

OUTREACH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM NORLEY METHODIST CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP HOLY COMMUNION BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS WEBSITE

MINISTER

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ONCE A MONTH

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE MINISTER http://www.norleymethodistchurch.org.uk

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Dear Friends,

Many of you will know that Rev Andrew Emison has not been 'on duty' for some months now. He was suspended at the end of March. Initial investigations by the Methodist Church have now concluded; but Andrew will face disciplinary charges, which may take more time to address.

In the light of this, with sadness but by mutual agreement, Andrew's appointment in the North Cheshire Methodist Circuit has been curtailed (ended earlier than expected), with effect from the end of August 2023. This means that Andrew is no longer the minister for Frodsham, Norley, or The Hurst or Blakelees churches in Kingsley.

The earliest time by which we will be able to receive a 'permanent' replacement for Andrew will be September 2024. In the meantime (as elsewhere in the circuit) we are trying to make arrangements to provide some ministerial cover. Our church members are good at offering pastoral care to each other; but where particular needs arise, I can be contacted – and my colleagues and I will respond.

This situation has caused a great deal of sadness for many people: the different members of the Emison family, others directly involved, and those who have appreciated Andrew's ministry over the years. Naomi and the children will continue to live in the manse for the time being and we are doing what we can to support them.

Please pray for all those involved; and for our local church and circuit Leadership Teams as we make plans for the future.

Yours in Christ.

T. Not Stone

Pastoral Piece

Apologies to you all, as this pastoral piece is not up to my usual standard. Sadly, July and into August have been a traumatic time for me.

I can report that our dedicated Norley pastoral team are still doing a fantastic job. Thank you to you all. If we can help you at all just give us a call. They will be pleased to help.

At present the world seems to be in turmoil. The fires due to excessive heat in most European countries, whilst here at home what have we had? Rain, rain, rain. It has not been a very good summer so far; I think June was the best month.

I sincerely hope that you and your are all keeping well.

May god bless you and watch over you.

Until next time take care



Margaret Hogan

Annual Church General Meeting

Our Annual Church General meeting was held on the 11th June and, with agreement of Rev'd Neil Stacey, the meeting was Chaired by John Bell. Fourteen members of our congregation attended.

The main points to share from the meeting are:

Charity donations in the last year: Norley Methodist Church donated a total of £1190 to external charities with the breakdown as follows: OPAL - £730; Salvation Army -



£175; Cheshire West Citizen's Advice (for use in Northwich area if possible) - £175; Christian Aid - £110 (as part of May 2023 appeal)

Marriage license application: Ruth Lane has completed the documentation for a license enabling us to conduct same sex marriages in our building. We expect the process to be complete in the next few months. [It is now complete – August 9 Ruth tells us]

Election of Stewards and Church Council Representatives:

John Dimelow, Mary Dimelow, Lewis Dimelow, Philip Garner, Lesley Gough, Ruth Hosker, Bruce Lane, and Ruth Lane were elected as Stewards. Michael Gough has decided to stand down as a Steward, to enable him to offer more dates to the Circuit Plan as a Local Preacher. We thank Michael for his work as part of the team of Stewards.

Hazel Dale, Oliver Dimelow, Jean Dunning, Michael Gough, Yvonne Roughsedge, Alison Twinn, Gay Wilson, and Mike Wilson were elected as Representatives on the Church Council. Heather Davies has decided to stand down from the Church Council and we thank Heather for the many years of support she has given. It is good to welcome Oliver to the Church Council!

The external charities we will support next year:

Those present unanimously agreed that our external charitable giving and fundraising activities in the next year will be for the Mid Cheshire Samaritans, MHA, and Christian Aid. There will be discussions in the coming months about fundraising activities and which activities will support which of these charities.

Reflection on the last year and a look ahead: As always, the final part of the meeting was a time of reflection on the previous year and a 'look ahead' to the coming year: The monthly coffee morning and soup lunches are now well established and proving popular. Thank you to all who help in many different ways, and all those who attend! There are proposals being considered to update the Open Door Room to make it a more welcoming space for meetings and social activities. The Church Council will be reviewing proposals, quotes for the work, and applications for grants to assist with some of the costs.

Linked to this project, it was noted that we are about to distribute a questionnaire to the local community (via the Norley News and the Village Facebook page), to determine interest in us running a community café in the building. Mike Wilson is leading this project and we expect to be able to share the findings in the early Autumn.

The next Annual Church General Meeting will be held in May 2024.

Lesley Gough (Church Council Secretary)

.Property Matters

It has been a busy time for the property stewards since the last Outreach.

Following last minute PAT (Portable Appliance Testing), which was not before time, and completion of painting the Lounge ceiling and a few other minor paint jobs, the quinquennial inspection took place in July.

We await the report, but the inspector was most complimentary about the state of the church, particularly Lewis' work on the garden.

Shortly afterwards United Utilities were in touch to say that the water leak down High Street which had been running for months



was not due to a leak in the High Street mains, but was from the church, as when our supply valve was closed on Maddocks Hill, the leak stopped. It was coming from our side of the isolation valve. We were without water for one Sunday whilst Shaun was recruited to fix it – which he did very quickly replacing the underground copper pipe in modern day wider bore plastic from near our side door through the Gambrell's garden (where the copper pipe was full of holes). This repair lasted a week before it broke out again, and Shaun had to return, and extend the trench to replace the copper all the way in Gambrell's garden to the end - the water inlet to the toilets and join to the

existing plastic fittings. This work was at our expense and cost £1500, but fortunately was covered by our insurance policy, so we 'only' had to pay the policy excess of £500.

Only 2 weeks later, the property steward received a call to say the lounge floor was full of water. Shaun was again summoned, but the property steward found the tee piece in the lounge which supplied the kitchen was leaking, thought to be due to the higher pressure resulting from the bigger bore plastic supply pipe. Shaun arrived and between us we replaced the tee piece. The underlay and lounge carpet have now been dried out and replaced and all now seems to be well. We certainly hope so.

The long-awaited repainting of the Church exterior started on August 7 and was completed by Friday 11th as the weather was perfect all week, except for the flat roof gutters and the kitchen gable end which will be completed in October once the bees' nest is dormant. The painters have done an excellent job, and we expect the paintwork will not require further work for well over 10 years.

An update on the quotations for upgrading the open-door room will have to wait for the next issue of Outreach.

Bruce Lane

Notes from the Church Leadership meeting on 6 June

The meeting was held to determine proposals to the Church Annual Meeting and the June Church Council, The bulk of the meeting was agreeing the details of content, printing, distribution and collection of the questionnaire to the village about the potential use of the building as a community café, including an electronic survey monkey offering. Updates on the property work were discussed, but is covered elsewhere in this edition. The CLT were also updated on the recent pastoral committee meeting. The CLT will meet again on 14th September.

1st Wednesday Walks

The June Wednesday walk was led by Bruce starting from Bradley Lane, Frodsham. This delightful walk, much enjoyed by the 10 walkers, went through Hob Hey wood down to the Weaver and along to the long forgotten Frodsham lock which was the original exit to the



Mersey from the Weaver Canal and was difficult other than at high tide. lt was replaced by the Weston Point canal after about 10 years, and became a disused backwater. After the lock we returned to the cars

walking along the Frodsham pond trails before lunching at the Carriers. Photo by Garry, words by Bruce

The First Wednesday Walk on July 5th was organised by Vaughan and Garry. Twelve participants were due to take part but at the last minute waterworks problems (with the Chapel not Bruce!) reduced our numbers to ten. The route involved an urban trail of about two miles around the river Weaver and Nantwich lake on the outskirts of the town. The ducks and swans were admired but the

identify the plants.



Photo by Garry, words by Garry & Vaughan showstopper was Anthony's looper caterpillar until we skirted the lake to be met with the wonderful sight of large beds of wildflowers where the experts spent much time trying to

Problems solved, Bruce and Ruth joined us for a welcome lunch at the Barbridge Inn.

Wednesday Walk 2nd August 2023.



The weather for July/August has been disappointing so far & it was with this in mind that 10 of our group ventured up the Wirral. On the journey we ran through several heavy showers which did not seem too promising.

The three cars arrived at Cubbins Green (a secret beauty spot according to the local population) to be greeted with wonderful views across the Dee estuary with a very high tide running in glorious sunshine. The route then took us to the southern end of the West Kirby Marine Lake, with the intention of walking around the seaward side of the Lake. This was made impossible due to the overtopping of the pathway due to the very high tide, so we walked instead along the newly refurbished South Parade, which is now quite impressive.

Here the group divided into two with 7 carrying on through West Kirby to pick up the Northerly end of The Wirral Way. This took us past Ashton Park created in 1899 & back to our cars, by which time we had shed most of our coats & jumpers. We proceeded to the Cottage Loaf for our lunch.

It was good to have been joined by Mary & our granddaughter, Emily, reducing the average age of the group considerably.

A. Davies 3/08/2023

Future walks are

4th October led by Richard & Di

1st November led by Bruce & Ruth

(Please note there is no First Wednesday walk in Septembeer)

Why not join us for a walk in good company?

Church Council Meeting – June 2023

Hot on the heels of our Annual Church General Meeting, we held our June Church Council meeting!

The meeting was Chaired by Rev'd Neil Stacey.

Here are the key points (and trying not to replicate the information covered in other reports!):

 A series of 'monthly 'informal worship' services are being trialled and will be reviewed via the Spiritual Committee in due course. Thanks to Ruth Lane, Michael Gough, John Bell and all contributors for leading these services and being willing to try something different!



• The Church finances continue to be in good order with thanks to all who contribute, and to John Bell for his careful management of our accounts.

- The Quinquennial Inspection of the building was passed with flying colours with huge thanks to our Property Stewards! The exterior of the church is to be decorated in August.
- Initial quotes for updating the Open Door Room and improving insulation in the Church were reviewed and some initial parts of the project will commence over the next few months including removal of the woodwork structure behind the main dividing screen, removal of the noticeboards, boxing in the pipework, removal of the piano and replacement of the door between the Open Door Room and the old Sunday School room with the panelled door from the kitchen
- The regular activities, which support and build fellowship within the Church and with the
 wider community, continue: the annual Christian Aid Campaign, monthly walks, coffee
 mornings and soup lunches, support to the West Cheshire Foodbank and keeping in
 contact via the Outreach magazine and the weekly notices. Thank you to everyone who
 supports these activities.
- The establishment of a community café in the building is being considered. Mike Wilson is leading a questionnaire project about this in the village firstly to find out if there is interest in us setting up a cafe, and also if there are potential volunteers. The findings will be shared, and possible next steps will be discussed in late Summer/ early Autumn.
- Neil reported that discussions have commenced about re-invitation of Rev'd Jo Brown, Rev'd Alison Crookes, and Deacon Tim Coleman, and the outcomes of these discussions will report to the Circuit meeting in September. Non replacement of the Ministers who moved on from the Circuit last year, together with the absence of Andrew Emison, has placed considerable pressure on the Circuit Ministerial team, and this has slowed the progress of the work which had commenced around developing a vision for the Circuit.
- Finally, the possibility of reverting back from use of wafers to bread for Communion was discussed. After some consideration, it was agreed that we should continue to use wafers for distribution in Communion for a further 6 months (though the Minister will break a piece of bread in the Communion prayers), and this will be reviewed again.

Lesley Gough, Church Council Secretary

Norley Church Calendar

September - November 2023

Date	Time	Preacher	Activity		
September					
3 rd	8.30am	Rev'd Charlotte Truman	Early communion service at The Hurst		
3 rd	10.45am	Dr Ruth Lane	Informal Worship at Norley Methodist		
9 th	9.30am		Synod in Dane and Trent Circuit		
10 th	10.45am	Rev'd Peter Levitt	Communion at Norley Methodist		

13 th	7.30pm		Church Safaguarding Officers Meeting at Holshy		
4 4th			Church Safeguarding Officers Meeting at Helsby Methodist		
14 th	7.30pm		CLT meeting at Howell Croft		
16 th	10.00am		Coffee Plus at Norley Methodist		
17 th	10.45am	Mr Mike Ridley	Worship at Norley Methodist		
19 th	7.30pm		Circuit Meeting at Saughall		
20 th	12.15pm		Soup and Pudding Lunch at Norley Methodist		
23 rd	10.00am		Decorate the church for Harvest		
24 th	10.45am	Rev'd Neil Stacey	Harvest Festival at Norley Methodist		
Octob	er				
1 st	8.30am	Rev'd Neil Stacey	Early communion service at The Hurst		
1 st	10.45am	Revd David Copley	Worship at Norley Methodist		
3 rd	7.15pm		Church Council at Norley Methodist		
4 th	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk		
8 th	10.45am	Mr Michael Gough	Informal Worship at Norley Methodist		
11 th	12.15pm		Soup and Pudding Lunch at Norley Methodist		
15 th	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt	Communion at Norley Methodist		
17 th	7.30pm		Preachers' meeting at Oakmere		
21 st	10.00am		Coffee Plus at Norley Methodist		
22 nd	10.45am	Ms Sian Davidson	Worship at Norley Methodist		
29 th	10.45am	Dr Ruth Lane	Worship at Norley Methodist		
Noven	nber	_			
1 st	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk		
5 th	8.30am	Rev'd Alison Crookes	Early communion service at The Hurst		
5 th	10.45am	Rev'd Ian Rigby	Worship at Norley Methodist		
12 th	10.45am	Deacon Tim Coleman	Remembrance - Worship at Norley Methodist		
18 th	10.00am		Coffee Plus at Norley Methodist		
19 th	10,45am	Rev'd Charlotte Truman	Worship at Norley Methodist		
26 th	10.45am	Mr Ken Martin	United Service at Norley Methodist		

29 th	12.15pm		Soup and Pudding Lunch at Norley Methodist			





10.00 - 12.00

Saturday 16th September
Saturday 21st October
Saturday 18th November

No charge – donations welcomed



SOUP & PUDDING LUNCHES - Autumn dates

Wed. 20th September
Wed 11th October
Wed 29th November
(contact
lesley.gough@mail.com
to book your place)





Norley Methodist Church

Food for Thought

Come and enjoy
fellowship, worship and discussion
in the church
at 7.00pm on Wednesdays
this autumn
- dates to be announced

Norley Community Café



The questionnaire was sent out in the July edition of the Norley News where it was delivered to some 590 dwellings in the Norley and Hatchmere areas. We are very grateful to Penny Clarke and her distribution team for enabling this to happen.

With a deadline return date of the 13th August, we have so far received around 70 replies and hopefully this number will increase. We will also be giving the questionnaire a further promotion in the following weeks.

Feedback so far is positive albeit not too many hands have been raised to help run the café, and unless this changes our plans will be restricted.

Once we have gathered all the feedback, we will be looking at various plans and options to drive this initiative forward and will keep you informed.

Mike Wilson

PS The on-line questionnaire can still be accessed and filled after the closing date in via the link https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NorleyCommnuityCafe until the end of August.

Solar Panels Update

The reading for the quarter has just been submitted – and it shows a further 1444Kwh generated in the last 3 months, and the treasurer will shortly receive a payment of over £1000.

In the 11½ years then we have generated almost 40,000Kwh of electricity and will have received more than £21,300 from our investment of £7,500 with another 14 years of generation to get paid for. *Bruce Lane*



Spiritual Committee



Over the last few months, the Spiritual Committee has been supporting the trialling of alternative forms of worship, which has included the use of video and recorded music, sketches, poetry, and other literary forms conducive to worship, discussion, along with an informal layout of our worship area – café style.

This style of service is part of a wider plan, approved by Church Council, to reach-out to people in the village with an updated building (décor, facilities including Internet access), social activities (coffee mornings and soup-lunches), a more contemporary worship offering, and the possibility of a community café located in our Church.

The next Spiritual Committee meeting(s) will reflect on how we are doing, and all feedback is welcome. So, please check the weekly Notices for up-coming dates, and please come along and have your say - there will be tea and biscuits ©



Over recent months, some of you may have visited the Gaia installation that has been touring the country's cathedrals. Lesley and I visited this installation whilst it was in Chester and Durham. The picture (left) is of the Chester installation. It features a large sphere made up of photographs of planet Earth, taken by NASA, suspended within the nave of the church. It was only 1968 when the crew of Apollo 8 took the first full picture of our planet, shown it sitting majestically in the darkness and emptiness of space. The Gaia installation helps us reflect upon our dependency on the planet, which it surely does. But the planet is not God. John's Gospel (1:1-5 NIV) tells us that:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the

beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

In his book 'The Universal Christ', Richard Rhor (a Franciscan Priest) summarises this by saying 'Christ is in everything'; not one thing that was made was made without Him. How fitting then to see our planet suspended within the space of the church.

Let us pray for the people of the world to find love in God's creation, peace towards each other, and generosity in sharing the resources of the world to the benefit of all.

Michael Gough Convener, Spiritual Committee

Cliff Fest - May 2023

By Dean Lawson

This year marks the second year of there being a specific Young Adults stream at Cliff Fest, a festival based in Cliff College, one of the two Methodist training colleges, set in the beautiful Peak District in Derbyshire. This year, as last, I was volunteering with the Young Adults team, attempting to use this space to build up the Young Adults work within the Connexion, and using Cliff Fest as a starting place for connecting Methodist Young Adults across the country.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend, we had lots of different opportunities to connect and work with young adults, ranging from Bible Studies (one of which was led by Rev'd Christine Dutton) and Late Night Worship, to



sofa chats with Aaron Bent, a spoken word artist and poet; Ruth Valerio, Director of Tearfund; Mollie Pugmire, All We Can; and Richard Oppong-Boateng, the Young Evangelism officer at Cliff College. There were as well as many opportunities to socialise.

There was of course, also the opportunity to engage in the main programming of the festival, which had the theme "Eden Restored."

This year I also took along Molly, Lewis and Oliver, and together we had a great time meeting other Methodist young adults, as well as Molly getting baptised, and Lewis and Oliver, renewing their baptismal vows, truly the highlight of the weekend!



"Going to Cliff Fest 2023 will be an experience that I will forever remember. It was the place that progressed my faith journey further as I was baptised. The most memorable aspect of this event, besides the baptism was the bible studies and the guided walk up to the cliffs where there was a beautiful view waiting for us. The bible studies enabled me to speak to other Methodists and hear their viewpoints on different topics." - Molly Vickers





"Cliff Fest 2023 was a peaceful and reflective weekend. I particularly enjoyed doing morning bible studies as it gave us the opportunity to hear what other peoples' thoughts and theories were about the bible. I also enjoyed playing games especially Pictionary." - Lewis Dimelow



The Mid Cheshire Samaritans

One of the charities that Norley Methodist Church will be supporting in the coming year is the Mid Cheshire Samaritans.

Here is a bit of the background to the Samaritans and the work they do...

Although not a religious organisation, Samaritans was founded by a vicar



called Chad Varah, in 1953 in London. Throughout his career Chad had offered counselling to his parishioners and wanted to do something more specific to help people contemplating suicide.

On 2nd November 1953, Chad Varah, a vicar and writer-cartoonist, answered the first ever call to a brand-new helpline for people contemplating suicide. In Chad's own words, the service was just "a man willing to listen, with a base and an emergency telephone".

On 2nd November 1953, Chad started taking calls. This date is recognised as Samaritans' official birthday. Chad knew the service would only work if people knew about it and luckily his work writing and illustrating articles for children's comics meant he had contacts at many national newspapers.

In December 1953, just a month after launching, the Daily Mirror coined the phrase, 'Telephone Good Samaritan'. Although Samaritans is not a religious organisation, the name stuck, and word spread far and wide.

Chad and his secretary, Vivan Prosser, received calls from people who needed support on the phone and face to face, and from many people who wanted to volunteer. The power of volunteers – to listen, confidentially and without judgement – turned out to be the real strength of the service. In February 1954, Chad handed over the task of supporting the callers to volunteers, and Samaritans as we know it today was born.

The Mid Cheshire branch of the Samaritans has been supporting people since 1964. In a typical year they offer emotional support in person, by telephone, by email and by text to over 22,000 people in the local area going through a tough time. They are a self-funding branch and rely on the local community to support the work that they do.

Norley Methodist Church Preachers, Stewards and Musicians

September - November 2023

	Preacher			Stewards	
Date		Special	Music	Church	Welcome
September					
3 rd	Ruth Lane	LA	John	Bruce, Ruth H	Joan
10 th	Peter Levitt	Communion	Lesley	Ruth L, Lesley	Philip
17 th	Mike Ridley		Jean	Philip, John	Wilsons
24 th	Neil Stacey	Harvest	Saro	Lanes	Dales
October					
1 st	David Copley		Jean	Philip, Mary	Yvonne
8 th	Michael Gough	LA	John	Lewis, Philip	Mary
15 th	Sue Levitt	Communion	Jean	Mary, John	Lewis
22 nd	Sian Davidson		Jean	Lanes	Yvonne
29 th Ruth Lane			A Wright	Bruce, Ruth H	John D
November					
5 th	5 th Ian Rigby C		John	Philip, Lewis	Vaughan
12 th	Tim Coleman	Coleman Remembrance Lesley Lesley,		Lesley, John	Alison
19 th	Charlotte Truman	Charlotte Truman Lesley		Lesley, Ruth H	Davies'
26 th	Ken Martin	US at Norley	John	Lewis, Mary	Ruth H

Norley Methodist Church Rotas September - November 2023

Date		Preacher	Special	Flowers	Coffee
September	3 rd	Ruth Lane	LA	Eileen Burrows	Di & Richard
	10 th	Revd Peter Levitt	Communion	Ruth Lane	Mike & Gay
	17 th	Mike Ridley		Joan Barclay	Heather & Anthony
	24 th	Revd Neil Stacey	Harvest	Everyone	Mary & John
October	1 st	Revd David Copley		Diane Ramsbottom	Peter & Sue
	8 th	Michael Gough	LA	Alison Twinn	Vaughan & Yvonne
	15 th	Revd Sue Levitt	Communion	Beryl Richards	Hazel & James
	22 nd	Sean Davidson		Christine Gleave	Di & Richard
	29 th	Ruth Lane		Ruth Hosker	Alison & Yvonne
November	5 th	Revd Ian Rigby	Communion	Heather Davies	Heather & Anthony
	12 th	Deacon Tim Coleman	Remembrance	Lesley Gough	Mike & Gay
	19 th	Revd Charlotte Truman		Gay Wilson	Mary & John
	26 th	Ken Martin	US at Norley	Sue Levitt	Vaughan & Yvonne