

Dear Friends,

The Easter story of Jesus' death and resurrection is the central story of the Christian faith. Unlike Christmas which gets just a couple of chapters in two of the four gospel accounts, the story of the last week of Jesus' life are that to which the whole story of Jesus points. In the cross of Jesus we see the truth of who God is. I find sincere delight in noticing that we have found that we share some of our understanding of God with those of other faiths. I can only go so far though. For me, "God" is the god that I see in Jesus Christ and that god is quite different from the images of God offered by those outside the church.

The resurrection of Jesus is witnessed to by the stories in all four gospels. The fragmentary, sometimes contradictory nature of the accounts is the hallmarks of authentic eye-witness testimony. The resurrection is crucial to the credibility of Christian faith (read 1 Corinthians 15) but is not its centre. If you think about the front of our church, ask yourself what is the central symbol presented? It is not, I suggest, an empty tomb. Nor incidentally is it the bible. At the centre of our devotions is the cross of Jesus Christ. It is the cross which is the badge of membership given to us at baptism. In our tradition it is an empty cross, symbolising the victory of God in Jesus won by the death of Jesus over every rival claim upon our lives, even death itself. So it is that Paul insists that "I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified". This is *hugely* problematic as Paul openly admits: "we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" but for Christians it is "the power of God and the wisdom of God". It is in the death of Jesus that a revolution of grace begins. For two millennia followers of Jesus Christ have wrestled to understand its fullest meaning. For the New Testament, it is not that the cross is some awkward necessity that makes the resurrection possible. No, it is rather that the victory of the cross is vindicated by the resurrection. For Mark and John in particular, Jesus is *enthroned* on the cross! It is the cross of Jesus that helps us understand the nature of God and which redefines our notions of majesty and kingship from the baseline understanding that is presented on Palm Sunday. A week is a long time in theology!

For myself, it is only in the death of Jesus that I can believe in God at all. In a world in which tens of thousands die as a consequence of an earthquake, I feel compelled to reject any other notion of God as strongly as the most feverish atheist. "Only a suffering god can help" concludes Bonhoeffer in his prison cell. It is only in the death of Jesus that I find pointers to the nature, strange wisdom and love of God that, because of the resurrection, I know will never let me go.

With Charles Wesley, let us recover authentic Easter faith:

<i>"Never love nor sorrow was</i>	<i>Like that my Saviour showed;</i>
<i>See him stretched on yonder cross,</i>	<i>And crushed beneath our load!</i>
<i>Now discern the Deity!</i>	<i>Now his heavenly birth declare;</i>
<i>Faith cries out: 'Tis he, 'tis he,</i>	<i>My God, that suffers there!</i>

This Easter I invite you all to "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, 'till all the world adore his sacred name".

When we've done that, we'll have something to celebrate on Easter day!

Grace and peace.

Andrew

Rev'd Andrew M Emison

Methodist Minister, Frodsham, Kingsley & Norley. North Cheshire Circuit.

email: andrew@emison.net

Pastoral Piece

I hope everyone is keeping well. We are getting through February quite well weather wise, let's hope we have no more snow!!

It is surprising how quickly the time to do my Outreach piece comes around - and believe me it's quite difficult knowing what to write. The usual things are 'The Pastoral Team continue in their dedicated role and are always at hand when needed'.

The church is introducing some new coffee mornings and, coming soon, soup lunches. All are welcome - so watch out for dates.

It's been really upsetting reading and seeing the devastation caused by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone involved.

On a lighter note my dearest gentleman friend had his 95th birthday on Valentine's Day. We were able to share it with his family. He also shared with us the poem I am going to share with you.

I trust you all continue to have good health and look forward to lighter nights and warmer weather. May God Bless you and yours.

Mileage by Tricia Sturgeon.

*My body and I, we've jogged along for, well, a good few years.
Through light and dark and highs and lows with barely a grinding of gears.
Lately, though, it seems to me that things have come unstuck.
Broken down, unravelled, and even ran amok.
A tremble here, a wobble there, an ache, a twinge, a pain,
And sometimes I am not quite sure that I'm completely sane.
I find I soon run out of puff, I struggle with the stairs,
I'd never sell on eBay - not even good for spares!
But none can stop the march of time or still each tick and tock,
Or try to pull a fast one with the mileage on the clock.
So I'll just darn the edges when they start to wear and fray,
And oil the joints, and pop the pills, and celebrate each day.*

Take care

Margaret Hogan.

Solar Panels Update

At the end of February by the time this magazine is published, the solar panels will have been in service for 11 years. They continue to perform well, and even in the last 3 winter months generated a further 339Kwh of electricity. and we will have just received a payment for that of £211.

In the 11 years then we have generated over 37000Kwh of electricity and will have received more than £19,600 from our investment of £7,500 with another 14 years of generation to get paid for.

Bruce Lane

Extra Church General Meeting held on 11th January:

An extra Church General Meeting was held on Wednesday 11th January to discuss whether Norley Methodist Church should apply for a marriage licence which would include marriage between persons of the same sex. All members and adherents were invited to the meeting.

The meeting duly took place and following prayers and an open discussion, in accordance with the governance processes of the Methodist Church, the Church Council members present voted on the resolution: *“The Church Council of Norley Methodist Church resolves to apply to the General Registrar’s Office to be registered as Authorised Premises for the conduct of marriage between any two persons (including persons of the same sex) according to the prevailing laws of the United Kingdom and the prevailing rites of the Methodist Church of Great Britain”*. The result of the paper ballot was that the resolution was supported unanimously, and consequently, the licence application process has now commenced.

All present agreed that it was very important to reiterate the following section from Andrew’s original letter to all members and adherents prior to the meeting:
‘As part of our understanding, the Methodist Conference resolved that it would be a matter for each church to decide whether it wanted to celebrate same-sex marriage in its premises. We also resolved that it would be a matter of personal conscience as to whether individual ministers or others should take part in such ceremonies. Methodist fellowships will continue to welcome the ministry of those amongst us who think differently from ourselves’.

It is most sincerely hoped that this will provide reassurance, and of course Andrew is ready to speak with anyone about this.

First Wednesday Walks

The December walk was led by John and Sylvia. Meeting up at Whitegate railway station, more than a dozen of us enjoyed a coffee before setting off along the Whitegate Way for half the time available and then returning to the station. The weather co-operated and it was a fine sunny day with beautiful views. Lunch at the Hanging Gate followed, and then a wonderful fellowship at John and Sylvia’s for coffee, mince pies and stollen. A great way to finish off another year of Wednesday walks. *Bruce.*

January’s First Wednesday Walk was led by Peter & Sheila. Thirteen of us assembled at the Chapel to decide on our lunch choices, and then drove to Delamere Forest, parking at Barnes Bridge Gates, or as near as we could get – the forest was very busy. We then proceeded at a leisurely pace down to Hatchmere and round to the Delamere Visitor Centre café for drinks (and cake for some). We returned to Barnes Bridge by a different route and then drove to the Vale Royal Abbey Arms for an enjoyable lunch, where we were joined by two others who had been unable to walk with us. *Peter.*

On February 1st eleven of us set off from the Leigh Arms' car park in Acton Bridge, destination Dutton's Lock.

Those who felt able to tackle a longer walk made their way up the footpath to the Bridgewater Canal towpath whilst those of a more delicate (some might say discerning) nature set off along the Weaver Navigation footpath.

Eventually the former group dropped down a steep field just before the locks and the party was reunited at the picnic site with a celebratory 'cuppa'.

The walk was enriched by welcome sightings of grebes, herons and cormorants. Near the locks it was fascinating to see the new water powered generator based on the principle of Archimedes Screw.

After coffee most of the group walked on to the next bridge then we all returned to a well-deserved and very good meal at the Leigh Arms. *Peter.*

Future walks are planned for

March 1st led by Peter & Sheila
(at Pennington Flash)

April 5th led by Di & Richard

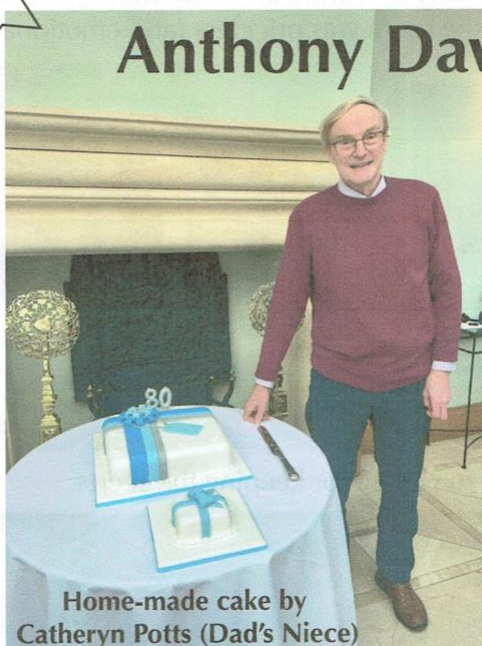
May 3rd led by Heather and Anthony

Hope to see you there.

Bruce Lane



Anthony Davies' 80th



Home-made cake by Catheryn Potts (Dad's Niece)

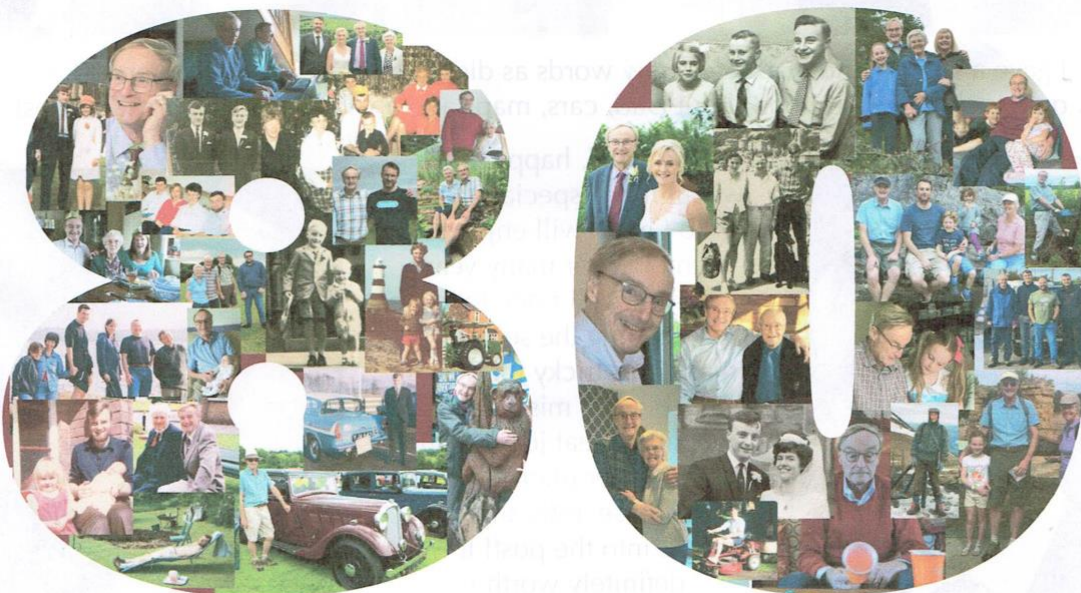
Birthday celebration

22.01.23

Last summer I began thinking about Dad's special milestone birthday and how I could arrange something to help him celebrate being 80 years young (or 60 with 20 years experience!) I thought Dad might enjoy gathering together with family and some friends to celebrate his 80 years. I really wanted to surprise Dad, but could we all keep the secret?

With Mum on board we choose Willington Hall in Tarpoley for a 2 course roast lunch and invited 32 guests with the strict instruction that it was to be a surprise!

We told Dad that Gareth and I with our families would be taking him out for lunch, but we didn't say anymore. He didn't even know where we were going.



I asked the guests to send me some photos of Dad and together with family photos created this photo montage which was displayed in the room.





Everyone followed instructions and arrived early and were all ready waiting for Dad. The look on his face when he came into the room was priceless (and emotional!)



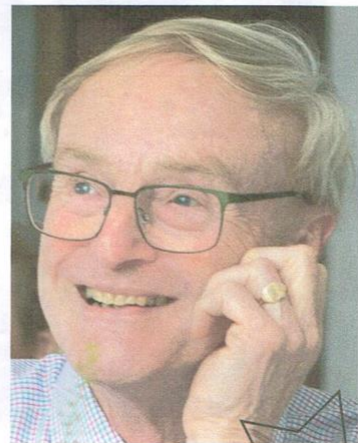
Here's a few familiar faces! Well done to you all for keeping the secret.



I gave a speech and Dad said a few words as did James Dale. Gareth compiled a quiz including questions about Dad, cars, maps and a variety of cryptic challenges!



So a good, happy time we all had, especially Dad, who I hope will enjoy the memories for many years to come. Well done to Mum for keeping the secret - it really was tricky for her as Dad doesn't miss a trick - she did a great job making undercover phonecalls to me and secretly slipping photos into the post! It was definitely worth it. Congratulations Dad!



Rachael



A French 10Fr coin, the treasurer's moral dilemma and some further thoughts.....

On a recent Sunday morning the basket of refreshment donations contained a French 10-Franc coin, minted in 1988, but not legal tender since January 2002, some 21 years ago, when the euro was adopted in France. Those of you who may recall their size and shape (the 10Fr coins, that is) will know that they were strikingly similar to UK £1 coins, with a narrow gold-coloured rim surrounding a silver inner circle, but they are, slightly, but discernibly thinner. In 2002, the 10Fr and £1 coins were about of equal value, as it happened.

The coin was surely put in the basket in all innocence – after all, you don't inspect coins in detail at such moments. But when treasurers process money, ready for banking, a higher level of scrutiny is called for and it is not the first foreign coin to appear. Any idea of seeking to spirit it into the NatWest Bank was quickly dismissed – though with the thought that several banks and countless people may already have been duped as the coin journeyed on its merry way for two decades.

This trivial episode led me to two reflections, one moral and one philosophical.

First, the moral dilemma. Having unequivocally decided not to bank the coin as if it were £1 on the church's behalf, do I personally put a £1 coin in the kitty to replace it and then seek to pass it off myself in Boots or Tesco or Waitrose or even try it in a parking meter? Answer, I did contribute a £1 coin as a replacement, not having spotted the rogue until after I'd completed the pay-in slip – it was indeed very easily missed – but I have terminated the 10Fr coin's illegitimate British pilgrimage. (If there are any numismatists – coin-collectors – out there, you can have it for not less than £1, which will go into church funds! Just ask.)

Secondly, the philosophical reflection. I wondered where that coin had been; whose hands had it passed through, first as legitimate tender in France between 1988 and 2002, later – who knows – masquerading innocently as a UK £1? If only coins could tell their stories, what would we find out? We might be surprised and not always wish to know.

A little diversion: we're used to coins being of lower value (currently up to £2) than notes (£5 and over), and we remember the old paper notes. The £5 paper notes lasted for less than a year before being shredded when they became too crumpled and filthy; the present polymer versions – which, on being placed on a table, suddenly develop gymnastic attributes – last for five years. Coins, however, last for decades. Many readers will remember the old (pre-decimalisation) penny – a large copper or bronze coin dating back to the Victorian era (I have many in the bureau at home of almost all the reigns) – which remained legal tender for over 100 years irrespective of when they were minted. My 1866 penny was still a penny in 1966, albeit with reduced purchasing power.

How many and whose hands had that penny passed through in those hundred years, and for what purposes? Rich and poor hands, young and old, clean and grubby; used for both honest and proper but also dubious and sordid payments. The penny may have travelled across the length and breadth of these islands, in pockets, purses, bags, boxes, tills and banks, through cities, towns, villages and hamlets; tendered in shops, bars, cafes, amusement arcades, churches, cinemas, garages, hotels, hairdressers, houses of ill-repute, parking meters, gas meters, public loos, phone boxes, bingo halls, charity collections; on trains, buses and trams; to pay workers their wages, children their pocket money and patronise an old street beggar. And, when the hands became lifeless, the last pennies saved would pay the undertaker. The list is eclectic, endless and not always edifying.

Tell me, my dear innocent penny, your life story. I'm listening.

John Bell © 2023

The Church Leadership Team

The CLT met on December 8th to take decisions required between Church Council meetings, and to prepare items for approval at Church Council. At the December meeting the CLT:-

- Asked Andrew to take up with Norley Primary the idea of repeating the prayer day at Church as the school head had requested twice.
- Asked Bruce to ask his neighbour to raise at the PCC restoring reciprocal representation between the PCC and the Church Council.
- Asked Ruth Lane to arrange a second meeting with The Hurst stewards following the successful first meeting.
- Asked Ruth Hosker to develop and lead plans to enhance the input of the Church on social media, particularly Norley Facebook.
- Decided to use glasses for communion instead of plastic cups, but to continue with the wafers instead of bread.
- Decided to donate £75 for a deposit to enable Lewis, Molly and Oliver to attend Satellite in 2023.
- Received feedback from the meeting to discuss the longer-term strategy for the church and asked Lesley to call a second meeting.
- Asked Lesley to put on the CC agenda for March for the CC to decide if the Church wanted a Christmas Tree festival in December 2023.

Other decisions taken at the CLT appear elsewhere in Outreach.

The next CLT will be held on Wednesday March 1st

Bruce Lane

Finance update

We are midway through the year 2022-23 and there is nothing too dramatic to report on the financial front. Income and expenditure on basic church activities have evolved much as expected, and as far as can be foreseen, will continue to do so. We are as always grateful for the generosity of the congregation and our local support to sustain income.

In response to our initiatives to start a monthly Saturday Coffee Morning and midweek Soup Lunch, with the consequent need to upgrade some kitchen facilities, the Norley Parish Council gave us a most generous donation of £500. First call on this was a 'proper' coffee-making machine for £270.

Since September 2022, donations to external organisations have been made (including gift-aid where possible) as follows: £175 to Action for Children, from the Christmas morning service collection; £200 to Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum and £100 to Norley News, from the Autumn Church Council; £175 to each of the Salvation Army and the Northwich Citizens Advice Bureau, from donations received at carol-singing; £250 to Samaritans Purse, accompanying the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child; £730 to OPAL Frodsham, from the splendid Autumn concert; £979 to the West Cheshire Foodbank from various donations. This adds up to £2784 and that is before adding amounts given to the Turkey-Syria earthquake disaster appeal, just starting at the time of writing.

A comprehensive half-year report will be presented to the March Church Council and an outline budget for 2023-24 proposed. At the moment, there is no great cause for concern and the cost of the planned external painting of the church buildings in the summer will be fully met from reserves.

John Bell, Treasurer

Church Calendar

March – May 2023

Date	Time	Preacher	Activity
February			
26 th	10.45am	Ruth Lane	Lent 1 - Worship at Norley Methodist
28 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
March			
1 st			Ash Wednesday
1 st	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk
1 st	7.30pm		CLT at Howell Croft
2 nd	2.00pm		Pastoral Committee meeting at church
5 th	8.30am	Revd Andrew Emison	Lent 2 Holy Communion at The Hurst
5 th	10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison	Lent 2 - Worship with communion
7 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
12 th	10.45am	John Bell	Lent 3 - Worship at Norley Methodist
14 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
15 th	12.15pm		'Soup and Pudding' lunch in Church
18 th	10.00am		'Coffee Plus' in church
19 th	10.45am	Andrew Ellams	Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday worship
20 th	2.00pm		Spiritual Committee Meeting at the Gough's
21 st	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
21 st	7.15pm		Church Council Meeting
22 nd	7.30pm		'Food for Thought'
26 th	10.45pm	Ruth Lane	Lent 5 - Worship at Norley Methodist
27 th	2.00pm		Pastoral Committee at the Lane's
28 th	10.00am		Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
30 th	2.30pm		Tea at 2.30pm at The Hurst
31 st	10.30am		Men's Brunch at The Hurst
April			
2 nd	8.30am	Revd Andrew Emison	Lent 6 Holy Communion at The Hurst
2 nd	10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison	Lent 6 - Palm Sunday Worship at Norley
4 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
5 th	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk
6 th	6.30pm		Maundy Thursday service at Blake Lees
7 th	11.00am	John Bell	Good Friday Worship at Norley
8 th	10.00am		Decorate the church for Easter
9 th	10.45am	Revd David Copley	Lent 7 Easter Day Communion
11 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
16 th	10.45am	Ken Martin	Worship at Norley Methodist
18 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
19 th	12.15pm		'Soup and Pudding' lunch in Church
19 th	7.30pm		Local Preachers' meeting at Norley
22 nd	10.00am		'Coffee Plus' in church
23 rd	10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison	'St George's Day Parade at Norley
25 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
26 th	7.30pm		Food for Thought
27 th	2.30pm		Women's Tea at Two-Thirty at The Hurst
28 th	10.30am		Men's Brunch at The Hurst
30 th	10.45am	Revd Philip Gough	Church Anniversary worship at Norley

May			
2 nd	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
3 rd	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk
7 th	8.30am	Revd Andrew Emison	Holy Communion at The Hurst
7 th	10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison	Service, Annual Church Meeting & Communion at Norley
9 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
13 th	9.30am		Synod
14 th	10.45am	Elizabeth Holmes	Worship at Norley Methodist
16 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
17 th	7.30pm		'Food for Thought'
21 st	10.45am	Janet Batey	Worship at Norley Methodist
21 st	6.00pm		Circuit Easter Offering Service at Frodsham
23 rd	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
25 th	2.30pm		Women's Tea at Two-Thirty at The Hurst
26 th	10.30am		Men's Brunch at The Hurst
27 th	10.00am		'Coffee Plus' in Church
28 th	10.45am	Revd Ian Rigby	Worship at Norley Methodist

Christian Aid Week 14th – 20th May

This Spring we have magnificently supported help for those in Turkey and Syria affected by the earthquake. If you'd like to make a donation online then you can at:

[DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal - Donate \(christianaid.org.uk\)](http://christianaid.org.uk)

Christian Aid Week 14th – 20th May

In Christian Aid Week remember how lucky we are and donate to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home and enough food to eat and clean water to drink.

Please give generously in Christian Aid Week

Spiritual Committee

Review of Christmas 2022:

All the services and activities (carol singing and coffee morning) were enjoyed by everyone.

The Advent liturgy (featuring the lighting of candles on a Advent Ring) and the candlelit Carol Service allowed many of the congregation to participate in leading worship.

Many new faces from the village were present for carol singing and, with the Landlord's blessing, our carol singers sang in in the Tigers Head pub in Norley. Who'd have thought?

Future planning:

Joint services: We have requested a quarterly joint service with our friends in the Kingsley churches. This will be fed into the Circuit planning process.

Food for Thought: For those who regularly attend, *Food for Thought* offers a lively, worshipful discussion in a café church environment. The meeting is advertised to the village through our new church Facebook page and the village web site (thanks to Ruth Hosker). We are hopeful that it may be an attractive act of fellowship.

Lent and Easter: This year our Lenten Liturgy (weekly opening devotions) reflects upon the key themes of Jesus' in Holy Week – service, covenant, ransom, kingship, sacrifice, journey.

Easter Flowers: Decorating the Church will take place on Easter Saturday (8th April) as usual. Lesley Gough is co-ordinate volunteers.

Good Friday / Easter Sunday: Our Good Friday service (10:45, 7th April) will be led by Mr John Bell and we welcome Revd David Copley who will lead our service on Easter Sunday (9th April, to include Holy Communion).

Norley Scouts – 'renewal of promises'. We are delighted to host the 1st Norley Scout Group on St Georges Day (23rd April) at a special service in which they well hold their annual 'renewal of promises'. The service will be an 'all age' act of worship to be led by our own Revd Andrew Emison.

Church Anniversary: Rev'd Philip Gough is confirmed to lead our Anniversary service (30th April 2023). We look forward to welcoming Philip, who is the newly appointed Chair of the Lancashire District.



Come and enjoy
fellowship, discussion, worship and refreshments
in an informal atmosphere in the church
at 7.30pm on the following Wednesdays:
22nd March
26th April
17th May

Easter Services



Good Friday

11.00am John Bell

Easter Sunday

10.45am Revd David Copley
– Communion

Everyone welcome



Michael Gough

Coffee Mornings

We have now held two of our new monthly Saturday Coffee Mornings - to be known as Coffee Plus moving forward.

The first in December had to be rearranged at short notice due to snow but when we were able to convene a week later, we enjoyed plentiful coffee (from the new coffee machine!) tea and mince pies with familiar carols as background music.

Cheese scones, tea-loaf, mince pies, fruit scones, awaited those who braved the cold and inclement weather on the occasion of the January coffee morning as well as an optional quiz!

At the time of writing preparations are well underway for the third event on 18th February from 10am - 12noon featuring music from Michael Gough.

Dates for future events are 18th March, 22nd April and 27th May.

There is no charge, but we will be accepting donations each month; either for specific charities as we did in December and February but otherwise for Church funds.

The main purpose however is not fundraising but to provide a warm, friendly atmosphere, and another connection between the church and the village by creating an opportunity for people to find out a bit more about what happens behind the doors of Norley Methodist Church. Look out for an article in the Norley News too! As the weather improves we hope more people may come and join us and we may even experiment with outdoor tables over the summer. Everyone is welcome to stay as long or short a time as they wish and catch up on news and conversations. You and your friends will all be most welcome.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported so far - it is much appreciated. If you would like to help on any morning or provide cakes etc please could you let Ruth L or Ruth H or Lesley know.

Ruth Hosker

Soup and Pudding Lunches

We are commencing 'Soup and Pudding lunches on Wednesday 15th March and Wednesday 19th April. Lunch will be served at 12.15pm. Please let Lesley or Ruth (Lane) know by the preceding Sunday if you would like to attend. Offers of help - to make soup or a pudding or to help serve on the day - would also be greatly welcomed!

Lesley and Ruth L



Norley Methodist Church

C+
offee

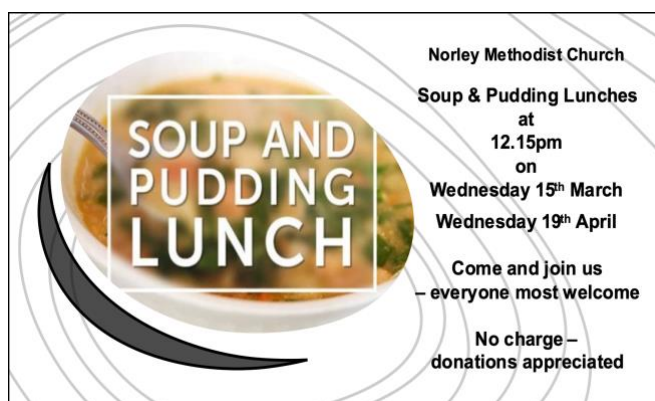
10.00 – 12.00

Saturday 18th March

Saturday 22nd April

Saturday 27th May

No charge – donations to charity



Norley Methodist Church

Soup & Pudding Lunches
at
12.15pm
on
Wednesday 15th March
Wednesday 19th April

Come and join us
- everyone most welcome

No charge -
donations appreciated

Annual Church General Meeting: Sunday May 7th



- The Annual Church General Meeting will be held after the slightly shorter morning service (and tea/ coffee & cake). **Everyone is welcome** to attend the meeting which will be followed by Holy Communion.
- As usual, the meeting will elect the team of Church Stewards and Representatives to the Church Council.
- We also decide on the Charities we wish to support this year – so please bring your suggestions and ideas!
- Look out for further information in the weekly notice sheet nearer to the time!

Church Council Meeting Tuesday 21st March

- Our next Church Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st March starting at 7.15pm (in the Open Door Room).
- Would members please contact Lesley if they are unable to attend, or if they have items they wish to be discussed.
- lesley.gough@mail.com



Property Matters

Since the last Outreach a start has been made on the 4 property items agreed at the October Church council

One has been completed. The fluorescent lights in the Kitchen, Sunday school and the corridors have been replaced with low energy consumption LED lights

A second is almost complete. The Sunday school ceiling has been repaired this month and will be repainted once it has thoroughly dried.

In addition the third project- external redecoration of the Church has been reconfirmed with the contractor and a start date in July/August is being agreed.

The final project for this year is the upgrading of the Open Door room. Draft proofing is being installed around the door between the Church and the Open Door Room to remove any remaining need for the wooden removable screens. A meeting was held in February of

those interested to share ideas on how to make the Open Door Room more attractive for meetings for our service mission opportunities to the village. There was a remarkable level of agreement between the 8 members present on what should be done, and the ideas and a possible programme will be shared with the Church Leadership Team and brought forward to the March Church Council for approval with most of the implementation in the next connexional year from September onwards. Details of what is approved will be published in the next Outreach.

Following the decision to introduce monthly Saturday coffee morning as a community activity, a filter coffee machine has been purchased for £270, and a grant of £500 received from the Parish Council to support this activity.

In addition, at long last a replacement has been found to carry out the annual maintenance of our central heating boiler following British Gas withdrawal of their Care plan service, and the boiler check will take place shortly. The defective floodlight on the High Street side of the church has also been replaced, and the weekly evening service line removed from the church notice board.

Bruce Lane

STOP PRESS

Response to the Turkey – Syria Earthquake Disaster

The Earthquake Appeal for Turkey and Syria was launched at Norley Methodist Church at the suggestion of Shelly whose daughter Phillipa lives in Turkey with her husband. Thankfully both were unharmed by the earthquake.

The Church appealed for donations for the Sundays of February 12 and 19th and decided to also send the donations from the Coffee Plus morning on Saturday 18th February to the Disaster Emergency Committee of which Christian Aid is a partner.

The treasurer informs us that the total amount, with gift aid where applicable, that will be sent is £1000.

Yes – one thousand pounds!

This is an incredible donation level for a small village. Thank you ever so much to everybody who donated and gave up their time to make a success of the appeal.

World Day of Prayer

A service that everyone is invited to
at

St John's Church, Norley

on

3rd March at 1.30pm



The theme is
'I have heard about your faith'
and has been prepared by the
women of Taiwan.

Norley Village Hall

The **KEITH SINGLETON JAZZ TRIO** (guest singer- Annie Long), who performed at Norley Methodist Church in Autumn 2022, will be performing at the Village Hall on Friday 31st March 2023 (doors open 7pm, for 7:30 start).

Experience the cool understated atmosphere of a New York City jazz club here in Norley! With a repertoire covering the Great American Songbook and contemporary versions of the hits from the jazz greats to modern pop - this is an evening not to be missed.

Supported by the super-talented guitarist - **Jordan Hollinrake**.

Tickets: £10.00 each – through Michael Gough, or via 07761 640664 or email: events@norleyvillagehall.org.uk to book.



The **Methodist** Church Spring Synod Report

Thank you for all the wonderful support from our friends within the Methodist Church, your tremendous dedication to Methodist Homes (MHA) and your overwhelming support of our mission, vision, and values has supported our vital work in helping those in later life to live well.

Celebrating MHA's 80th year

This year sees MHA celebrating its 80th year.

There will be an 80th-anniversary service held at Wesley Church, Harrogate on 23 September where all are encouraged to come together to celebrate and pray for older people, including everybody involved in making later life something to be lived well.

We'll be remembering our founder Revd Walter Hall and celebrating the milestones we have achieved throughout the years. From building our specialist care homes to the introduction of both our music therapy and chaplaincy teams, we have a lot to reflect on and thanks to the Methodist Church we continue to have so much more to celebrate.

To see a timeline of MHA's history and Walters Words video visit: mha.org.uk/about/our-story

Cost-of-living crisis and MHA

Due in part to the cost-of-living crisis and the aftermath of Covid, our care homes, retirement living schemes and community groups have faced extra challenges.

The launch of MHA Communities (formerly Live at Home) has continued to adapt during the crisis, helping to eliminate isolation and loneliness by providing warm spaces and continuing our lunch clubs that often provide a hot meal for their members, something which is incredibly important during these difficult times.

Nicky Stevens, MHA Communities Scheme Manager said: "Our activities are now, more than ever, vitally important. For example, the hot meal that members receive at our lunch clubs could potentially be life-saving. The meal could be the only one they have all day as people make the choice between heating or eating". For more info visit:

mha.org.uk/communities

We are, as always, incredibly proud of our volunteers and colleagues, including our music therapists and chaplains, who go above and beyond to provide innovative and creative ways to meet the needs of residents and members as well as their families.



The Methodist Church Spring Synod Report

The Last Taboo

During 2022 MHA developed a 2½ hour workshop to encourage conversations about death and dying called 'The Last Taboo'. It creates a safe place in which to talk about sensitive subjects:

- why some people don't talk about dying, and why they should
- how we find meaning, purpose, and values and how they matter at the end of life
- listening and communication
- what we could do differently when we talk about dying

Feedback so far has been excellent, and we are working with The Learning Network to offer the last taboo in each LN region. If you would like to know more, please contact your learning network team, your MHA area support chaplain or email; chaplaincy@mha.org.uk.

MHA Sunday

Our theme for MHA Sunday 2022 was 'Growing Together' inspired by Isaiah 43:19. This focused on how the beauty, tranquillity and joy of nature can reduce isolation and bring communities together.

Through your generous support and suppliers, we have raised £135,505 from MHA Sunday and wider support from the faith community over the past 12 months. Thank you so much for your continued support.

This year, our MHA Sunday will be themed around 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 – 'there is one body, but it has many parts. But all its parts make up one body.' The theme focuses on how we need one another for our wellbeing and how being inclusive in our sense of community makes us stronger in faith and action.

Churches and individuals such as yourselves enable MHA to continue to bring hope to people across the country and support them to live later life well.

MHA Sunday is held on 11 June 2023, however, you are welcome to hold your service and fundraise on this day or any day that fits your calendar of activities.

Your gifts and prayers for MHA Sunday 2023 will support people to live later life well, including intergenerational activities that bring value and a positive sense of worth that we know increase happiness in people of all ages.

Our dedicated web page has free downloadable resources including an order of service, video and posters that we hope you will find useful to organise your service. You may also order Gift Aid envelopes for your church / circuit by visiting: mha.org.uk/Sunday.



Lent Foodbank Challenge!

Help us to do something different for Lent in 2023 and join in an 80 can challenge!

As we know, Foodbanks are facing more pressure as energy costs soar, food prices increase and many face financial worries.

As a Church community we can only continue to support people through these difficult times with your very generous and ongoing support in the form donations of food and other essential items, as well as monetary donations.

During Lent this year would you like to join an 80 Can Challenge?

Lent lasts 40 days and 40 nights so we are setting ourselves the challenge of collecting at least 80 cans/packets of food for the West Cheshire Foodbank. If we exceed this target, then we'll try and collect a further 80!

For suggestions as to what you can donate, please see the list below: -

- 1L CARTONS OF UHT MILK
- 1L CARTONS OF LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE (FROM CONCENTRATE)
- JARS OF COOKING SAUCE
- PACKETS OF MASHED POTATOES
- JAM/MARMALADE
- SMALL JARS OF COFFEE
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED MEAT (HAM/CORNERED BEEF)
- INSTANT NOODLES
- SHAMPOO
- SHOWER GEL
- DEODORANT
- SHAVING FOAM
- TOILET ROLL
- SINGLE TOOTHBRUSHES
- TOOTHPASTE
- HANDWASH
- CAN OPENERS

Many thanks for your continued support over the last few months!

Date		Flowers	Coffee
March	5 th	Diane Ramsbottom	Yvonne and Vaughan
	12 th	Alison Twinn	Mike and Gay
	19 th	Beryl Richards	Mary and John
	26 th	Christine Gleave	Hazel and James
April	2 nd	Gay Wilson	Di and Richard
	9 th	Easter - everyone	Alison and Yvonne
	16 th	Ruth Hosker	Heather and Anthony
	23 rd	Heather Davies	Yvonne and Vaughan
	30 th	Hazel Dale	Mike and Gay
May	7 th	Lesley Gough	Mary and John
	14 th	Judy Smith	Hazel and James
	21 st	Vaughan Wynne	Di and Richard
	28 th	Eileen Burrows	Alison and Yvonne

Date		Preacher		Musician	Church Stewards	Welcome Steward	Communion Stewards
March	5th		Andrew Emison	Communion	John	Mary & John	Joan Barclay Alison & Yvonne
	12th		John Bell		Jean	Philip & Lewis	Yvonne
	19th	Mothering Sunday	Andrew Ellams		John	Ruth & Bruce Lane	Vaughan Wynne
	26th		Ruth Lane		Lesley	Bruce & John	Mary Dimelow
April	2nd	Palm Sunday	Andrew Emison		Saro	Ruth H & Philip	Hazel and James
	7th	Good Friday	John Bell		Lesley	Michael & Lesley	Judy & Christine
	9th	Easter Day	David Copley	Communion	Lesley	Michael & Lesley	Heather & Anthony Alison & Yvonne
	16th		Ken Martin		Jean	Lewis & Philip	Ruth Lane
	23rd	St George's Day	Andrew Emison	Alt Worship	Lesley	Ruth L & Ruth H	Mike and Gay
	30th	Church Anniversary	Philip Gough		John	Michael & Lesley	Lewis Dimelow
May	7th	ACM	Andrew Emison	Communion	Lesley	Mary & Lewis	John Dimelow Alison & Yvonne
	14th		Liz Holmes		Alan Wright	Ruth L & Bruce	Ruth Hosker
	21st		Janet Batey		John	Mary & John	Philip Garner
	28th	Pentecost, US	Ian Rigby		Jean	Ruth H & Philip	Alison Twinn

Alan Wright can be contacted on 01244 311122 (not by email).