

Dear Friends,

'I hate Christmas!' No, not me specifically - although I do have an issue with some of the bits of Christmas. However, there are a significant number of people who do dread Christmas every year. Once those Christmas cards have begun to appear in the card shops in about August, the thought of Christmas looms over them, and the feeling grows as the shops bring out the decorations, and all the Christmassy stuff begins to permeate every corner.

In this western part of the world, whatever you feel about Christmas, it is going to happen as it does every year. Whenever someone makes a comment like the one above I try to ask what might be behind such a comment and the answers are varied, from those whose families live elsewhere and who will not be with them for Christmas, giving them a heightened sense of isolation; to those who perhaps, struggle financially where again the extravagance of Christmas increases the struggle; to those who feel that Christmas is not for them because they do not fit into the image of Christmas which portrays everyone as part of a happy, healthy family with no worries.

While there are a variety of reasons behind the comments, they all stem from the 'trappings' of Christmas. I have yet to hear someone dreading Christmas because they do not celebrate the birth of Christ.

We are constantly reminded, by the images that appear in our media, that Christmas is for children; is for those who are happy, healthy and wealthy; is for those who are part of extended families who all get on with each other; etc., etc., and yet nothing could be further from the truth.

The baby, whose birth is the reason for the season, was born to a family who had to take shelter in a stable, who had to go on the run, who were poor. He was not financially successful in his life-time. He was persecuted. Throughout his life he cared for those who were sick, diseased, isolated, marginalized and grieving.

Christmas is GOOD NEWS for all of us because in Christmas we see God's love come among the ordinary, come to the 'have-nots', come to the vulnerable and those who feel left out.

And that is why this Christmas, as every Christmas, we thank God that He comes to us, silently, past the tinsel, the wrapping paper and the lights, to bring his love and his care for us and for all people. That is **good** news for each of us.

As you will see from the list of services happening in Advent and over Christmas, there are many opportunities to celebrate. It would be lovely to see you there!

Wishing you Peace, Joy and Love this Christmas Season,

Every Blessing,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue".

Pastoral Piece

Greetings to you all,

Can you credit it that we have reached that time of year again, the 'Festive Season' ? My, the time has certainly flown this year. People are busy preparing for the various events that take place. Parents attending nativity plays at schools, its lovely seeing the children's faces as they act out the part they have. When you find time to think about it, that's the true meaning of Christmas.

Please try and spare a thought for anyone alone, our Pastoral Team would be happy to visit if you know of someone.

I would like to take this opportunity to Wish you and your families a very Happy, Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

And finally I leave you with some words by Charlotte York

LIFE'S JOURNEY

Life is like a journey
As each day we travel on
Sometimes the road is easy
Sometimes it's hard and long.

'Oft times the sky is stormy
Grey clouds that dim the view,
But just around the bend you'll see
The sun comes shining through.

For each of us has problems,
As well as joys and tears,
And as the milestones come and go,
So, too, the passing years.

We have to keep on moving
As on our way we wend,
For we must cover many miles, '
Ere we reach journey's end.

May God Bless you all.

Margaret Hogan

Craft Club

After our successful 'Sale of Work' during our Harvest Celebrations, £1000.00 was donated to the charity Petty Pool Trust.

Now back to work for the Christmas Tree Festival.

Welcome to 3 new members – Margaret, Pat and Kathy – in fact it is getting quite crowded but still room for more.

We meet every Tuesday 10-12. Call in. See how enjoyable coffee and a chat can be & not forgetting of course our craft.

Ruth Howarth

Children's work in Norley

Work at Norley School.

Two of the most talked about topics this term have been camels and what do you believe in?

Following All Saints Day and an assembly about St George, I asked the children what do they believe in? They drew or wrote down four things onto a shield. Many put God, Fairies, Santa and themselves. Being good, helping others, ghosts and the Bermuda triangle were other answers. What do you believe in?

Christ before me. Christ to my right Christ behind me Christ to my left. Christ below me Christ above me Christ in my heart Christ in all who love me.

Ninian lived more than 1600 years ago on the edge of the Roman Empire just beyond Hadrian's Wall. He is one of the first people we know of by name as a Christian in the British Isles. In his travels Ninian used the prayer in the box to remind him that Jesus protected him. The children learnt this prayer with actions.

As Christmas approaches camels remind us of the three Wise Men travelling from the East. Jesus told a story about a rich man who wanted to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him to sell all that he had, and the rich man went away saddened. Jesus concluded it is harder for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.

We have listened to this, discussed what is most precious to us, and that the story reminds us that possessions shouldn't be above God in our lives. We've made camels out of boxes, painted them and acted the story out in assembly. May we share what we have with others freely.

Christmas Holiday Club 2011 Theme Old and New Christmas
Come and join a Christmas Holiday club at Norley Methodist
Church
On Wednesday 22nd December. From 12noon (bring your lunch)
until 4pm
Open to all primary school children Cost £3.50.
Games, crafts and baking.
Ring Andrea On 07749877823 for details and to book a place.

Andrea Ellams

Church Weekend Away at Willersley Castle

The Church Weekend Away retreated to Derbyshire in early October. The weather was most kind to us and a varied programme of arranged activities and free time and space was appreciated by all, as well as the excellent meals and hospitality provided by Willersley Castle, the Christian Guild Hotel near Cromford. Some of our stalwarts were not with us - Joyce & Walter, Ken & Jean, John & Joan, but newcomers Dennis and June and the return of David & Anita (with Sam, Darcey and Harry) took up the slack.

There was no Friday walk this time, so my car-full visited Chatsworth House and gardens for the first time in many years – and had a great day.

We got back in time for an excellent dinner, followed by entertainment. Secular songs (thanks Saro), and epilogue led by Philip.

After the Saturday morning prologue led by Ruth, we all enjoyed a hearty breakfast and then went our separate ways for the morning. Many of us went up to Carsington Water to see the views and the bird life. Curlews and sandpipers were the catch of the sightings. We made it back for lunch and some of us were led on a walk by Richard along the beautiful Cromford Canal and back via a woollen mill and over the hills – no problem with the tides here.

After an early dinner some of us went down by a park-and-ride bus from the rugby club, by the hall gates, to Matlock Bath to see the wonderful illuminated boats parade past on the river, followed by a spectacular firework display. We walked back, the bus queues were just too long, and arrived just in time for Alison's epilogue and the end of a good day.

Sunday breakfast was appreciated, followed by a bit of packing before we assembled in the library for a service led by Peter and Sue – wonderful. I found time before lunch to visit Arkwright's Mill area and explore it some more before the magnificent Sunday Lunch roast dinner.

We had all enjoyed the scenery, the fellowship and the friendliness, and felt there was so much more to see and do in the area that we voted to return in 2 years time in 2013 – and booked on the spot.

Now we were homeward bound. My car-full visited historic Haddon Hall – which turned out to be a place I had not visited before, which for me was wonderful. Now we are back it does seem a long way off to the next Chapel Weekend Away – but look for the advert in the second half of the magazine – you need to book in January!!

Bruce Lane

First Wednesday Walks

'To the hills, to the hills' was the cry...so the 7th September saw eleven First Wednesday Walkers do just that.

Led by Vaughan and Garry, the group met at the village of Llanarmon-yn-Ial, south of Mold. The first part of the walk took us up a gently rising country lane which is reputed to be rich in bird life, however, as the group had only just started out, the level of chatter was high and that of bird spotting consequently low.

This lane then joined with Offas Dyke, that well known, if failed, attempt to keep the Welsh out of England (we simply came by charabanc..... as missionaries).

The next section involved a steepish climb up the western slopes of Moel y Plas where we were rewarded with spectacular panoramic sights over the Vale of Clwyd.

At this point a scattering of raindrops sent us rushing for waterproofs, but this soon passed as we headed down a path to our lunch spot next to a small lake.

From then on all went downhill, literally not metaphorically, through lanes and fields until we returned, after a four and a half mile walk to the cars.

This was followed by a walk in October led by Peter and Sheila starting and ending at Marbury Park, calling at the Anderton Lift on the way, and with lunch in the middle at the George and Dragon at Great Budworth. The walk was lovely but will be remembered for all the wrong reasons. It was Liz Lavin's first Wednesday walk trying out her new knees – and she did a very creditable 4 ½ miles before Tony came to pick her up. Alison managed to trip on a bramble, got a lift to the George and Dragon, but went into delayed shock. A duvet was found for her to lie on on the pub floor, and an ambulance called.

Heather went with her to Leighton Hospital where she soon recovered and was sent home. We all wore our Lupus awareness T shirts, but making Great Budworth aware took second place to the Paramedics.

The November walk, led by Tony and Betty, was a circular walk from Blakemere Craft Centre, with lunch in the restaurant afterwards. Liz Lavin came again and made the full walk this time. To my surprise, the walk went through Petty Pool wood to Petty Pool and circled round. All new country to me.

December will be a 4 mile walk around Cuddington followed by lunch at the White Barn and coffee or tea at John and Sylvia's.

Future walk dates for your diary are :-

Wednesday December 7th

Wednesday January 4th

Wednesday February 1st

Why not join us for a great day out? We meet at the Church at 9.45 for a 10am departure (except perhaps January where we may just meet for lunch – check first). See you there.

Bruce Lane & Garry Wynne

Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival was rather special. We decorated the Church on the Friday, so the demonstrations of our crafts and sale of work could be held on the Saturday.

On 24th September the Craft Club had a very successful craft sale and demonstration in the Chapel, during which we raised £770.00 for The Petty Pool Trust.

We were then presented with an anonymous donation from a member of the congregation to take our total to an incredible £1010.00!

On Tuesday 4th October the Craft Club and the Rev'd Sue Levitt spent a most enjoyable morning at Petty Pool during which we presented the principal, Mr Peter Evans, with the cheque.

We would like to thank everyone who attended and spent so generously and we would especially like to thank our anonymous benefactor who helped us reach our fantastic total.

Liz Moore

Harvest Supper

Saturday was rounded off with supper and entertainment. First, we enjoyed a tasty and indeed substantial seasonal meal. This was followed by assorted words and music offered by Jean Dunning, who reminded us of being read to sleep as children with A A Milne's 'Vespers', the Band of Hope and Joy, who sang two contrasting pieces – 'Jesus is my Saviour' and the Gardener's hymn to the tune of 'All things bright and beautiful'.

Ken Dunning regaled us with two of the 'Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom and their son Albert' poems (including the lines about nobody wanting to go to either Widnes or Runcorn on the fixed fare ferry at per tuppence per person per trip) and the Harmony Group who entertained us with a quartet from Gilbert & Sullivan's 'The Yeoman of the Guard' and 'Thou visitest the earth' – a fitting harvest anthem based on words from Psalm 65.

We are grateful to those who prepared and served the supper, and cleared and washed up, and to the entertainment providers, not least Saro Jesudason, without whom the singing groups wouldn't be able to perform at all.

Finally, we presented our minister, the Revd Sue Levitt, with a copy of the new Methodist hymn-book, 'Singing the Faith', in the year of her ordination. Its publication had been delayed from June, but we were delighted that the book arrived a few days before Harvest weekend, especially as one of Sunday morning's hymns was taken from it.

It was a good evening all round!

Harvest Sunday

The theme for this year's harvest weekend was; 'thank you God for all your gifts to us'. The gift of creative talents was so clearly shown on Saturday during the day at the craft day and then in the evening the gifts of poetry, music and laughter were shared.

So we moved into Sunday and in the morning we celebrated the gifts of creation as we sang lustily thanking God for "all good gifts around us". In appreciating our abundance there was an overwhelming desire to share this with others as was clearly shown in all that was brought forward for YPSF.

In the evening we moved to thanking God for his gift of care and caring and it was appropriate that this included the commissioning of our Pastoral Visitors in which we acknowledged that::

"it is their privilege and responsibility in the name of Christ and on behalf of the whole church to pray regularly for those in their care, to share in their joys, and to give comfort and support in times of sorrow and need."

The congregation promised to support the Pastoral Visitors with its prayers as they do this vital work in its name.

We thank God and them for all their ministry among us.

And so we came to the end of our Harvest weekend having recognised and been thankful for the variety and abundance of God's gifts among us

The Petty Pool Trust Visit

A few days after the Harvest Festival Sue went with the Craft Club to present the cheque to the Petty Pool Trust. The Craft Club received a letter in thanks.

Dear Sue

I was so pleased yesterday with the amount of people that turned up at the Trust. It is inspiring to know that your parishioners and members of the craft group hold Petty Pool in such high regard and their generosity in raising £1,010 is outstanding. The work that they have done over the last six months is quite wonderful and I saw for myself, when I visited you a few Saturdays ago, the professionalism with which they all work.

The monies raised will be put towards an interactive whiteboard for learners with learning disabilities and hopefully will stimulate students which in return will increase their learning.

I would be so pleased if you could pass on my thanks and gratitude to all who helped in this project. If there is anything I can do for you please do not hesitate to contact me.

With the warmest of regards *Peter Evans* MBE Chief Executive The Petty Pool Trust
College and Outdoor Centre Pool Lane Sandiway Cheshire CW8 2DR

While she was there Sue was persuaded to climb the 38 foot climbing wall and then abseil back down. For this act of heroism above and beyond the call of duty, Sue was sponsored for Church funds to the tune of £200 by those present (and those absent who couldn't quite believe it)!

Well done Sue – now the treasurer knows what to do when we need some funds raising.

Advent Discussion Group

A discussion group, ably led by Sue Levitt, has studied the book 'Love Comes' by Tony Castle. The subjects discussed were:-

- Ready for love
- Love comes as judge
- Love comes as Messiah and teacher
- Love comes as teacher and model
- Love comes as helpless child

Obviously in this context 'love' is Jesus and everyone was challenged thinking of his coming as Judge.

Over the weeks, discussion ranged widely and very interestingly with Sue acting as leader and teacher when needed.

Choirs Singing for Their Supper

Both choirs were invited to 'Sing for their Supper' to round off the summer term. They were asked to sing a verse or two of an unaccompanied song or hymn.

In X factor mode, the judges were Ken Dunning, *gentle and mighty*, Mary Dimelow, *young and beautiful*, and Ruth Howarth, *delightful and funny*.

Everyone did their best and the judges, with absolute impartiality, awarded them the benefit of their supper!

Basically, it was a fun evening. We are a happy lot at Norley, without the necessity of a 'Happiness Czar' to advise, with a funding of millions. After all, Stalin affectionately referred to himself as the Constructor of Happiness! Peter Levitt captured the ethos of the evening with his rendering of the 'Gardener's hymn', and therefore understandably and justifiably was awarded the evening's prize!

Choirs at Norley

Back in rehearsals, in September, the choirs rehearsed for the Musical evening that followed the Harvest Supper, as well as for the Sunday Harvest services, the next day.

On Saturday night the Band of Hope & Joy sang the 'Gardener's hymn' as well as the rock and roll song entitled 'Jesus is my Saviour'. The Harmony choir sang a quartet from Gilbert and Sullivan as well as the anthem 'Thou visitest the Earth'. Jean Dunning sang a beautiful solo about Christopher Robin saying his prayers.

For the morning's service Jean and Rajan sang a duet entitled 'Pleasure it is' by Cecil Cope. In the evening Jean sang a beautiful solo entitled 'Such lovely things', prompting Sue Levitt to declare 'That was lovely'.

The Harmony Choir made a valuable contribution to the service on the 30th of October, remembering and celebrating All Saints Day. They sang 'Be still my soul' to 'Finlandia' by Sibelius. Jean sang the second verse with the others humming in harmony.

The Band of Hope & Joy were unanimously moved by Jean's singing, and I have conveyed all these comments to her.

The famous tenor Andrea Bocelli said that when he sang, he prayed. It makes us wonder whether that is what Jean does in the way she communicates with us in her singing.

I was particularly impressed with the Band of Hope & Joy in the way they learnt, with only two rehearsals, the song entitled 'Who painted the skies'. Bruce and Rajan asked the 'questions' with precise musicality and candour, while the ladies responded in kind. Though it was a difficult song with syncopated rhythm and interludes, the Band of Hope & Joy sang it with such precision and sensitivity that they merited the spontaneous applause from the assembled congregation.

The choirs are busy preparing for the Carol service on the 18th of December. They are also continuing to learn new songs from 'Singing the Faith'

In the words of Martin Luther, 'when you sing, you pray twice'

Saro Jesudason

LATE BREAKING NEWS.....

Welcome to Ken and Margaret Harrington who became members of the Methodist Connexion by joining Norley Methodist Church on Sunday 27th November at a memorable service led by the Rev'd Sue Levitt.

Shoe Boxes to Wrexham

Very many thanks to everyone who filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Pat Keen, Alison Twinn and Ruth Lane took about 40 boxes to Wrexham on the first day the warehouse was open. We had great fun checking the boxes and seeing them boxed and getting ready to be sent to

Kyrgyzstan in South Eastern Europe. Over the last few years our boxes have gone to countries where winter temperatures are many degrees below zero so a hat, scarf and gloves are essential in a shoe box. Where these were missing from our boxes we were very lucky, being there on the first day, as there were some lovely sets that ladies had made during the year, so we were able to add them to the shoe boxes where needed.

The knitted matinee jackets that we took were very gratefully received as they will be sent to needy babies and infants. If anyone over the next year wants to knit hat, gloves and scarf sets for boys or girls from 2 to 14 year olds, we know they will be much appreciated and very well used.

Ruth Lane

Diary

Unless otherwise stated in the notices the following group meets weekly at Norley

Craft Club Tuesdays 10.00am – noon in the Norley Open Door Room

December 2011

Thursday	1 st		World AIDS Day
Friday 2 nd – Sunday 4 th			Norley Methodist Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday	4 th	10.45am	Mr John Bell of Cuddington – Christmas Tree Festival
(Advent 2)		4.00pm	Rev Sue Levitt – Christmas Tree Festival
Tuesday	6 th	7.30pm	Carol Service Planning meeting at Howell Croft
Wednesday	7 th	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
		7.30pm	Local Preachers meeting at The Hurst
Thursday	8 th	12 noon	Open Door Christmas Lunch
		7.30pm	Salvation Army Carols at Tarvin
Friday 9 th – Sunday 11 th			Frodsham MC Treefest 2011
Saturday	10 th	10.0am	Decorate the Church for Christmas
Sunday	11 th	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament
(Advent 3)		4.00pm	Christingle Service & Tea for Cradle Roll led by Rev'd Sue Levitt
		6.30pm	No evening service at Norley
Monday	12 th	12 noon	Hurst Soup Lunch
Tuesday	13 th	11.00am	Café Worship at Ashton
		6.30pm	Harmony Choir rehearsal at Lower Mill
		7.30pm	Band of Hope and Joy rehearsal at Lower Mill
Wednesday	14 th	2.30pm	Methodist Women in Britain at Kelsall – Carol Service
Thursday	15 th	6.30pm	First Norley Carol Singing Night
Saturday	17 th	10.00am	Band of Hope and Joy practice at Church
		10.30am	Harmony Choir practice at Church
		6.30pm	Carol Singing
Sunday	18 th	9.00am	Norley@9
(Advent 4)		4.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service – Spiritual Committee
Tuesday	20 th	6.30pm	Carol Singing
Wednesday	21 st	12 noon	until 4pm Christmas Holiday Club at Norley Methodist
Thursday	22 nd	6.30pm	Carol Singing
Friday	23 rd	10.00am	until noon. Holiday Club at the Kingsley Community Centre
		6.30pm	Christingle service at the Kingsley Community Centre
		6.30pm	Carol singing reserve night if rained off earlier
Christmas Eve	24 th	6.00pm	Carol Singing
Christmas Day	25 th	9.30am	Family worship - Rev'd Sue Levitt
Tuesday	27 th	11.00am	Café Worship at Ashton

January 2012

Sunday	1 st	10.45am	Mr John Bell of Cuddington
(Epiphany)		6.30pm	No evening service at Norley
Wednesday	4 th	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Thursday	5 th	4.30pm	Messy Church - The Hurst
Sunday	8 th	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt – Covenant Service
		6.30pm	St John's Norley – United service
Tuesday	10 th	11.00am	Café Worship at Ashton
		7.30pm	Spiritual Committee meeting at Howell Croft

		7.45pm	Hurst Guild – John Howarth “Tibetan Village Life”
Wednesday	11 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Saturday	14 th		Rev'd Marcus Torchon speaking at Caldley Valley
Sunday	15 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mr Philip Garner of Norley
		6.30pm	Mr Geoffrey Robinson of Helsby
Wednesday 18 – Wednesday	25		Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday	23 rd	10.45am	All Age Worship led by Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
		6.30pm	Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacrament
Tuesday	24 th	11.00am	Café Worship at Ashton
Thursday	26 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.30pm	Thursday Club
Friday	27 th		Holocaust Memorial Day
Homelessness	29 th	10.45am	Professor Neville Ford of The Hurst
Sunday		6.30pm	Mrs Janet Batey of The Hurst

February

Wednesday	1 st	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Thursday	2 nd	1.00pm	Frodsham Safeguarding Training (book with Pat Christopher)
		4.30pm	Messy Church – The Hurst
Sunday	5 th	10.45	Mr Ian Johnson of Tarvin
		6.30pm	Rev'd Sue Levitt
Tuesday	7 th	12 noon	Pastoral Visitors meeting at Church - bring butties
Wednesday	8 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		2.30pm	Methodist Women in Britain Communion Service at Ashton
Thursday	9 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting Helsby
Sunday	12 th	10.45am	Rev'd Pat Billsborrow - Sacrament
		6.30pm	Joint service at St John's Norley
Tuesday	14 th	11.00am	Café Worship at Ashton
		7.45pm	The Hurst Guild – Neil Hampshire “Shaker Christians”
Sunday	19 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mrs Elizabeth Holmes of Frodsham
		6.30pm	Mr Mike Ridley of Bunbury
Wednesday	22 nd		Ash Wednesday – the start of Lent
Thursday	23 rd	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.30pm	Thursday Club
		7.30pm	Local Preachers Meeting at Kelsall
Sunday	26 th	10.45am	All Age Worship – Rev'd Sue Levitt
		6.30pm	Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacrament
Saturday 25 th Feb – Friday 9 th March			Fair Trade Fortnight

March

Friday	2 nd		Women's World Day of Prayer
Tuesday	6 th	7.30pm	Church Council
Wednesday	7 th	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
Wednesday	14 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Thursday	22 nd	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at The Hurst

Advent Liturgy

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, and WALK

Neil Stacey, The Superintendent of the Chester Circuit, has prepared an Advent Liturgy for use in all churches in the Delamere Forest and Chester Circuits. The theme is; Stop, Look, Listen and Walk and is very thought provoking.

In addition to having an advent ring at the front of the church, we will be installing a 'station' of light in each of the four corners of the church on the four Sundays of Advent. Then on Christmas morning we will light the final candle in the Advent Ring which will be placed in the centre of the church. In this way, the church will be "encircled in light" during Advent - and we celebrate the light of Christ in the midst of us among us on Christmas Day.

Candlelit Carol Service – Sunday 18th December at 4pm

This year the Carol Service will be organized by members of the congregation and will include singing by the Harmony Choir and the Band of Hope and Joy.

If **YOU** are interested in helping to prepare the service or participating in the service please come to a meeting at Howell Croft, Cow Lane on Tuesday December 6th at 7.30pm.

The aim is to make the Carol Service inspiring and thought provoking to everyone present and all ideas, on what would achieve this, will be most welcome.

OPEN DOOR LUNCHES.

I do hope you have booked a place at the Open Door Christmas Lunch to be held on Thursday December 8th. It promises to be another exciting event to end our year of good times together. Please book by Sunday December 4th to ensure your seat.

We shall then look forward to our Winter dates which will be:

Wednesday January 11 th	Thursday January 26 th
Wednesday February 8 th	Thursday February 23 rd
Wednesday March 14 th	Thursday March 22 nd

HAPPY CHRISTMAS
FROM ALL AT OPEN DOOR LUNCHES

Joan Bell

Thursday Club

fourth Thursday of the month



130pm – 3.00pm

Open Door Room,

Norley Methodist Church



See you there



January 26th

February 23rd



Norley@9

Norley@9 is back now on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Come and join us for an early, informal time of worship and praise lasting about 45 minutes at 9.00am on December 18th, January 15th and February 19th

Christingle

We invite you to come and join us for our annual Christingle Service. It will be led by our minister the Rev'd Sue Levitt, and promises to be fun for all the family.

After a short service all are welcome to party tea for the children and tea and mince pies for the grown-ups.

Do join us, we would love to see you:

Place: Norley Methodist Church

Date: Sunday December 11th 2011

Time: 4pm.

Candlelit Carol Service



4.00pm



Sunday 18th December

Everyone Welcome

Christmas Day



9.30am



Family Worship

**Come and celebrate with
us**

Christmas Day Offering

The Church Council decided to donate the **cash** collection at the Christmas day service to Action for Children (which was formerly known as NCH). Please give generously in **cash** on Christmas Day to this very needy and worthwhile cause.

Carol Singing Dates and Routes 2011

Please make note of the dates and come and help us take the Christmas message to the village

Date	Route	Meeting Place and Time
Thursday 15 th Dec	Fingerpost Lane, Cow Lane	6.30pm at the Church
Saturday 17 th Dec	Any houses left on Cow Lane Moss Lane The Paddocks, Forresters Close, School Bank, Westview Road	6.30pm at the Church
Tuesday 20 th Dec	Maddock's Hill Hough Lane Gadbank High Street Breech Moss	6.30pm at the Church
Thursday 22 nd Dec	Post Office Lane, The Spinney, Crabmill Lane School Lane,	6.30pm at the Church
Friday 23 rd Dec	Spare night if rained off earlier	6.30pm at the Church
Saturday 24 th Dec	Gallowsclough (James') Harthill Farm	6.00pm at Gallowsclough
Christmas Eve	Then normal route from Hatchmere Caravan Park	

This year we have 5 nights Carol Singing – do try to join us to take out the Christmas message. The Church Council decided last year to cancel the 6th night after the Carol service, and to encourage people to come to the Carol Service instead. So apologies if you live on the car route (Ruloe, Delamere Park, Cuddington) or on Ashton Road, we won't make it to you again this year – but we hope to see you at the candlelit Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 4pm.

January 8th

10.45am Covenant Service



led by the



Revd Sue Levitt

Church Weekend Away 2012 - Urgent

A booking has been made at the **Abbot Hall Hotel**, Kents Bank, Grange-over-Sands, for the weekend of **September 21st to 23rd 2012**. The booking forms will shortly be made available for completion (by a date before the end of January) so please note the dates and prepare to indicate your wish to come and also pay the deposit required. This is needed so soon in advance so that we can secure the reservations. If VAT remains at 20%, then the prices will be the same as this year. There has been further bedroom refurbishment since we last visited, and the worst room has disappeared altogether!

Volunteers to make the detailed arrangements and prepare the programme will be much appreciated a little later: We envisage that we will adopt a 'team approach' as in 2011 and confirm the planning at the Church Council in March.

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club, held from 1.30pm to 3.00pm on the fourth Thursday of the month is open to all – not just those who have been at the Open Door Lunch.

The first three meetings have been much appreciated and all very different in theme. The September meeting was 'eyes

down' for Bingo where the competitiveness had to be seen to be believed. The October was a fantastic 'Sing-along-a-Saro as she played lots of old favourites. We nearly raised the roof as we found that there were many excellent singers – especially Harold. The November meeting was a safari through Tanzania and Rwanda – and luckily no one got eaten by lions, stampeded by wildebeest or sat on by a silver back gorilla.

Do come and join us in January for our next meeting.....