of the annual cost of employing Chloe. “Without the grant, the whole of the work would not be possible” says Richard Iball the senior steward at TKCC.

“I had never imagined working for a church but this job was perfect for me” says Chloe, who started working at TKCC a few months after finishing university. “I love working with children, young people and families, so I feel really blessed to be here”.

TKCC runs ‘The Junction’ a drop in advice centre in the most deprived part of Hexthorpe. Chloe does 2 sessions a week there and also helps run the ‘Time for Jesus’ after school sessions that are mostly attended by Roma children. “Chloe is fully engaged with the life of TKCC and the work in and around the Hexthorpe area” Richard Iball says “Other churches have seen what is happening; one has appointed its own worker and another is considering it.

“One young man met Chloe during a session of coffee and cakes outside The Junction and has never ceased attending worship morning and evening since then. His first visit to worship was his first ever to any church. He is now a member of the church and helps with other activities”

“I feel blessed to be working at such a good church “ says Chloe. “our mission at TKCC is “to make Jesus known “ and everyone is very outreach focused. Everyone gets involved and works hard to spread the good news of Jesus!”

“It’s not an ordinary job. Every day is different and you never know what to expect. But that’s what makes it fun and it’s exciting to see what God will do!”

OCTAGON SINGERS

Harvest festival rehearsals will be held on Friday evenings from 4.30-5.30pm on Sept 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.

FROM THE SALAMANS

Dear friends,

Just a very brief update.... We praise God that Paul got through the BAP (Bishop's Advisory Panel) and has been recommended for training for ordination. He will begin training in September based at St. Mellitus College in Plymouth. Thank you for all your prayers as he has gone through this process. Please continue to pray for him now as he is looking for the right local church where he will do a placement during his study.

Christine is enjoying her new job at the Eden Project working with the "Deep Roots, New Shoots" project, engaging Grandparents and their grandchildren in creative and educational play at Eden. It is a wonderful place to work.

We had the honour of being invited to the Queen's garden party last week, representing CMS. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

We have also been enjoying this beautiful weather on some of the lovely beaches here in Cornwall.

Once again we thank you all for your continued support and prayers.

God bless you

Christine, Paul, Daniel & Isaac

THE STORY

In the beginning I was here with a plan, I embraced it and love it, it was my first gift - a beautiful world

Light, land, trees, flowers, sky, sea, living creatures, it was perfect

Then I created man and woman, my masterpiece to love each other and care for the world. I loved them most of all, but when I gave them a choice they turned away from me, we were driven apart.

For generations they spoilt, corrupted damaged, hurt. I stepped in and became a man human, fragile, mortal - Christ.

They could not bear to see such love so they humiliated and killed me, with nails, with thorns, with hate, but death could not hold me, I rose. My life built a bridge so that nothing now stands between them and me, you and I

THE REST

When all things were complete, I rested

Not because I was weary, but so that you could rest too and take time just to be yourself

You are precious beyond words, priceless just as you are

I love you, every particle, every fragment, every detail, every smile, every tear

When you fell unloved, when you don't love me, still I love you

I came for you, I am here for you always, come to me and find rest.

These words together with immaculate stitching of words and pictures greeted us as we entered **Wimborne Minster St Cuthburga in Dorset**. What a wonderful sight this was. More stitching was in evidence with the kneelers on display covering a number of subjects including matrimony, toddlers, remembrance day, Christmas, the creation etc etc

The volunteers on duty that day in July were very helpful and willing to answer questions about the display. There was also a very full gift shop of very varied items.

LIVING WATER

Rev Dr John Taylor

(John began his ordained ministry as a probationer in the Sheffield, Carver Street, Circuit before coming to Partington in the Sale Circuit. He served as President of the Methodist Conference in Britain in 1997/ 1998)

It doesn't take many days of dry weather in this country before we have a hose-pipe ban and cannot water the lawn or wash the car. Most of us take for granted that we have on tap clean water. We forget what a privilege it is. We do not often stop to appreciate the army of workers whose job it is to ensure the quality of what we drink. We do not live with the threat of water-borne diseases. We have confidence in the purity of the product and its availability. We do not have to walk miles to scoop water from a polluted puddle and then carry it home to supply our every household need. When we lived in the Ivory Coast our water was first filtered through a clay candle, then boiled and bottled and put in the fridge. This was the water used to clean our teeth and to wash lettuce in a solution of potassium permanganate. Unfortunately it made the edges of the lettuce go brown. After all this palaver it did not look very inviting. When we came home on furlough our delight was to

play with the light switches and to run the water to splash it on our faces. Such was the pleasure of having pure, clean water. That is what the Bible calls 'living water' and that is what Jesus is said to offer. It comes with a guarantee that what is available is wholesome, life-giving and life-enhancing. It will promote growth and refreshment. We ought not to take it for granted any more than we do the H₂O from the tap. Jesus offers this living water, his constant presence which refreshes us each day. Forget to water the plants on the window sill and they wither and die. The consequences are no less dire if we lose contact with the living source of life.

PEOPLE OF MOTCOMBE

It grieves me very much to see that so few of you come to Church on Sundays. It is distressing that the word of God should be read and preached plainly and clearly to almost empty seats and that the church built for your use should be so neglected by you

Five and thirty years ago the people of Motcombe were starving for want of work and lived in miserable hovels, now they have comfortable cottages not overcrowded and good gardens. They had no schools, now they have three and the children are educated with out paying anything, this is not the case in other villages. Now they have plenty of good water within reach of each cottage, formerly they had to fetch it from holes by the roadside and in summer sometimes there was none. Besides this, in illness they have every necessary provided for them (which is not the case everywhere)

The people of Motcombe should remember these things and I think they should feel that they ought to come to church to thank God for all these mercies; and they ought to come to church for these good reasons

- 1) Because it is their duty to God
- 2) Because if they never go to church they run the risk of never going to heaven
- 3) Because when death is at hand they will wish they had served God better and it will then be too late
- 4) If they forget God he will forget them

I ask you to think of all this and when you have read this letter do not put it aside and say "all this is very true and I wonder why my neighbour never goes to church, he ought to go" and say "I wonder why I never go to church, I ought to go and I will go and thank God for all the blessings I enjoy"

This article was seen in the museum at Shaftesbury close to where the Hovis advert was filmed in the 1970's
It is a free museum and is well worth a visit

THEY'RE AS READY AS THEY'LL EVER BE

Rev Dr John Taylor

(John began his ordained ministry as a probationer in the Sheffield, Carver Street, Circuit before coming to Partington in the Sale Circuit. He served as President of the Methodist Conference in Britain in 1997/ 1998)

There are times in our lives which are well worth remembering and celebrating. In July 2018 I received a letter from the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela Youngson, congratulating me on the Golden Anniversary of my ordination. It is 50 years since, in 1968, I was received into Full Connexion and authorised to act as a Methodist minister. I was 30 years of age and had already been in the full-time service of the Methodist Church as a lay mission partner since I was 23. I remember that at my ordination in Bowes Park Methodist Church, the congregation was invited to acclaim the new ministers by shouting: 'They are worthy.' I did not feel worthy and I do not feel worthy, even after 50 years of experience. If there is any worthiness to recognise it can only be by the grace of God. I have always been a little overawed that anyone should dare to say that I am 'worthy' of anything let alone being ordained. This is not out of any misplaced modesty. Credit where credit is due. I can live with that. But ministry is not an achievement. It is first 'calling' and secondly 'gift'. God calls and God supplies the resources. If there is any worthiness it belongs to God. After all, the root of the word 'worship' is 'ascribing worth' to God, where it can properly be attributed. Perhaps the congregation at an ordination service might be invited to shout: '**They're as ready as they'll ever be**' but even that could only be said if it implies that there is room for improvement because none of us at the outset can be considered the finished product. There is always a gap between what we ought to do and what we in fact manage to achieve. That is true of most fallible human beings, ministers included.

MINISTRY, MANAGEMENT AND MISSION

Barry Myers reports on the July meeting of the Church Council

Each meeting of our Church Council has an agenda divided into sections concerned with Ministry, Management and Mission. You could argue from this ordering of sections that the most important items are left until last, and you would probably be right. Important as worship, fund raising events, finance, property matters and legal compliance are, it is in our mission as a Christian fellowship that we find our *raison d'être*.

Such matters as Alpha @ The Avenue, outward facing worship activities such as our Celebration services and annual activities such as the Holiday Club and Light Party are a vital part of our response to the Mission Statement adopted by Sale Methodist Circuit as a guide for the churches within our Circuit, including our own.

The outreach of individual members of our church congregation is no less important than what we seek to do as a fellowship at The Avenue. Part of this aspect of outreach has been the work which Rev Richard Jackson has been involved in as Director of the Cliff College International Training Centre (CCITC) over the last 16 years in providing training for ministers, bishops and other church personnel in their own countries: Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Uganda. The Avenue Church both as a fellowship and as individual members has provided financial support over a number of years and indeed one member, Peter Worrell, has participated as a course tutor in training offered in those African countries. The Church Council like so many other groups and individuals has been shocked to learn that the work of CCITC was summarily “paused” by the Cliff College management team in June, pending a review. This was done without any consultation, in particular with the Director, Richard Jackson. They therefore agreed to send the following resolution to Cliff College, prepared for their consideration by Albert Graham:

“The Church Council of The Avenue Methodist Church, Sale, wishes to comment on the recent developments in the Cliff College International Training Centre.

1) This Council deplores the un-Christian action that has been taken to stop the work of the ITC ‘with immediate effect.’ This decision has been taken without consultation with the Rev Dr Richard Jackson who has instigated and promoted the mission work in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Uganda for the last 16 years. Those who have stopped the work have done it without considering the devastating effect on Richard, his wife Carole and the many people recruited as tutors over the years, including our own member Sir Peter Worrell (title awarded by the Methodist Church Nigeria). To say that the work is ‘paused’ is only to add insult as Richard already had plans in progress for this year and next year. So why could those plans not go ahead before any review was carried out?

2) This decision has been taken without reference to the many organisations and people who have given money to finance the ITC (including money voted for by this Church Council). If the money given specifically for ITC work in the three African countries is diverted by Cliff College to some other use then that amounts to dishonesty – if not fraud or it should be refunded to the donors

NEWS SPREAD ALL AROUND

I spent ten happy years attending The Avenue Church with my dear friends Kath and Dorothy Ball. I enjoyed many happy times at the church particularly the musical events. The people were always so friendly and I still cherish the memories.

I left the area seven years ago and in all that time Joan has kept me up to date with all that’s happening by sending me the monthly newsletter.

I look forward to receiving it every month and thoroughly enjoy reading it and keeping up to date with all the news and events

Thanks to Joan for keeping me informed I really do appreciate it.
Love and kind wishes, *Ruby Smith (Grantham)*

THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who attended the coffee morning on Aug 16th at the home of Derek and Barbara. There were several stalls with home made produce together with jewellery stalls and the raffle. Delicious scones were served alongside tea and coffee and many people met up with old and new friends for a chat in the garden. We raised £ 800

Many thanks again to all those people who have contributed to this latest newsletter, we really do appreciate them.

THOUGHTS

I know not by what methods rare
But this I know – God answers prayer
I know not when he sends the word
That tells us all fervent prayer is heard
I know it cometh – soon or late
Therefore we need to pray and wait
I know not if the blessing sought
Will come in just the way I thought
I leave my prayers with Him alone

Whose will is wiser than my own

The Avenue Methodist Church exists to worship God in a relevant way; deepen and strengthen our spiritual life; offer Christian salvation, fellowship and service within the wider community.

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Rev Richard Mottershead, Christine Ashton, Stephen Carter, Ann Turnbull

Submission of contributions

Articles should not exceed the equivalent of two pages of A5 (approximately 800 words). Shorter articles are preferred. Ready typed or word processed pages are welcomed—they can be scanned to save re-typing. Computer files sent by email to the church as Microsoft Word documents (.DOC), or in text (.TXT) or rich text format (.RTF) are best if you have Internet access. Unfortunately illustrations in the form of your own drawings or photographs cannot be used at present. Please send to cashton.03@hotmail.co.uk

We extend a warm welcome to all who wish to worship God in this place. We are very pleased to welcome young children into worship. A small play area is available at the back of the church for use at any point if wished. Please ask any steward for information about facilities provided for young people, including the *Beginners* who meet every Sunday morning. Celebrate is at 9.30 on the first and the third Sunday in the month led by Nick and Dee

WORSHIP IN Sept/Oct Please see the Plan

The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue of the Newsletter is
18th October