

## **A letter from the proverbial pews – August 2022**

Daily newspapers often entitle this 'the guest column'; that is, written by someone else in the absence of the regular correspondent. At the foot, it is simply recorded, 'so-and-so is away'. In our case the Revd Andrew Emison has been away, first on sabbatical and then on holiday, and we shall welcome him back most warmly in September. Of course we have missed him (and he might have missed us too), and yet..... we have not been without ministerial support and pastoral care.

Such is the phenomenal strength and resilience of the Methodist way of working: no church is ever left wanting when its minister is absent, whether through sabbatical, holiday, illness or other commitment. It is a strand of what we call our 'connexionalism'.

We have been immensely grateful for the very short but assiduous ministry of the Revd David Bintliff at Norley from May to July. David has led worship and celebrated Holy Communion, chaired a Church Council and two Pastoral Committees, and responded quickly to calls for pastoral care and advice; he has been readily available at all times, and we record our sincere gratitude to him. As David begins his new appointment as superintendent minister of the Stafford Circuit, we wish him, Gemma, and Caris well in their new surroundings.

Our thoughts turn to Andrew too. At the time of writing (mid-August) we have had no cause to trouble him during his period of sabbatical and holiday. We trust that his time of absence from normal ministerial commitments will have enabled him to achieve what he and Naomi wished at the outset – a mixture of recharging batteries, spiritual reflection, personal relaxation, and eclectic exploration – and that Andrew will feel that it has been a blessing.

However, a word of warning: as many ministers have found, sabbaticals can be cathartic experiences! Come September 1<sup>st</sup> we need to prepare ourselves, not just to welcome Andrew back amongst us, but to be sensitive to his re-entry (and indeed keep in mind his added pastoral responsibilities in Kingsley) and to be open and receptive to fresh insights and inspiration which may have touched him during his recent sojourn.

Of course, we look forward to hearing whatever Andrew wishes to share with us over the coming weeks and months, but all in good time. Let's just be pleased to see him back with us and events – of which there are always plenty in the Autumn – will take their majestic course.

As ever, September heralds the beginning of the new Methodist year, and as Andrew leads worship and celebrates Holy Communion on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>, we can share together as the Norley Methodist congregation in a renewed act of dedication and commitment to God's mission through us in the local community and wider world.

As Charles Wesley so aptly put it, capturing the faithfulness of God, 'we'll praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come'. Amen to that!

*John Bell*

# Pastoral Piece

Greeting everyone, from Bury! I am in Bury spending a lovely weekend with my sister.

The weather continues to be hot and sunny. Hope you are enjoying some of it, I have to be honest and say now I'm older cannot sit in it for long. Myself and the pastoral team hope you are all well. We are only a phone call away if you need us, Sometimes it's good to talk. This year is certainly going by quickly, over halfway through it already. Autumn will soon be upon us. Take care and keep safe,

God Bless you all. I leave you with this poem: -PRAYER ROCK

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I'm your little prayer rock and this is what I'll do. Just put me on your pillow until the day is through.

Then turn back the covers, and climb into your bed,  
And whack, your little prayer rock will hit you on the head.

Then you will remember just as the day is through. To kneel and say your prayers as you had wanted to.

Then, after you are finished, just drop me on the floor.  
I'll stay there throughout the night to give you help once more.

When you get up next morning, CLUNK!! stub your toe so You'll remember your morning prayers before you go.

Put me back upon your pillow when your bed is made, and Your little prayer rock will continue in your aid,  
Because your Heavenly Father cares and loves you so.  
He wants you to remember to talk to Him, you know

(unknown.author)

*Margaret Hogan (Pastoral)*

# The June Church Council Meeting

Our June Church Council was Chaired by Rev'd David Bintliff (in Andrew's absence), and here is a summary of the main points that were discussed and agreed:

- The ongoing issues with planning cover for Sunday services was discussed and this is likely to be an issue for some time. The Church Council agreed that we should hold a conversation with friends at the Hurst, Kingsley, to consider the possibility of occasional joint services.
- Our finances, as a church, continue to be in good order and noted with thanks to everyone and John as our Treasurer.
- The Church Council agreed to proceed with booking a decorator to undertake external decorating of the building in the next year.
- Our outreach in the local community was discussed and some ideas shared for what we might realistically do over the next year. These included continuing to publicise services, possibly some carol singing at the Tiger's Head, running a simple lunch or coffee morning and looking at how we could work towards being an eco-Church as a means of Outreach. Ideas will be discussed more widely with everyone over the next few months – further details will be included in the notices.
- We agreed to organise a music concert as a charity fundraiser, and following the meeting, Michael has arranged this for October. (Further details will be posted elsewhere).
- Revds. David Goodwin and David Bintliff moved from the Circuit in August. A new Deacon will be taking up post (based in Chester) from September – though the shortage of Ministers will require some changes in the Circuit.
- Some national changes due for discussion at the Conference, may affect smaller churches in the Circuit and how they operate. The changes are unlikely to affect Norley, and further details will be reported from the Circuit as decisions are taken nationally.
- As part of our relaxation of Covid measures, we are revising the booking system for accessing the church building. As a temporary measure, a paper calendar has been placed on the noticeboard in the Open-Door room. This will be checked regularly by the Church Council Secretary for clashes – so please try and keep it up to date! The need for leaving 24 hours between different people access the building was agreed to be no longer necessary. We hope to move this to an online diary quite soon.
- The next Church Council meeting will be on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

*Lesley Gough, Church Council Secretary*

# First Wednesday Walks



Nine of us took part in the First Wednesday Walk on 1st June. Organised by Vaughan the group followed the "Marbury Lady Sculpture Trail".

This Trail was set up in 2020 by a team of contemporary artists from all over Cheshire, collectively known as the 'Textile in the Park' group, Working with recycled materials the artists have created a sequence of exhibits which celebrate the history of Marbury hall and in particular the ladies who lived there.

One striking sculpture, a tall tree carving bears two faces of the Marbury Lady, one proud and regal the other depicting her sad demise. The twelve sculptures arranged around the park made for an informative and interesting Wednesday walk.

Models of Spinner and Bergamot, the Marbury family's favourite horses reminded us the that lunch was calling and we dined at the pub of that name in Comberbach.

*Picture and words from Garry (the photo is a mirror image of reality. Richard was on the right)*

The **July Wednesday walk** was led by Sheila and Peter. Thirteen walkers and Sheila on her tricycle started from the car Park on Yeld Lane, Kelsall. Proceeding down Forest Gate Lane we carried on into Nettleford Wood and climbed to the view point on Pale Heights, where we stopped for coffee.

Although we did not visit it, this is close to the Triangulation (Trig) point which marks the 'Delamere Meridian'. This played a central role in the production of the first Ordnance Survey maps that would then remain as the standard until the new National Grid system was introduced in the 1940's. The weather was overcast with occasional attempts at light rain, but the views were still good.





After the break the party divided into two, with some of us taking the longer route round past Old Pale farm, while the less energetic chose a short cut, the two groups meeting up again shortly before reaching the car park. We then drove the short distance down to the Farmer's Arms in Kelsall for lunch.

*Pictures and words by Peter Hills*



In August a baker's dozen of walkers was led by Heather & Anthony around the remainder of the Lymm Heritage Trail. The walk took us through woodlands known as "The Bongs" & past all the remains of Lord Leverhulme's abandoned infrastructure of his proposed involvement into the salt industry in the 1920's.

We progressed, at a leisurely pace, around the Upper Dam, with a few catchup stops before arriving at The Church Green. After a session of musical chairs, we were treated to what could only be described as an "excellent lunch".

*Words and Picture by Anthony Davies*

There will be no First Wednesday walk in September – too many people away - but monthly walks will resume in October. Why not join us? The dates are

Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup>

## Satellites 2022

Summer festivals were always a big part of my faith formation growing up. The first time my youth group went to anything like that was Soul Survivor in 2010, where I first decided to commit myself to God, with the prayer 'Lord, if you show me that you're there, even just once, that'll be enough for me for the rest of my life'. Of course, he did, but thankfully ignored the second half of that prayer, and keeps proving himself a loving and faithful God. I spent the next 10 years, right up to the final Soul Survivor in 2019, as a teen, and then young leader, going to Soul Survivor and experiencing God, and learning about him whilst spending the week in a tent. It really was crucial to my faith journey, and as such, it has been an absolute privilege to take the small group we did this year to the first ever Satellites festival.

Getting there was itself a journey, from finding the funding, volunteers and transport necessary to go, and then trying to organise young people busy with exams to sign up. It wasn't always an easy journey, nor was it certain that we would go, but thanks to the grace of God, we made it,



and on the first evening, amidst my worries of how the group would respond and engage with all that was going on, felt God reassuring me, "You've got them here, now I've got it from here." And boy did he.

The group far exceeded my expectations of how they'd respond, by the end of the week, engaging fully in worship and throwing themselves into dancing and jumping and praising the Lord, and filling their free time with as many seminars as they could fit in. A personal highlight was one of the morning Bible studies we did together in the communal tent, digging deeper into the death and resurrection of Jesus (a side track from the story of Jesus washing Peter's feet), and getting to see a deeper understanding dawn on some of the group's faces - and of course, Molly standing up for the first time to commit herself to Jesus.

There are so many more little stories that on their own would have made the week worthwhile, but I'll let the rest of the group share some of their experiences: -

### Sophie

Satellites has been an amazing experience, especially after Covid to connect with other young people and explore my faith. I have enjoyed lots of talks by Rachel Gardener, Mark O, Martin Saunders and many more. I've enjoyed learning about God in lots of different ways, for example through doing art.

The doughnuts were very delicious, and I hope to go again next year!

### Molly

During my time at Satellites, I have thoroughly enjoyed listening to the sermon speakers, especially Mark O.

Before I came to Satellites, I was a Christian, but a Christian with little knowledge of the Lord God and Jesus. I worshipped and prayed but never knew if I was doing it right.

Coming to Satellites has enabled me to have a deeper understanding and education into prayer, how to talk to friends about my faith, the relevance of the Bible in 2022, and also how to ensure that I keep doing the things that I have learnt from the seminars mentioned above at home.

Overall, I have found a community of like-minded people who love Jesus. I, for the first time in my life, feel closer to God and Jesus than I ever have before and feel more connected to them.

Also, the doughnuts were a plus too. I feel inspired and I have a thirst to know more and to continue my journey.

### Oliver

The first thing that I enjoyed about the week was seeing the amount of young people that were about to find God at the same time, and that I was going to find him for myself.

On this journey throughout the week, we looked at difficult topics in the church, like does the Bible mean anything in 2022. This gave us a different perspective to how it links to everyday tasks. This was a great experience for me and other people in the group to find God and come together after the past testing years.

### Lewis

Satellites has been an excellent and valuable experience. We have all had so much fun, and lots of stories and laughter. Some of the highlights are the morning and evening worship. It has brought me close to the Lord our God, and the music was fantastic. It has reminded me that God is with us always.

The things we got up to besides worship are seminars on things like, 'How to talk to your friends about Jesus' which helped to give us the ideas and confidence to go out and talk to people and spread the word of God. In addition, the seminar 'How to stay in God's orbit after Satellites', gave us wise information and helped us to keep track of our spiritual journey after Satellites.

Overall, Satellites has been an eye opening experience from the point of view of a young adult, due to the fact that it was my first time driving as an adult responsible for others.

Also cooking scrambled eggs. I have really enjoyed Satellites as I have got to reconnect with friends and meet new people. Here's to next year

# Diary

Date		Time	Preacher/ Activity
<b>September</b>			
Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Circuit Service of Welcome to Deacon Suzie Sale at Wesley
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Peter Davidson of Runcorn
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	CLT Meeting Howell Croft
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Scouts meeting in Church
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	District Synod – Market Drayton
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison - Holy Communion
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Pastoral Committee at Howell Croft
		7.30pm	Frodsham MC – Circuit Service for Admission of Michael Gough and Dean Lawson as accredited local preachers
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Revd Ian Rigby of Runcorn
Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Circuit Safeguarding Officers Meeting at Helsby
Thursday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Philip Garner of Norley
<b>October</b>			
Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Decorate the Church for Harvest
Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45am	Harvest Festival – Michael Gough of Norley
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm	Church Council
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	First Wednesday Walk
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison – Holy Communion
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Preachers' Meeting at Saltney
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Music Concert Fund Raiser (doors open 6.30pm)
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	John Bell of Norley
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.45am	Mike Ridley of Bunbury
Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Shoe Box Saturday
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Shoe Box Sunday – Ruth Lane of Norley



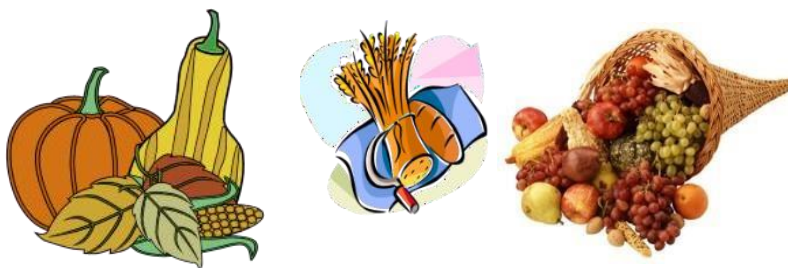
<b>November</b>			
Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	First Wednesday Walk
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Anne Hanks of Runcorn
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday – Revd Andrew Emison
Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Holy Communion – Revd Anne Gibson of Tarporley
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Advent Sunday – Philip Morrey of Christleton
<b>December</b>			
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	First Wednesday Walk

Due to the shortage of preachers across the circuit, and extra services being taken by some of our preachers, there will be no midweek monthly 'Food for Thought' sessions in this quarter. We hope to resume mid-week activities next quarter.

**Come and help decorate the church for Harvest  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 10am - noon**



**Harvest Festival  
Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>**



**10.45am - Worship led by Michael Gough**

# Autumn Concert



presented by

Michael Gough - guitar



Hoppin' Frogs - American, British & Irish folk music

The Keith Singleton Jazz Trio

at

7.00 pm Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Tickets - minimum donation of £7.50, all profits to OPAL

There will be a charity concert at Norley Methodist Church (NMC) on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 7pm to 9pm (doors open at 6:30pm) Michael will be playing compositions from his recent CD release 'The Wynding'. Hoppin' Frogs are a guitar/vocal duo (Colin Lambert and Laurence O'Toole) playing American/British/Irish folk and popular music and The Keith Singleton Jazz Trio will offer a jazz repertoire spanning the 'Great American Songbook', through to modern 'classics' Tickets – available from Michael Gough

OPAL is the charity we have selected from those chosen at the Annual Church Meeting to receive the proceeds from our Autumn concert. The following gives some background on the charity

## Introducing OPAL Services

The aim of OPAL (Older People Active Lives) is to reduce social isolation amongst older people in rural West Cheshire.

The Charity was born in 2011 with the original purpose of managing several day services for older people in rural locations, Over the years this service, has grown into 6 Opal Clubs located in Frodsham, Helsby, Kelsall, Tattenhall, Tarporley and Malpas. The clubs provide a much-valued lifeline, getting people out of their houses and connecting with others for a home cooked lunch, a chat and activities.

The range of services provided by OPAL over the last 10 years has also expanded, and this now includes:

- Opal Go Online Service which offers older people and their carers opportunities to become more confident and competent in using the various types of communication technology – to keep in touch with family and friends and to make some practical everyday tasks such as shopping and banking easier.
- Carers support services including respite breaks to carers and opportunities for carers to connect with other carers and offer mutual support and receive information about other support and services available.
- Branching Out and What's Cooking where we bring people together in informal and welcoming settings, with opportunities to become involved in a variety of local community activities (such as walking groups, art groups, knit & natter).

OPAL relies heavily on the generous gifts and donations to operate its services, and these contributions can make a big difference to what we can provide to support to older people and their carers.

On behalf of all at 'OPAL' we are grateful to all at Norley Methodist Church choosing us as one of your chosen charities for this year.

*Lesley Gough Trustee*

# Property Matters



Since the last Outreach, the hot water in the kitchen has at last been reinstated. The old water heater has been scrapped and 2 in line water heaters installed which do not run out of hot water, but only provide really hot water at a moderate flow rate. Still at least it is done. In addition, the rotten wood in the purlin by the kitchen was repaired. The repair to the Sunday school room ceiling has been held over to the next connectional year.

The main activity has been specifying the external redecoration for August 2023, obtaining 3 quotes from reputable painters and decorators, choosing the best quote, getting church council approval for it and setting a purchase order with Ryan Holland Decorators for the sum of £5430. We await the return of the signed purchase order and then the work is complete.

## Solar Panels Update

The panels continued to perform well over the summer, and in the last 3 months generated a further 1464Kwh of electricity and we received a cheque for that of £912.

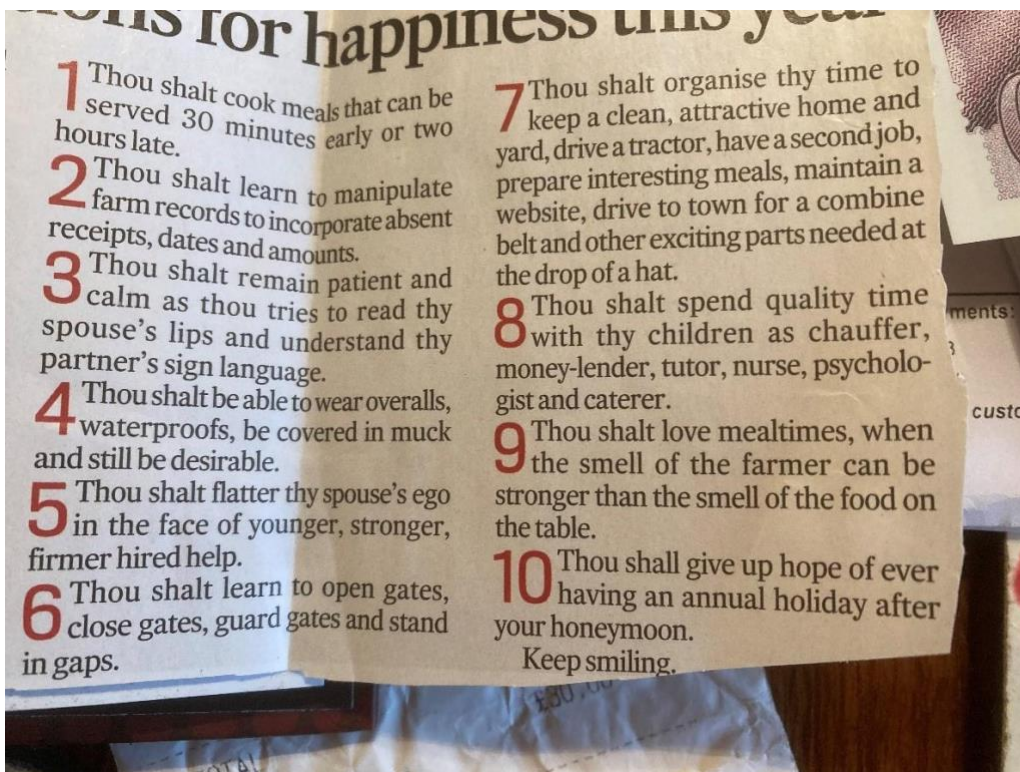
In the 10 ¼ years the panels have been in service we have generated 35464Kwh and have received more than £18,250 return on our investment of £7,500.



Bruce Lane

The article below was sent to me by James with the request that I put it in Outreach

### 10 commandments for Farmers wives



## Shoebox Saturday and Sunday

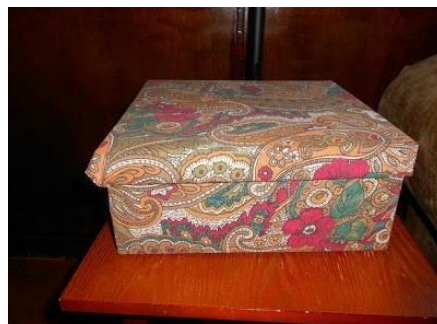
We are able to support, through Operation Christmas Child, those in countries less well off. 'Shoe-box Sunday' will be on October 30<sup>th</sup>. A separate notice gives the arrangements for a coffee morning the day before and how to prepare the shoeboxes. There are ideas below, and information on things that can no longer go in shoeboxes, and some new things that are allowed.

### SHOE BOX SATURDAY

SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

10.00AM TO 12 NOON

JOIN WITH OTHERS IN BRINGING GIFTS FOR SHOE BOXES AND THEN HELP FILL THE SHOE BOXES WHILST ENJOYING REFRESHMENTS



#### **Exciting things** **WOW TOYS**

Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys, toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles, wind up torch, slinky spring, marbles, matchbox cars, etc.

#### **Useful things** **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring books etc.

## COOL GEAR

Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set.

## HYGIENE ITEMS

Toothbrush, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

## Good News – these can now go in shoeboxes

The good news is that we can now put hand knitted and filled toys in boxes, small containers with liquids – like make up, roll on deodorant etc. Everything has to be new or AS GOOD AS NEW. Christmas cards and personal messages some of which may get a response from the recipient

## Bad News – these can't go in shoeboxes

*Due to more stringent import regulations, toothpaste, sweets and chocolates can no longer be included in shoeboxes.*

As before:- used or damaged items, war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives; food items; aerosols, medicines; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers, mirrors or fragile items; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; clothing other than as listed above.

**Shoeboxes for a boy or girl; age ranges 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 years  
or a shoebox for a baby 0-2 years**

# Remembrance Sunday

**1<sup>st</sup> Norley Beavers, Cubs & Scouts Parade  
and Service at Norley Methodist Church  
at 10.45am**



We are hosting the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade Service on November 13<sup>th</sup>. We shall welcome the village uniformed organisations and their families to our morning service led by Andrew.

## Church Rotas

Date	Coffee Rota	Church Stewards	Welcome Stewards	Flower Rota	
<b>September</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mike and Gay	Ruth Hosker & Philip	Joan Barclay	Jean Dunning
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Hazel and James	Ruth H & Bruce	tbc	Alison Twinn
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Di and Richard	Mary & John	Philip Garner	Christine Gleave
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Alison and Yvonne	Michael & Lesley	Judy Smith & Christine Gleave	Di Ramsbottom
<b>October</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yvonne and Vaughan	Philip & Lewis	Mike & Gay	<b>Everyone</b>
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Heather and Anthony	Michael & Lesley	Mary Dimelow	Beryl Richards
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mike and Gay	Ruth H & Mary	John Dimelow	Ruth Hosker
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mary and John	Ruth & Bruce	Hazel & James	Heather Davies
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Hazel and James	Philip & Lewis	Bruce Lane	Hazel Dale
<b>November</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Di and Richard	Ruth & Bruce	Yvonne	Vaughan Wynne
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Yvonne and Vaughan	Michael & Lesley	Ruth Lane	Lesley Gough
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Heather and Anthony	Mary & John	Heather and Anthony	Judy Smith
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Alison and Yvonne	Ruth Hosker & Lewis	Vaughan Wynne	Eileen Burrows