

Dear Friends

September 2024

Sue and I did not hesitate when our Chair of District asked us to help out over the next connexional year because of the shortage of presbyters and it was obvious to us to offer to look after you, here at Norley. You know Sue, of course, but we thought it sensible for me to write this Minister's Letter so that I could introduce myself. I am happy to do this and hope to serve you through leading worship and chairing some of the meetings as we look to the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us over the next twelve months.

My first love was science, and I remember clearly being determined to buy a 'coffee table book' entitled 'The Explosion of Science'. I saved up my pocket money and it is a treasured possession, and I still have it. I gained a place at the University of Durham to read Applied Physics and Electronics. The Methsoc in Durham in the 1970s was strong and lively with membership around 150 and going out in worship teams with a local preacher to help lead worship sowed the seeds for me which resulted in a call to train to be a local preacher.

Most of the training was done in Cambridge when I moved there to undertake research in physics at the Cavendish Laboratory. The PhD was awarded in 1979, and I had completed the local preacher's training by then. It was near the end of my time doing the research, when I was considering what to do next, the Methodist minister who looked after all in Methsoc sidled up to me and ask if I had considered candidating for presbyteral ministry. All I could do was 'test' what appeared to be a 'call' to ordained ministry.

The outcome was acceptance and a three-year training programme at Wesley House in Cambridge. I asked if I might gain some 'real world experience' in a circuit somewhere. This was agreed and the Coventry Mission Circuit welcomed me as Assistant Minister. One of my responsibilities was to look after the members of Methsoc who met at the Central Hall on Sunday evenings and also serve as Free Church Chaplain at the University of Warwick. Sue was given the task of introducing me to the other students and as you can see, she went above and beyond what she was asked to do. We fell in love and Sue has been looking after me ever since! I think we make a good team.

My 36 years in circuit ministry has been varied and rewarding in many ways. Membership of the Society of Ordained Scientists since the late 80s has enriched my ministry. Family has provided so much joy and living in Frodsham makes it easy to keep in touch with our three children and four grandchildren. Since 'sitting down' I have learnt to scull, having learnt to row in eights in Cambridge, and so can go out on a river in a single as well as 'crew boats' such as doubles and quads. It's great fun and good exercise so I hope to be able to continue for many years. If I can have two outings each week, I'll be happy.

Sue and I feel settled in Frodsham and with you at Norley MC. We will do all we can encourage and help you face whatever future God has in store for us all. Thank you for making me feel so welcome and at home here, your love will make a difference as we move forward together. I will be spending a small amount of time helping the people at Oakmere MC as they look to the future and your prayers for them will be appreciated. Every blessing.

Rev Dr Peter Levitt

*Peter*

# **Pastoral Piece**

Hello Dear Readers,

When Bruce contacted me for this piece for the Autumn Outreach Magazine. I thought he was kidding!! but then I realised we are already into August, so when you get your issue we will be in Autumn [not long till Christmas].

I hope since our last issue you have all kept safe and well. It saddens me that the same cannot be said for the things that have happened nearer to home. We pray for the people and especially for the families who lost loved ones in Southport.

On a brighter note our Pastoral team continue to give support and help when needed. We are also pleased to welcome back Rev. Sue Levitt to the fold. Sue is going to be doing any pastoral visits required so once more our team is complete.

As I said at the beginning [Autumn] where has this year gone! We can boast we have had some lovely sunny days, but then it goes and spoils it by several days of rain. We don't get the summer weather like we used to know. I sincerely hope that you and yours keep well. God Bless you all.

I will leave you with these words.

*Tomorrow is the most important thing in life.*

*Comes into us at midnight very clean.*

*It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands.*

*It hopes we've learned something from yesterday.*

*John Wayne ( 1907-1979)*

Blessings to you all.

*Margaret Hogan*

The Pastoral committee proposed to the CLT that 7 of our members had ceased to meet and should be transferred to the community role. The 7 members were discussed at length individually at the CLT who agreed that all 7 needed to be kept on the community roll, from which readmission to membership is very straightforward, and those that wished to receive or continue to receive Outreach would be most welcome. The CLT felt wherever possible or appropriate, the move to the community role should be with the individual's consent and identified the church council members who were asked to confirm the individual's consent in 3 cases before they were moved to the community role. For the other 4 consent had already been obtained in one case or was considered unnecessary for the other 3.

These proposals were presented to the Church Council who agreed that the 7 members could be moved onto the community roll in time for the October count provided individual consent had been obtained in 3 cases. The 4 transfers to the community roll agreed by the Church Council have been made, and 2 further transfers have subsequently been agreed. The 7<sup>th</sup> person had been written to and a reply is awaited.

Sue Levitt attended the last Pastoral meeting and will be a regular member, taking over from Neil the ministerial visits that the pastoral committee identified as needed. She was warmly welcomed and thanked for the work she had already done with the Salters and the Dales.

*Bruce Lane*

## **Congratulations to ....**

- **Hazel Dale** on reaching **80** years young on 29<sup>th</sup> July
- **Lucy and Anna** on the occasion of their marriage at Norley Methodist Church on May 18.  
*The Church was full to capacity with their families and friends, and the very joyous service was officiated by Rev'd Neil Stacey. We wish Anna and Lucy all the very best for their future together.*
- **Luke Smith** on his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday

## **Welcome ....**

- To **Margaret Clarke** who has recently moved into Delamere Park and has started to attend services at Norley.

## **Thanks ....**

- To **Peter and Sue Levitt** for taking on the task of looking after us as our ministers for the next year in the absence of a rural ministerial appointment in the circuit.
- To **Eileen Burrows** for taking on a round for the distribution of Outreach.
- From **Hazel Dale** for all the cards, flowers, wishes and treats on her birthday.

## **In Our Thoughts ....**

- **Shelagh Salter** whose health is failing, and she is adapting to life without John.
- **Anne O'Brien** and family and friends following the death of **Jim O'Brien** on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Jim and Anne were one time members of the walking group forming latterly its motorised division.
- **Joan Barclay** who is unwell

- **Jean Dunning** who is awaiting dates for a hospital cataract operation because of her allergic reaction to certain medications
- **Margaret Hogan** who spent a week in hospital though she is home now (and thanks to Margaret Harrington for her care then and since)
- **Mike and Gay Wilson** following their daughter **Amy's** cancer operation and **Gay's** own eye problems.
- **Rajan and Saro** following the death of Rajan's sister in Toronto. They were able to go over for the funeral.
- **Ruth and Bruce** who returned from holiday with Covid but have now recovered.

**Please remember them in your prayers**

## **Annual Church Meeting**

Our Annual Church Meeting, held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June, was attended by seventeen of our members and was Chaired by Rev'd Neil Stacey.

Those present voted unanimously for the following people to be Church Stewards from September 2024: John Dimelow, Mary Dimelow, Lewis Dimelow, Philip Garner, Lesley Gough, Ruth Hosker, Ruth Lane and Bruce Lane. We also unanimously agreed for the following people to be representatives from the Church on the Church Council: Hazel Dale, Oliver Dimelow, Jean Dunning, Yvonne Roughsedge, Alison Twinn, Gay Wilson, Mike Wilson.

There was some discussion about the external charities we should support in the coming year, and we agreed that we will support the 'Lifted' charity (based in Wythenshawe) and the North West Air Ambulance. Fundraising events including, hopefully, a concert early in 2025, will be organised to raise monies for us to donate. We will also extend our support for the Foodbanks next year, by sharing the donated funds raised through Carol Singing and donations made from October to December inclusive, between The West Cheshire Foodbank and the Runcorn Foodbank.

As always, we spent some time reflecting on what has been a challenging year. Neil expressed his appreciation for the support of the leadership team, the Stewards, Local Preachers and the support of Revds. Sue and Peter Levitt. Those present also expressed their thanks to Neil for his support and presence amongst us.

Over the year our connection with Norley school has developed: A recent prayer day was a success and appreciated by the pupils, staff and those helping. The Headteacher is keen to hold further events like that and we hope to do this jointly with St John's. Michael Gough has been appointed as a school governor, and Rev'd Sue is now leading a monthly

assembly at the school. We have an opportunity for a conversation with representatives from St John's and there is interest from both parties to build closer relationships.

Soup lunches and coffee mornings have continued and provide fellowship for those within the NMC community and others who live locally, including a group from the Wednesday club who attend the soup lunch. We also plan to establish a weekly 'Place of Welcome' style café one morning a week.

Neil summarised the current staffing position in the Circuit: A new Superintendent, Gordon Greswell, will take up his role in September. Michaela Dougherty has been appointed to the Deacon role based in Runcorn. The Presbyterian appointment for the rural churches (including Norley) has not been filled. Neil confirmed that Rev'ds Sue and Peter Levitt have agreed to support Norley for the coming connexional year and this was warmly welcomed by those present. The stationing process for a Minister for the rural churches will commence in September.

The next Annual Church Meeting will take place in May / June 2025 (date to be confirmed).

*Lesley Gough, Church Council Secretary.*

## **25<sup>th</sup> June Church Council meeting**

Our Church Council meeting was Chaired by Rev'd Neil Stacey. The main points included in the Pastoral, Spiritual committee, Finance and Property reports are covered in the separate reports elsewhere in Outreach.

Our June Church Council meeting always spends some time reflecting on the 'other activities' with which we engage as a Church, and considering new opportunities:

The Wednesday Walks, monthly Saturday 'Coffee +' coffee mornings, the Soup and Pudding lunches have continued over the last year, and all are enjoyed by members of our Church and others who live in the Norley area. The Outreach magazine is edited by Bruce and is delivered in paper form and via email, far and wide, including those who have previously attended Norley Methodist Church and are keen to maintain a link. The weekly notices are compiled and emailed out by Richard Ramsbottom, and we are very grateful indeed for his work and support in providing this weekly summary of key dates and information. We are also grateful to Martin Bell who continues to maintain the Church Website for us.

The last year has seen some developing partnerships – with Norley School and with our friends at Norley St John's and we hope to build on this and work more collaboratively going forward.

A new project was approved by the Church Council – for us to establish a weekly 'Open Door Café' as part of the Places of Welcome network. This will commence in early September and will be reviewed in six months' time. We hope this will become a warm and friendly environment where local folks of all ages can meet and enjoy coffee and companionship.

Neil reported on some changes that will take place in September: He will be stepping down as Superintendent Minister (though continuing as a Circuit Minister), and Rev'd Gordon Greswell will take over as our new Superintendent Minister. Gordon will be based in Frodsham. Also, Deacon Michaela Doherty (who some of us remember as a Local Preacher), will be joining the Circuit and will be based in Runcorn. As no 'rural villages'

Minister was appointed, Neil confirmed that Revds. Peter and Sue Levitt will be providing interim Ministerial cover for Norley for the next 12 months. The Church Council are very grateful for the support we have received from Neil over the last 12 months, and warmly welcome the appointment of Sue and Peter as our interim Ministerial cover.

Finally, a small group from the Church Council will be liaising with Hazel, and the Dale family, to develop a proposal for a memorial to James.

The Autumn Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November and Chaired by Rev'd Peter Levitt.

*Lesley Gough Church Council Secretary*

## **The Church Leadership Team meeting on July 4**

The meeting met principally to take forward items from the June church council meeting.

The circuit letter giving Peter and Sue pastoral responsibility had been well received at Norley and it was clarified that the super remains in pastoral charge, but delegates pastoral responsibility to them. Peter was unable to attend the meeting but is now on the CLT and will get the minutes and invitations to each meeting.

## **Places of Welcome**

A submission to join the Places of Welcome Network had been made. A grant of £500 has since been received from the District Fisher Fund and part of the John Salter memorial fund could also be used for this initiative. Hence the needed funding of £750 was already available. The development group was meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July with a view to having a gazebo at the Norley Garden Show on 7<sup>th</sup> September to launch and publicise the initiative and would like to be prepared to start at the beginning of September.

## **James Dale Memorial**

As instructed by the recent church council, Bruce and Lesley had met with the Dales earlier at the church to discuss a potential decorative glass memorial in the church. Six possible locations were explored, and the Dales concluded the only option they would like to consider was to place the glass memorial on the church porch wall besides and above James's seat with a maximum size of 1 meter by 56cms. Considerable discussion ensued, both pro and con, and it was agreed that Bruce would contact the Dale family to submit a full-scale design by the end of August for the CLT to consider. If the CLT found this acceptable, it could be taken to the November Church Council for approval.

*Bruce Lane Secretary to the CLT*

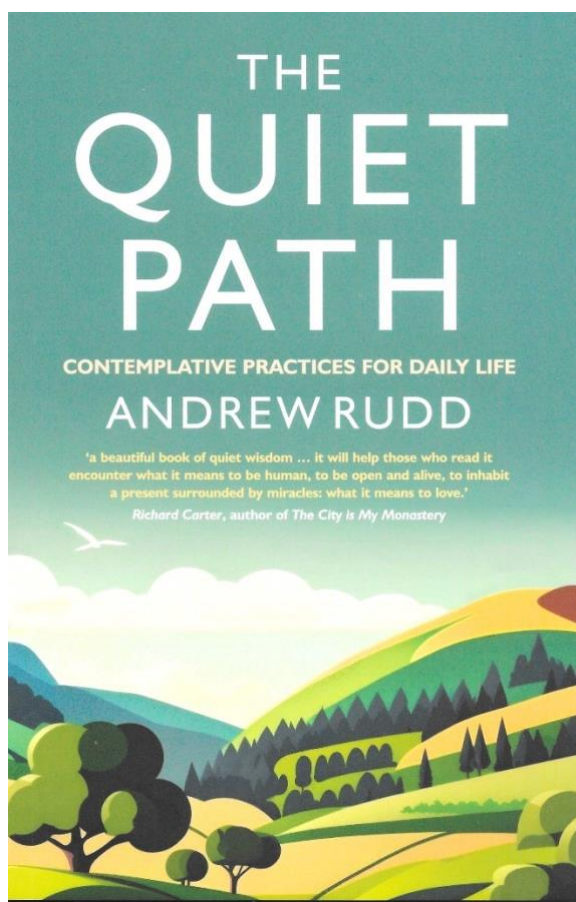
## **Used postage stamps for the RNIB.**

Heather & Anthony have posted off another parcel of nearly 0.5Kg used stamps to the RNIB. They would like to thank all our friends from Norley & The Hurst for their contributions. The stamps are left in the box in the Church porch. Polite reminder: - please remember to leave 1cm (3/8 inch) minimum around each stamp.

Thanking you (on behalf of the RNIB) & please keep up the good work.

*Heather & Anthony.*

## Some 'food for thought'?



Here's a wonderful new compilation of original poetry and reflections by local author Andrew Rudd (Frodsham). The book is available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and our new local book shop - 'The Curious Cat', Main St, Frodsham.

In the tradition of contemplative Christianity, and entitled 'The Quiet Path', Andrew seeks to lead us away from the noise and the bustle of everyday life in search of 'thinner places' where God's spiritual and physical presence might be experienced.

Andrew Rudd is a Reader in the Church of England (St Laurence's, Frodsham), a teacher, and a leader of retreats and quiet days. His poems appear widely in books, anthologies, magazines, radio broadcasts, and music settings. Andrew was poet in residence at Manchester Cathedral from 2017-2022.

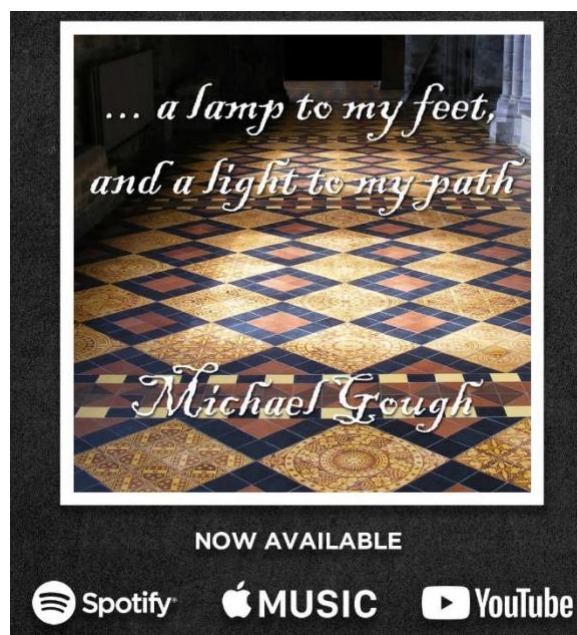


Fancy some music to go with it? Michael's latest collection of acoustic guitar music entitled '*... a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path*' is available on Amazon Music, Spotify, iTunes, and all the usual streaming platform.

If you don't have these services but would like a digital copy (MP3) of this collection, which is supplied on USB memory card along with Michael's two earlier albums in MP3 format, then just send an email to [info@michaeltgoughmusic.co.uk](mailto:info@michaeltgoughmusic.co.uk) and we will send you a copy. All donations go to **Christian Aid**.

**Michael Gough**

[www.michaeltgoughmusic.co.uk](http://www.michaeltgoughmusic.co.uk)



# Norley Church Diary

September - November 2023

Date	Time	Preacher	Activity
<b>September</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	10.45am	Mr Michael Gough	Morning worship at Norley Methodist
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Café preview
	7.30pm		Welcome Service for the new Circuit Superintendent and Deacon at Frodsham Methodist Church
7 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon		Launch of the 'Open Door' Café at Norley Produce Show
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt	Communion at Norley Methodist
9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm		Church Leadership Team Meeting at Howell Croft
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe
11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm		Circuit Safeguarding Officers meeting at Helsby
14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am		District Synod at Swan Bank, Burslem
14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am to noon		Coffee Plus at Norley Methodist
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd David Copley	Morning worship at Norley Methodist
17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe
18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm		Circuit Meeting at Helsby
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Ian Rigby	Morning worship at Norley Methodist
24 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe
25 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm		Soup and Pudding Lunch at Norley Methodist
28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Decorate the church for Harvest
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.45pm	Rev'd Sue Levitt	Harvest Festival at Norley Methodist

<b>October</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10,00am		First Wednesday Walk
6 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Ms Sian Davidson	Morning Worship at Norley Methodist
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am to noon		Coffee Plus at Norley Methodist
13 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt	Communion at Norley Methodist
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe
16 <sup>th</sup>	7,30pm		Local Preachers' Meeting at Saughall
20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.00am</b>	Dr Ruth Lane	Joint Service at The Hurst
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe
27 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr John Evans	Morning Worship at Norley Methodist
29 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am		'Open Door' Cafe
30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		November First Wednesday Walk! On the last Wednesday in October
<b>November</b>			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt	Communion at Norley Methodist
5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe
6 <sup>th</sup>	12.13pm		Soup and Pudding Lunch at Norley Methodist
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Peter Levitt	Remembrance - Worship at Norley Methodist with Scouts, Cubs and Beavers
12 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe
12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm		Norley Church Council Meeting
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am to noon		Coffee Plus at Norley Methodist
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mrs Liz Holmes	Morning worship at Norley Methodist
19 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr John Bell	Joint Service with The Hurst at Norley Methodist
26 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Cafe

27 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm		Soup and Pudding Lunch at Norley Methodist
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## Spiritual Committee Norley CE Primary School Prayer Day (16<sup>th</sup> May 2024)

In association with Norley CE Primary School, which has recently transitioned to an Academy, a truly inspiring day of prayer was held at Norley Methodist Church on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Prayer Stations were developed and 'staffed' by the school's older children, supported by volunteers from NMC, St John's Norley, and members of the school's staff.

The Prayer Day took place during **Christian Aid Week** and so the idea of 'Global Neighbours' was used as the over-arching theme. The entire school (all 104 pupils) visited the Church over the course of the day and thoroughly enjoyed their time with us.

Rev'd Sue Levitt, much loved by the children, is now a regular in the monthly acts of 'collective worship' at the school.

**BTW - The final total for this year's Christian Aid Week collection was £1,177.25.** A huge thank you to all who responded this year.

### Future Dates

Joint services with The Hurst, Kingsley are planned for:

- 25<sup>th</sup> August (@ The Hurst, Kingsley - Preacher: Dr Ruth Lane)
- 20<sup>th</sup> October (@ The Hurst, Kingsley – Preacher: Dr Ruth Lane)
- 24<sup>th</sup> November (@ Norley – Preacher: Mr John Bell)

Additionally, **Harvest Festival at Norley will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September**, to be led by **Rev'd Sue Levitt**, and this year's **Remembrance Service to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November**, to be led by **Rev'd Peter Levitt**, with NMC hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Norley Scout Group.

**Michael Gough**  
Convenor, Spiritual Committee



**Opening on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**, NMC will host the **Norley 'Open Door Community Café'**, operating under the umbrella of 'Places of Welcome' ([www.placesofwelcome.org.uk](http://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk)), and serving the community of Norley and the surrounding area.

'Places of Welcome' is a national network of over 700 community spaces for people to meet and share in fellowship.

As the name implies, the 'Open Door Community Café' is an **accessible** and **hospitable** place, open at the same time each week (**Tuesday's 9am – 12 noon**).

It offers free **refreshments** (tea/coffee, cake and biscuits, soft drinks for youngsters), and provides conversation, and companionship. Donations are of course most welcome.

The 'Open Door Community Café' will be staffed by volunteers from the village as well as the Church, and **all are welcome** regardless of circumstances or situation. **Participation** and **belonging** are encouraged; everyone has talents, experiences and skills to share. Come with friends or come on your own – we're here to welcome you!

Set in the historic surroundings of NMC's old Sunday School Room, the 'Open Door Community Café' offers a bright, warm and welcoming atmosphere with more than a nod to its 19<sup>th</sup> century past: 'Old Norley' being prominently portrayed with historic images of 'past times with good company'.

As a place for everyone, the facilities are push-chair and wheel-chair friendly with disabled parking on-site, regular parking outside on Maddocks Hill, and overflow parking at Norley Village Hall, all of which making the 'Open Door Community Café' convenient for villagers, Village Hall users, and within easy walking distance from our wonderful Norley CE Primary School.

No transport, no problem if you're reasonably local thanks to Cheshire West & Chester's **iTravel** on-demand bus service (check it out at:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-roads/public-transport/itravel-connecting-people-and-places>).

**Michael & Lesley Gough**  
**Co-ordinators, Norley Open Door Café**

# Soup and pudding lunches

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> September,  
Wed 6<sup>th</sup> November  
and  
Wed 27<sup>th</sup> November  
at 12.15pm  
Everyone welcome!**

(Please contact Lesley via  
[info@norleymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@norleymethodistchurch.org.uk) to reserve your  
place)



We have continued to enjoy fellowship at Coffee+ throughout the summer together with a lovely selection of cakes, other goodies and cheese scones (on most occasions!). Although Ruth and Bruce were away for a couple of the weekends, they had provided great quizzes which kept us all well occupied. We hope to see both regulars and new faces as we continue to the end of the year. This will include our Festive Coffee+ on 21 December – please note the date. Thanks for your support.

*Ruth Hosker*

## Norley Methodist Church



**10.00 – 12.00**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

**No charge – donations welcomed**



## Financial Review

Avid readers of Outreach may remember that the previous financial report regaled you with an account of a Sunderland footballer's autobiography, in the absence of anything on the local front. This review will be a little more substantial, and indeed, relevant.

I may have related the apocryphal story of a hapless railway inspector and an irate passenger whose train was much delayed: 'tell me, inspector, why do you have timetables?', to which the polite reply was, 'Sir, if we didn't have timetables, we wouldn't know how late the trains were.' This is the stuff of financial budgets for churches – things rarely go according to plan (a budget for a year is compiled some months beforehand) because we never know exactly what lies ahead. As unexpected events occur, unexpected incomes are received and unplanned expenditures incurred. They have occurred in abundance in 2023-24 – remember that the Methodist financial year is September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>.



The full and audited accounts for 2023-24 will be presented to the Autumn Church Council for approval, and, as I write this, most of August has still to run. The good news is that the balances held at the end of August will be much healthier than we anticipated and that there is no cause for alarm. Substantial unplanned increases in property expenditures (related to internal plumbing, heating and subsequent redecorating) have been compensated by unexpected incomes and donations. The seed funding for the Café project has been significantly aided by a District grant of £500 and the refurbishment of the Open Door room was partly funded by Circuit and District grants of £3000 in total.

Methodists are often familiar with the phrase 'circuit assessment' from an early age: every church pays the circuit every quarter its share for the cost of ministers, manses and other circuit expenses. It is the first charge on a church's funds. During 2023-24, all churches received a welcome rebate (in Norley's case, £2819) because of the shortfall in ministerial cover, but the Circuit Meeting later decided to change the basis for assessments to membership only, which, for 2024-25, has led to Norley's increasing by £2728 in the year – albeit a little less than the rebate received earlier – to £21,400. The circuit gives and the circuit takes away! However, as our membership has been reviewed in recent months, numbers have been adjusted, and it seems highly probable that the 2025-26 circuit assessment on Norley will reduce.

We continue to support external charities and will donate (including gift-aid) over £4800 in the year, of which nearly £2100 will go to the West Cheshire foodbank, £1200 to Christian Aid and the remaining £1500 or so spread between Englesea Brook, MHA, All We Can, Norley News, Mid-Cheshire Samaritans, Operation Christmas Child (shoeboxes), OPAL and the Methodist World Mission Fund. Many thanks to all who have contributed so generously.

The budget for 2023-24 showed a deficit of £3920 (towards payment for planned property projects), to be covered from reserves held in the deposit account at the Methodist Church Central Finance Board (CFB). In the event, there will be a modest surplus of £660 (though property expenditures of £800 are deferred until September), leaving appropriate balances in both the current and deposit accounts at the year end.

Therefore, we enter the new year 2024-25 in good financial shape, and if high winds bring down the overhead wires or cows stray on the line, that's the railways' problem.

*John Bell, August 2024*

## **Property Matters**

We are delighted to report that at long last the plumbing work has been completed to reconnect into the ODR circuit the kitchen kickboard heater and the lounge radiator. The bill has been received for rather less than the estimate that had been approved, and has been paid.

The kitchen extractor fan has been thoroughly cleaned by Michael Gough which has markedly increased the air flow, and the redecoration of the kitchen is now proceeding thanks to John and Lewis and by the time you receive this Outreach will have been completed in preparation for the trial opening of the Places of Welcome Café on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

In addition, a new fridge has been installed in the kitchen from the grant received from the District Fisher Fund.

## **Solar Panels Update**

We have just received £1230 for the electricity the panels generated for the 4 months from March to July. This is the largest payment we have ever received, beating even the previous highest payment of £1021 received last July. We generated 1660 Kwh in the 4 months.

Our total receipts are now from 12 1/3 years of operation some £22,553 from the generation of 42,567 Kwh of electricity without using a single Kg of coal.

We are looking forward to at least as much again before our contract expires after 25 years.

*Bruce Lane*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Walks

In June Heather & Anthony led our group of 8 on a pleasant sunny stroll along a very secluded pathway on the outskirts of Congleton. The route was along the disused track of The Biddulph Valley Railway Line which linked Stoke-on-Trent to Brunswick Wharf in Congleton, bringing coal up from the Staffordshire coal fields & returning with sand for the Pottery industry. It was in use until April 1968. The line was a major construction feat & on the elevated parts we were treated to the song of the thrush & blackbird along with all the wayside wildflowers. The group divided & the long-distance team climbed up onto the



Macclesfield Canal for a short way, eventually looping round & returning to the disused railway track. We all dined at The Old Red Lion in Holmes Chapel on our way back to Norley.

*Picture and words Anthony*



The July First Wednesday Walk led by Ruth and Bruce started in Hale village and walked down to the Mersey and then along the bank to Hale Lighthouse, before heading back towards St Mary's church. The wildflowers along the way were magnificent, but not too many birds because it was high tide. A car had been positioned at the end of the road, and those wanting a shorter walk were ferried the ½ mile back to the church. The 10 walkers took lunch at the Childe of Hale restaurant before heading back to Norley.

*Words Bruce*

*Picture Garry (we are all hiding behind the giant of Hale)*

The First Wednesday Walk on August the 7th was led by Vaughan and Garry and was a return visit to Little Budworth Country Park. Ten of us gathered in the car park, delighted to be joined by Janet after her successful experience with the NHS.

The gathering split into two groups with Garry, ably assisted by Alison, leading those who were content to pursue a shorter route while Vaughan and chief navigator Bruce headed off to complete the approximately 3mile Woodpecker trail in the delightful Country Park.

As a well-deserved reward we repaired to the Red Lion Pub in the village for a meal and refreshments.



*Words by Vaughan, Photo by a man at the Red Lion*

Future walks are: -

2<sup>nd</sup> October led by Richard and Di

30<sup>th</sup> October led by Peter and Sheila

4<sup>th</sup> December led by John and Sylvia

Note there is no walk in September, and the November walk has been brought forward a week to 30<sup>th</sup> October to avoid a clash at Church.

Why not join us for a walk in good company?

*Bruce Lane*

# Norley Methodist Church Preachers, Stewards and Musicians

## September - November 2024

Date		Preacher	Musician	Stewards		
				Church	Welcome	Communion
September	1 <sup>st</sup>	Michael Gough	Lesley	Mary, John	Yvonne	
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Communion – Sue Levitt	Jean	Ruth L, Bruce	Philip	Alison & Yvonne
	15 <sup>th</sup>	David Copley	John	Philip, John	Vaughan	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ian Rigby	John	Lesley, Philip	Oliver	
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival – Sue Levitt	Saro	Lewis, Ruth H	Alison	
October	6 <sup>th</sup>	Sian Davidson	Lesley	Ruth H, Mary	Joan	
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Communion – Sue Levitt	Jean	Ruth L, Bruce	Mike & Gay	Alison & Yvonne
	20 <sup>th</sup>	JS at The Hurst – Ruth Lane	Not required			
	27 <sup>th</sup>	John Evans	Jean	Ruth L, Bruce	Yvonne	
November	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Communion – Sue Levitt	John	Bruce, Lewis	Philip	Alison & Yvonne
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance - Peter Levitt	Alan	Philip, John	Vaughan	
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Holmes	Lesley	Ruth H, Mary	Oliver	
	24 <sup>th</sup>	JS at Norley - John Bell	Jean	Lesley, Lewis	Joan	

## Norley Methodist Church Flower and Coffee Rota

**September – November 2024**

Date		Preacher	Flowers	Coffee
September	1 <sup>st</sup>	Michael Gough	Eileen	Heather & Anthony
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Communion – Sue Levitt	Joan	Mike & Gay
	15 <sup>th</sup>	David Copley	Christine	Alison & Yvonne
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ian Rigby	Lesley	Di & Richard
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival – Sue Levitt	All	John & Mary
October	6 <sup>th</sup>	Sian Davidson	Heather	Vaughan & Yvonne
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Communion – Sue Levitt	Ruth L	Heather & Anthony
	20 <sup>th</sup>	JS at The Hurst – Ruth Lane	Not required	
	27 <sup>th</sup>	John Evans	Alison	Mike & Gay
November	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Communion – Sue Levitt	Gay	Di and Richard
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance - Peter Levitt	Hazel	Alison & Yvonne
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Holmes	Ruth H	John & Mary
	24 <sup>th</sup>	JS at Norley - John Bell	Beryl	Vaughan & Yvonne