

Winter 2023



OUTREACH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM NORLEY METHODIST CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP
HOLY COMMUNION
BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS
WEBSITE

10.45am
ONCE A MONTH
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE MINISTER
<http://www.norleymethodistchurch.org.uk>

MINISTER

THE REVEREND NEIL STACEY
TELEPHONE: 01244 675967



**NORTH CHESHIRE
METHODIST CIRCUIT**

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Dear Friends,

The season of Advent, which leads us through December to Christmas, is a time of hope. We reflect on the longings of people from long ago – yearning for peace and light in times of darkness. Old Testament prophets looked forward to peace in Jerusalem, a beacon of justice for the world.

I have begun to reflect on those readings this year with a sense of anguish. Many churches will be decorated over these weeks by a ring of Advent candles, helping us to reflect on the light God offers to the world. Yet an appeal went out recently, asking if we have any candles to spare. These can be used as sources not only of light but also of heat for those still struggling for peace in Ukraine. None of us can look at what is going on in Israel and Gaza with anything other than horror. The scale of violence and destruction continues to shock us to the core; our own discomfort perhaps reminding us that there are no easy steps on the paths to peace.

It is easy to think of the Christmas story as a simplistic, cozy tale, bearing no resemblance to the complexities of modern life. And yet, for me, there are still profound insights to be drawn from it; insights which call to us living with a deep passion for peace and justice and human community. It tells of people who knew what it was like to live under the oppression of Empire, pushed from pillar to post in a violent world. It speaks of finding new hope – not in the corridors of power, but in the backstreets among ordinary people. It challenges us to find space for the helpless child, to provide shelter for the vulnerable, and to make time for wonder.

I know that there are those who find Christmas a difficult season. My prayer is that each one of us may find *something* within all that we share (perhaps in the words of a carol, through a thought sparked by familiar readings, in moments of kindness shown between family or neighbours) which reminds us of the light which God offers to us and to all the world. And may it inspire us to let that light be our guide for the days ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Rev J. Neil Stacy

Pastoral Piece

Autumn/winter blessings to you all.

At present in our thoughts and prayers are with the people all over the world who are suffering. It appears the world is in a devastating situation. It is very sad reading and seeing the news on TV.



Therefore, I found it quite an escape for a while visiting a garden centre. It's quite magical, they seem to excel each year on decorations at Christmas time. For a short while it was lovely to get lost in memories and admire the magic moments. Then back to basics. It's a wonder we haven't got webbed feet with all the rain of late. Thankfully we have again been luckier than a lot of places.

May I say our dedicated Pastoral Team have continued to be around for people needing us, so thank you to them. Remember we are only a phone call away. We would all like to take this opportunity to "Wish you and your families a blessed festive season"

Please take care – and if you can, spare a thought and prayer for those in your area who may need help.

Meanwhile I leave you with these words.

After a difficult time in life,

It's time to move on.

After the hurting comes the healing.

Then comes the growing stronger.

More confident, more capable,

More of everything you need to be, want to be, and hope to be.

(Words by Douglas Pagels.)

Margaret Hogan 2/11/23

Church Leadership Team Meeting (CLT)

The CLT met on 14th September principally to prepare for the Church Council on 3rd October. In addition to preparing the financial and property items for the Church Council the CLT noted that



- 1) Mount Pleasant would like Methodists to do communion there. Neil had discussed this with Sue who (it was understood) was willing to do this, and the meeting approved the proposal. Neil would go back to Sue and ask her to provide communion at Mount Pleasant.
- 2) It was agreed to propose to the CC that Neil should be the registered minister for same sex marriages.
- 3) A christening has been requested at Norley. Neil was sorting out the arrangements with the family and the presbyter at the Welsh Presbyterian Church in Chester and would inform Lesley once the date was agreed
- 4) Synod had set up dates for mandatory training for all stewards and local preachers on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. Our easiest session will be at Helsby on 17th February from 10-4 and the District will provide a lunch (not necessarily of carrots). There is an option to do the training online which Ruth L has done and found it very useful.
- 5) Friday 15th December was chosen as the date for the December concert

6) Decisions were made on the policy of what from Outreach is to be published on our church website, particularly in relation to pictures of people and personal data.

7) The date of next meeting will be Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm at Howell Croft
BL 26.10.23

Harvest Festival

Our harvest festival was celebrated on September 24th.

Heather had the very successful idea of inviting members of the congregation to choose a partner and between them decorate a windowsill. A wide variety of excellent designs were produced with this new arrangement.



Hazel and her team did an amazing job of decorating the entrance porch and Jean, Beryl and others made the free-standing flower arrangements.

The church looked beautiful. Thanks to everybody who contributed.



We were delighted that our minister, Neil Stacey, was able to lead the service and engaged the congregation with a lively sermon and service and Saro played the organ.

Following the service, the flowers were distributed to the congregation.

The donations of food were given to the foodbank – in total this amounted to over 100Kg – along with gift aided cash donations of £206.75

Altogether an excellent traditional harvest day



First Wednesday Walks

There was no First Wednesday walk in September – too many people were away - but we report here on the October and November walks.

In October the walk was led by Richard and Di. Nine of us drove to Dunham Massey and a further two met us there. We had a welcome cup of coffee before setting off on a two- and half-mile stroll around the deer park. The weather was fine although the recent rain had made the ground very wet but the now excellent paths around the park made the walking very easy.



Words Richard, Photo Garry

As early October is the beginning of the deer rutting season, we hoped to see some action but although we did see a few groups of the resident fallow deer they were once again quite quiet. We heard the calls and saw occasional glimpses of the many resident parakeets which, for better or worse, are now very common in the park.

We admired a magnificent old beech tree which, for many years, has been attacked by a bracket fungus (giant polypore) but is still fighting back.(see photo). We felt we had earned our lunch which was taken at a local hostelry, The Axe and Cleaver.

In November, Ruth led a walk along the Weaver way starting at the rangers' hut near to the entrance of Fords of Winsford. Anthony & Heather's granddaughter Emily joined us again, and mother Rachel who dropped her off crept into the photograph which was taken by Rachel's husband Jeremy.

The weather was fine and sunny, and we walked down to the old jetty on the Weaver before splitting into short, less short and medium length walks. We all walked up the river as far as the Red Lion, but returned by various routes. The medium group of 5 covered 5½ Km, going past the salt mines on the other side of the river and back (the heron was still

there) to meet up at 12.30 for a meal at the Wharton Stonehouse. The carvery was very popular.



For future walks meet at Church at 9.45am on

Wednesday December 6th

Wednesday January 3rd

Wednesday February 7th

Do join us for a short walk, a good lunch and pleasant company.

Solar Panels Update

We received £1021 at the beginning of the quarter – a record – for the electricity we produced from the panels, and we are about to submit another claim.

The treasurer is pleased to note this income exceeds the cost we paid for our electricity and gas by a considerable margin, and the property steward is pleased to see that the energy produced exceeded the energy consumed in the summer period – though this will not be true in the winter.



Bruce Lane

October Church Council meeting

The Church Council met on 3rd October, and it was a busy agenda as there are various items that are approved at the Autumn Church Council meeting, being the first meeting in our Church Year.

The membership of the Church Council was confirmed as follows:

Chair: Rev'd Nel Stacey.



Stewards: Ruth Lane (Senior Steward), John Dimelow, Lewis Dimelow, Mary Dimelow, Philip Garner, Lesley Gough, Ruth Hosker, Bruce Lane.

Other members of the Church Council (elected at the Annual Church Meeting): Hazel Dale, Oliver Dimelow, Jean Dunning, Michael Gough, Margaret Hogan, Yvonne Roughsedge, Alison Twinn, Gay Wilson, Mike Wilson.

John Bell was re-elected as Treasurer, Margaret Hogan was re-elected as Pastoral Secretary and Lesley Gough was re-elected as Church Council Secretary. (The following also continue in their roles: Bruce Lane, John Dimelow and Lewis Dimelow as our Property Stewards, Michael Gough as Chair of the Spiritual Committee, Alison Twinn and Yvonne Roughsedge as Communion Stewards).

The Church Council approved various documents: The audited annual accounts for 2022-23, the Safeguarding Policy, the Health and Safety Policy, the Church Annual Return, and the Annual Property Checklist, as well as proposals for expenditure required to upgrade the Open Door Room, and proposals for changes to the items from Outreach which will be included on our website. Other reports were received from the Spiritual Committee, Pastoral Committee, and for finance, property, and safeguarding. (Further information is covered separately in Outreach). Mike Wilson led a discussion about the findings of the community café survey and a summary of our agreed 'next steps' is also included elsewhere.

We are very grateful to those who continue to contribute so much to the various aspects of our Church, ensuring that we continue to thrive, and operate smoothly and safely.

Neil and Simon Kelly (Circuit Steward) provided an update from the Circuit: Clearly staffing in the Circuit is under significant pressure at present. However, Neil and Simon reported that the stationing process is about to start and across the North Cheshire Circuit we are looking to appoint two Ministers and a Deacon which will ease things considerably. Updates on this will be shared as more information becomes available.

Lesley Gough, Church Council Secretary.

Shoe Box Sunday



Operation Christmas Child began again this year at Norley with Shoebox Saturday when a dedicated group of people turned up at Church to bring donations and pack shoeboxes. During the morning many others dropped in with items for the boxes, and by the end some 20 shoeboxes had been filled and placed in front of the communion rail ready for the service the next morning.

The next day was Shoebox Sunday with Ruth Lane leading the service which included a video of the history of Operation Christmas Child including the delivery in March this year of the 200 millionth shoe box in the Ukraine by Billy Graham's son, Lawrence,



More boxes arrived and were brought up during the service, whose theme was 'Love your Neighbour'. In the end 33 shoeboxes were received for dispatch to the collection centre in 2 weeks' time. In addition, a magnificent total of £325 including gift aid was sent to assist delivering the shoeboxes to over 170 countries in the world.

31 of the 33 shoeboxes

Well done everybody and thanks for your generosity.

Norley Community Café Update November 2023



The results of the questionnaire sent out in July have been very encouraging, with approximately a 15% return and 60 people in the village giving a thumbs up to some sort of café being opened in our church.

Numerous suggestions for opening times and ideas for making it work were received. Equally encouraging was the number of people who said they would help support its operation and contribute to being part of a team to take it forward.

Having reviewed the results and reported back to the Church Council in October, we have decided to invite some of the above to come to a forum in the church, probably on a Saturday morning, where they can view the premises and then openly discuss with us the possible options for establishing the café, whilst respecting our congregation's needs.

It is anticipated that this will take place in the next couple of months, and we will keep everyone informed of the feedback.

Michael Wilson



Church Calendar



December 2023 – February 2024

Date	Time	Preacher	Activity
November			
29 th	12.15pm		Soup and Pud Lunch
December			
3 rd	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt	Advent 1, Confirmation and Sacrament
6 th	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk
9 th	10.00am		Coffee Plus
10 th	10.45am	Rev'd Jo Brown	Advent 2, Morning Worship
12 th	7.30pm		CLT at Howell Croft
15 th	7.00pm		'Concert in aid of Christian Aid
17 th	4.00pm	John Bell	Advent 3, Carol Service
19 th	2.00pm		Pastoral Committee at Howell Croft
20 th	6.00pm		Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree
24 th	10.45am	NO SERVICE	Advent 4
25 th	10.00am	Michael Gough	Advent 5, Christmas Day Celebration
31 st	10.45am		Morning Worship
January			
3 rd	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk
7 th	10.45am	Rev'd David Copley	Covenant with Sacrament
14 th	10.45am	Ruth Lane	Informal Worship
17 th	7.30pm		Preachers' meeting at Helsby
20 th	10.00am		Coffee Plus
21 st	10.45am	Rev'd Ken Walker	Morning Worship
28 th	10.45am	Mark Smyth	Morning Worship
31 st	12.15pm		Soup and Pud Lunch
February			
4 th	10.45am	John Bell	Morning Worship
7 th	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk
10 th	10.00am		Coffee Plus
11 th	10.45am	Judy Ford	Morning Worship
15 th	7.30pm		Circuit Meeting at Frodsham
18 th	10.45am	Rev'd Peter Levitt	Morning Worship with Sacrament
25 th	10.00am		Joint Service at The Hurst
28 th	12.15pm		Soup and Pud lunch
28 th	7.30pm		Circuit Safeguarding Officers meet at Helsby

Spiritual Committee update

Advent 2023



It goes without saying that the Advent-Christmas season is a busy one for our Ministers and Preachers. But it is also a great opportunity to connect with people who don't normally attend church and who might come to a service in this Christmas season. And connecting with this story is a wonderful way to hear the good news. This year we will be following 'Out of the Ordinary', the Methodist Church's Christmas campaign for 2023, which has a more contemporary feel. Out of the Ordinary shares the wonder of how God's love is revealed in the ordinary...

- How a seemingly ordinary birth becomes God's out of the ordinary world-saving event through Jesus.
- How every day, ordinary acts of kindness can breakthrough to the extraordinary.

The four Sundays leading up to Christmas, and Christmas Day, are summarised as:

- 3rd December - Letting go of things
- 10th December - Change your thinking
- 17th December - Pointing to the light *
- 24th December - Listening *

Christmas Day - **God with us; God in us**

(*) Part of the Carol Service on 17th December.

Given Christmas is always a busy time for many, and Christmas Day falls on Monday 25th December, we have decided to forego the regular Sunday Service at Norley on 24th December.

Carol Singing

Carol Singing (around the tree) will be held in the grounds (weather permitting) of Norley Methodist Church on **20th December, 6pm-8pm**. As in previous years, this will take the form of two 40-minute *sing-alongs* of popular Carols and the 'Norley Specials', punctuated with a break for refreshments in the Church. Carol Singing practice will be held in December - **-see Notices for the date, time and location.**



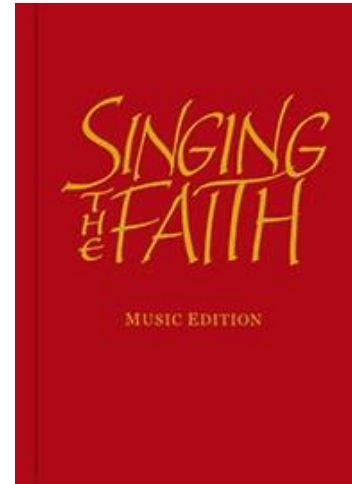
Informal Worship



A mix of styles of services at Norely is regarded as a 'good thing'. 'Contemporary' Informal Worship (IW) has been trialled over six months during 2023 with a mixed reaction. A model has now emerged, which offers Preachers the flexibility to include elements such as music, videos, sketches, and some 'open' discussion. IW services will be planned in the new calendar year.

Digital Music

For those rare occasions when we don't have an organist or piano player to accompany our acts of worship a new digital music system has been acquired which enables hymns from *Singing the Faith* to be 'played' on our Yamaha Clavinova digital piano. Clever stuff – especially as it allows the 'pianist' to vary the tempo (speed of playback) to suit the congregation's pace of singing. Hurrah!



If you'd like to contribute to the planning and delivery of worship at Norley then come along to the quarterly Spiritual Committee Meetings, hosted by Michael & Lesley Gough. All are most welcome. "C'mon, you know you want to."

December 17th

Candlelit Carol Service



4.00pm



Everyone Welcome

Singing
around the
Christmas
Tree!

Norley Methodist Church



*Come and join us
to sing carols,
meet friends
and have
refreshments*



on
Wednesday 18th December
6-8pm



Christmas Day





10.00am Family Worship

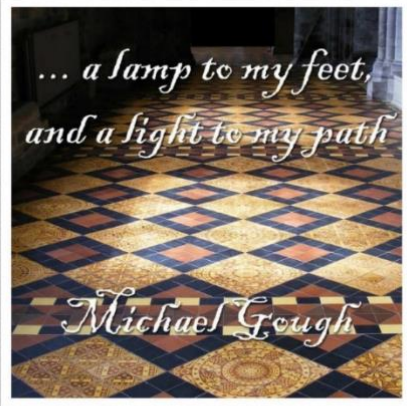
Come and celebrate with us

Covenant Service




January 7th at 10.45am







NOW AVAILABLE

"...a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path" from Michael Gough

Michael has released a new album containing solo music for the guitar which may be useful in personal and gathered settings. As with his previous CD's, all profits are donated to **Christian Aid**. This collection is available on Spotify, Amazon Music, iTunes, Apple Music, Deezer, YouTube etc. Follow the links on Michael's website: www.michaelgoughmusic.co.uk

Financial matters

As I circumnavigate the North Cheshire Circuit, fulfilling preaching appointments very kindly given to me, conversations with church stewards, treasurers and other local members invariably focus on expressions of concern about finance. Churches, especially those with extensive premises, some elderly, and with declining congregations, some also elderly, struggle to find the means to meet the persistent demands of repairs, maintenance and heating once they have paid the assessment – as we know, always the first call on church funds.



The Outreach editor asked for this contribution the day after I had watched an old episode of ‘Yes, Minister’ in which Jim Hacker (the Minister), on hearing rumors of an impending cabinet reshuffle, became obsessively worried, lest he should be demoted. Seeking assurance, he invited Sir Humphrey (his Permanent Secretary), Bernard (his Private Secretary) and even his driver to indicate how he had done so far, as Minister for Administrative Affairs; their unanimous and oft-repeated response was, ‘you’ve done alright’. As the plot thickened, even Sir Arnold (the Cabinet Secretary) affirmed this nebulous judgement.

Financially, Norley Methodist Church is ‘doing alright’, not that we should be complacent, but, due to the continued generosity of our congregation, we are in a sound financial position which includes adequate reserves to provide for the proverbial rainy day.

The full financial accounts and reports for the last Methodist year (September 1st 2022 to August 31st 2023) were adopted by the Autumn Church Council. As always, regular collections (£17,818) are the main source of income, and the circuit assessment (£18,384) is the largest expenditure item. We continue to depend on the HMRC refund from gift-aided collections and donations which amounted to £5035 of the total income of £32,503.

Donations, totalling £4901 (including added gift-aid), were made to thirteen organisations, as follows:

- £1421 to the West Cheshire foodbank, from week-by-week and one-off donations
- £1150 to the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal, including the February Coffee Morning donations
- £730 to OPAL (Older People, Active Lives), raised at the Autumn concert
- £280 to the Methodist World Mission Fund, from the Easter Offering collection
- £250 to Operation Christmas Child, in addition to the filled shoeboxes
- £200 to Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum, from the Church Council
- £175 to the Salvation Army, raised at carol-singing and the December Coffee Morning
- £175 to Northwich CAB, also from carol-singing and the December Coffee Morning
- £175 to Action for Children, from the Christmas Day collection
- £110 to Christian Aid, from the May Coffee Morning
- £100 to Norley News, from the Church Council
- £95 to Methodist Homes, from a collection on MHA Sunday
- £40 to Macmillan Hospices, from the Church Council for the Mothering Sunday flowers.

This is an excellent record of which we may be modestly proud.

The further good news is that the planned deficit in the year was less than expected as the external painting of the premises cost £2000 less than was budgeted. This gave us a good

start for the current year, 2023-24, in which significant property enhancements are underway (reported elsewhere in Outreach). We have successfully applied for grants from the Circuit and District (in total £3000) which, together with available funds from the CFB deposit account, will enable the upgrade of the Open Door room and the secondary double-glazing in the church to be achieved in the coming months.

So, we're doing alright, with enormous thanks to the regular congregation and many other supporters who make contributions; your sustained generosity enables Norley Methodist Church to focus on God's calling and our mission in the community without having to worry about paying the next gas bill.

John Bell, Treasurer.

Property Matters

Since the last Outreach it has been an even busier time for the property stewards

The quinquennial report from June has been received. It is very complimentary about the state of the church. The recommendations were presented to the church council – of the 3 recommendations, 2 have already been completed and the third is in hand.

Upgrading the Open Door Room

A grant request written by Bruce and John B following CLT approval was submitted to the Circuit Meeting for £1000 and to the District DRMG for £2000 towards these costs. Both were approved, so we can proceed with the work and the secondary double glazing of the main church as provisionally approved by the Church Council.

The woodwork in the ODR has been removed and cleared and the pipes boxed in (and unexpectedly the header tank replaced), the notice boards removed, and the LED lights installed. The redecoration by Holland decorators is awaited and the removal of the piano and minor electrical cable rerouting to complete the work.

The Church annual return

The property checklist and the proposed Annual Church return were compiled for the Church Council, and following their approval the Annual Church Return has been submitted.

The return includes the following property proposals for 2023/2024 approved by the Church Council

Completion of the upgrading of the Open Door Room.

Secondary double glazing of the small windows in the main church

Continue to monitor the damp on the corridor wall outside the vestry, thought to be due to high water table from the flooding when the water supply pipe failed.

Further water problems

In October however events overtook us. The damp on the corridor wall proved to be leaking copper pipes in the heating system, requiring the heating to be shut down while the property steward was away on holiday. Several days' work on his return enabled the heating system to be restored for £22 but without the heaters in the kitchen, the lounge radiator, and those in front of the toilets and the vestry.

The resolution of these problems and the completion of the external decoration remain to be resolved

Bruce Lane



Satellites

Last year a group of us went to Satellites, a Christian festival for young people, run by Youthscape, and it marked a very significant moment for the youth group in our faith journeys, with Molly even marking the moment of giving her life to Christ. This year we were able to attend the event again, but this time going as volunteers to the festival, helping to steward the event—which meant we got to see much of what was going on, whilst also providing a vital role to the event in making sure things happened safely for all.



Molly Vickers—Satellites 2023 was an unexpected blessing, originally setting out as guests but turning into volunteers enabled me to meet so many lovely people with a heart for Jesus. Being able to provide a sense of security and safety to those attending the event not only gave me a sense of accomplishment and purpose, but also a deeper appreciation for the Christian community. Being able to experience

this event from a different point of view was definitely eye-opening!

Lewis Dimelow—Volunteering at Satellites was hard work but fulfilling with meeting new people and helping young people find Jesus.

Oliver Dimelow—To the Church, thank you. We did not expect things to turn out the way they did, but we adapted. Experiencing Satellites from a new perspective, helping other young people to experience God safely for the first time or renew their vow with him.

We got to meet new people on a great team. Cannot wait for next year.

Dean Lawson

SOUP & PUDDING LUNCHES

Wednesday 31st
January

Wednesday 28th
February
at 12.15pm

contact Lesley via
Lesley.gough@mail.com to book
your place by the Sunday before



Christmas Concert

Don't forget! Our Christmas Concert is on Friday 15th December 2023 in support of Christian Aid's emergency appeals (Libya floods, Turkey-Syria earthquake, Ukraine humanitarian, Haiti earthquake).

Entertainment (with



interval refreshments) will be provided by:

The brilliant **Keith Singleton Jazz Trio** and vocalist **Annie Long**



Ballads and folk songs by troubadour and 'local hero' **Gus Glynn** (singer/songwriter/guitarist).



Celtic Folk music by **Michael Gough** (guitar)

The concert has a suggested donation of **£10/ticket**.

Tickets will be available in November from Norley Methodist Church or from MG Custom Guitars (07748 112214).

Doors open at 6:30pm; **concert starts at 7pm**. Parking available courtesy of Norley Village Hall.

SOUP & PUDDING LUNCHES

Wednesday 31st
January

Wednesday 28th
February

at 12.15pm

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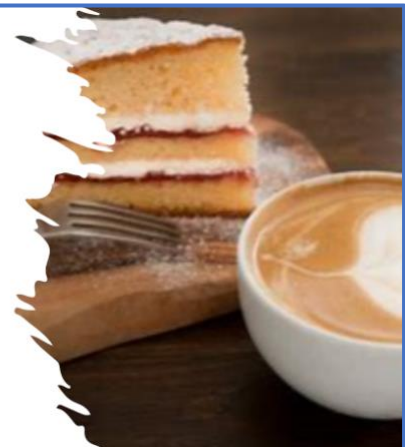
COFFEE +

10am – 12 noon

Sat 9th December

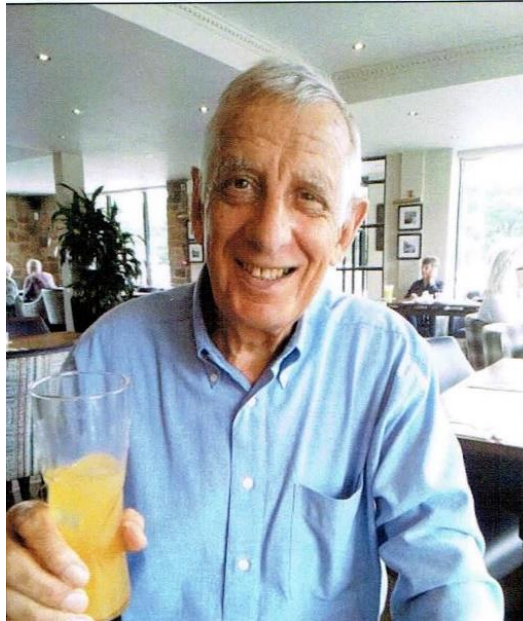
Sat 20th January

Sat 10th February



IN MEMORIAM

David Frederick Smith



Dave was born in Edgbaston, Birmingham, to much loved parents, Floss & Fred. Upon starting school in Quinton, along came his baby brother, Trevor. Even early on, Dave had a thirst for knowledge, reading all the time - on the bus, at the library, even under his bedsheets to the despair of his parents! He had a keen interest in photography, building a 'dark room', in his parents' loft. Trevor remembers living at the doctor's house in Rookery Road when Dave was practicing his chemistry in the outside toilet. He concocted a crystalized potion to trick his little brother, but instead their dad walked in, and it blew his slipper off!

Dave attended George Dixon Grammar School, where he became great friends with Les. He regularly took Les home to his Mum, who treated him like another son (Les having lost his Mum when he was only ten years' old). Dave was good at cricket, and excelled at practical subjects, particularly woodwork. Les recalls one year at school when the first piece of scenery had been assembled for the annual play, and they joined the woodwork teacher, Mr Hayes, as he looked upon his handiwork. He then turned to Dave and proudly announced "I built that." Dave, like all the boys at that time, was a great fan of the Goon Show, and he mimicked Peter Seller's Bluebottle voice and said "Hmm! You can tell, can't you". There was a deafening silence for a moment, until Mr Hayes burst into laughter.

At Aston University Dave studied Physics, ultimately becoming an Associate Member of the Institute of Metals. His first engineering job was at Wilmot Breedon, where my dad happened to work. Later, planned alterations to the laboratories, saw each lab. worker assigned to an office and Dave found himself assigned to my dad's. They quickly became good friends, both sharing the same sense of humour. When a group of them started going ten pin bowling during lunchtimes, and switched this event to a Sunday, Dave's fate was sealed! My dad had said his pal from work was picking him up, and I assumed he would be dad's age. Imagine my delight when this tall, dark & handsome young man walked up the garden path, with his brother! Upon being introduced to Dave, I was immediately smitten, so the following week, when Trevor brought along his girlfriend, due to my newly acquired interest in bowling, I joined them. Dave's quick-witted humour kept us highly amused, and soon I could tell by Dave's big, brown, expressive eyes that he was warming to me, and we quickly started dating. Lucky me!

In preparation for our wedding, unbeknown to me, Dave sold his A40, to raise some cash, & bought a duck egg blue bubble car for £10. The next day, to my horror, he'd mixed some paints together & had hand painted his bubble car (our 'going away' car) with the resulting colour – Battleship Grey! Needless to say, he found himself re-painting it white, the day after that! Our Wedding took place in May 1965. Dave & his best man, Bob, arrived before the church had even

opened. Later, Dave disputed my assumption that he must have been very keen, saying that he was actually carrying a can of petrol and a box of matches. And with regard to the car, 6 months' later he sold it for £5, it was put in a field full of hens, and used as a hen house!

When we moved into our new house, we discovered the neighbours both sides, had baby twins. Now, hold that thought! Meanwhile, Dave worked on the house and garden, and it soon became apparent that Dave was good at DIY. Three years' later I was pregnant, and Dave was a nervous wreck. With an itchy rash from head to toe, the Doctor assured him that it would resolve once the baby was born. Hayley was born safely, whereupon he became both thrilled, and rashless. I discovered later that after heading home, he'd bought a bottle of whisky, filled his top pocket full of cigars, and had been round to all of our neighbours, pouring whisky shots and handing out cigars. When I came home from hospital, he insisted on doing all the night feeds, also making up the day feeds, and sterilising all the bottles, before going off to work. What a gem! Two years' later, at 8 months' pregnant & in hospital, Dave waited anxiously in the corridor, to be told, "You've got a daughter! And "quick put this gown on, there's another one coming"! Gowned up in the delivery room, Dave's brown eyes were like organ stops, and then the doctor announced "you also have a son. Perfect – one of each!" The twins, named Natalie and Jeremy, had arrived safely, and I eventually came home to discover that Dave had bought a twin pram, employed a cleaning lady & had even sold his golf clubs, to spend more time with the family.

On the housing estate, there were now 3 sets of twins in a row, much to the amusement of the neighbours. Again, Dave insisted on doing the night feeds etc, this time every 3 hours because the twins were so tiny, and premature. My Mum thought he had wings and a halo! As Dave would have liked four children, and me only two, we now had a compromise, so I shot the stork. Dave was just like his dad, soon drawing up plans, & building us an extra bedroom, bathroom, and garage, employing only a plasterer.

Devastatingly, a couple of years' later, Dave & Trevor lost their wonderful Dad, Fred, & 5 years later, their equally wonderful mum, Floss, too. Both Brothers decided to make a fresh start. Trevor moved his family of four to Cornwall, and our family of five moved to Cheshire, where Dave accepted a job with British Nuclear Fuels, as a Metallurgical Engineer. This job really suited Dave, as he was an Inspector, which required his high, exacting standards. He regularly travelled overseas, and throughout the UK. And with a smile, he once told me that when he and his colleagues were in a pub & the people around them discovered they worked in the Nuclear Industry, they would suddenly all disappear, fearing that he and his colleagues were leaking plutonium.

Dave thrived on big projects, the planning and execution challenging his mind, so on arrival at Acton Bridge, Dave drew up the plans and built us another bedroom, garage & ensuite. Fifteen years later, happily Dave retired at 56 years of age, and we both enjoyed golfing in Florida, and travelled across Canada together.

In 1997 Hayley was getting married to Mark, and whilst rehearsing in the church, when asked "who giveth this woman", I'm reliably informed, Dave jumped into the air, raising his hand & clicking his heels together, whilst calling out "Me..... Yippee!" with a huge grin. On the day of the wedding, during the bridegroom's speech, Mark said "As far as Hayley is concerned, her Dad can walk on water. And having known him for just 2 years, I'm beginning to think she's right!" Later, Dave told Hayley, that it wasn't actually water he could walk on, "just very thick mud".

Dave & Mark renovated Hayley & Mark's house. And 2 years' later, he became a proud Grandad to Matthew, who absolutely adored him. A year later, Hayley, Mark & Matthew emigrated to Western Australia, promising fabulous holidays to both us & Mark's parents, Beryl and Alf. Then, with the invention of the Internet, Dave's schoolfriend Les, suddenly contacted him on Friends Reunited after 47 years, revealing he was living near Hayley & Mark in Australia! He kindly offered us long house sits, with a swimming pool & car, whilst he & Sheila went travelling. How lucky were we!

In 2003, and preparation lacking, Dave was dressing himself for Nat's marriage to Mike, when he discovered the sole hanging off one of his shoes! As the Bridesmaids and I headed towards the church in the wedding car, we actually passed Dave returning from Northwich, together with his new shoes! Meanwhile, Mike (his soon to be son in law) was sweating profusely at the front of the

church for an extra 45 minutes. When Dave finally arrived home, Nat, feeling the pressure, reached down for a hip flask of whisky, hidden in her garter. But before she could take a mouthful, I'm told that Dave snatched the hip flask, saying "What are you doing Nat? I need it more than you!!! You've haven't got to deliver a speech!!!" And with that, he took a rather large swig, before climbing into the wedding car.

In 2007, Nat & Mike also emigrated to Western Australia, and very soon Mike's Mum, Olive, was also enjoying fabulous holidays over there. Like Hayley and Mark before them, Nat and Mike quickly built a house, and Dave found himself busy, again with his son in law, helping them to finish off the house & the landscaping.

It was around this time, as Dave's father used to play the banjo, Dave increasingly began to enjoy both banjo and guitar music. A particular favourite of his being 'Duelling Banjos'.

In 2016 with the loss of my brother, we quickly collected my 95-year-old mum from Birmingham and brought her to live with us in Cheshire. The next morning, Dave dashed out to Wicks, returning with a wrought iron garden gate, a somewhat strange choice for the inside of the house, and promptly installed it at the top of the stairwell, to prevent potential falls in the night. He proceeded to look after my mother, like he would his own, again insisting on doing all the night shifts with her. Each time he dashed, half asleep, along the landing to her, he'd catch all 3 pictures on the wall, knocking them sideways with his shoulders. And, despite how really tired it made him, and how increasingly hard it became, he insisted he would look after my Mum, at home, for as long as he physically could. And he did. Throughout the years, Dave continued with his repair projects, whilst also helping our friends and neighbours. As a master of improvisation, his recent ideal solution, was a pile of Celine Dion discs, which he used to seal his best friend (Geoff's) leaking gazebo roof.

So, you can see I was extremely blessed and privileged that Dave chose me, to spend the rest of his life with. And I am eternally grateful to have had him in my life for more than 60 years. And, lastly, as a postscript, as Dave always said: "Life's unpredictable – so eat your pudding first."

Judy Smith

IN MEMORIAM

Vernon James



Vernon was an attendee at Church with Brena Oultram for many years.

Vernon passed away recently at the age of 96 and his funeral was held at Great Budworth Church on 8th November. I expect at his funeral they sang his favourite hymns – The Day Thou Gavest Lord Has Ended and Abide With Me.

Vernon was born in Wiltshire in January 1927 and moved to Whitley in Cheshire where his father was a gamekeeper with Lord Daresbury estates. He left Whitley school at 14 years old to work on a farm, and then for the Whitley Sand Company until he was called up for the Army. He spent 3½ years in the Royal Core of Signals spending time in India and Burma.

When demobbed, he went into transport with C Brocklehurst and then 25 years with British Road Services. After that in 1971 he became a milkman for Express Dairies and then with Dales Dairies at Davenham until he retired at the age of 79

Vernon was married to Barbara who died in the year 2000. They had 1 daughter and 1 son, who both had 3 daughters and one son each, so Vernon has many great grandchildren.

He was a keen gardener .Vernon loved going on holidays all over Europe and England and Austria and Canada, He met Brenda Oultram on one of his holidays in the Isle of Wight and they became close friends and went on many trips and holidays together,

IN MEMORIAM

Harold Berry



Harold was born on St Valentine's Day 1928 at the Swan Meadow Inn on Pottery Road Wigan, the home of his maternal grandparents. His Mother, Alice had lost her firstborn two years earlier and chose to return to her parents' home to give birth to Harold before returning to her home. Initially they lived at 4 Moreton Terrace, Frodsham with Harold's father Norman's parents before moving to their new home at 18 Queensway, Frodsham. Brother Jack came along two years later, and sister Sylvia was seven years younger.

Harold went to Frodsham Endowed Boy's School Overton, a Church School, from the age of 7 until 13. Whilst at the school, the Vicar of the Parish Church would visit and the music teacher, Mr. Shelbourne, kept several boys back to sing for the Vicar which resulted in Harold being chosen for St Lawrence's Church Choir! From these early years, music has always been a part of Harold's life. However, although his mother did her utmost to teach him to read music to play the piano, he much preferred to play 'by ear' and did so for the rest of his life – always able to knock out a tune on a piano keyboard!

From age 13 to 14 Harold attended the newly built senior school on Princeway, Frodsham, just across the road from his home. He was a member of Frodsham 1st Boy Scouts and later the Army Cadets. After attending night school, he embarked on an engineering apprenticeship at ICI Castner Kellner Works at Weston Point until the age of 18 when he was called up for National Service and was drafted into the army. Initially he went into basic training in Northern Ireland before being selected to go into the Royal Military Police Regiment – which he says he didn't mind at all, as this gave him access to motorbikes and vehicles! Posted to Egypt, he commenced a Middle East Police Course just outside of Cairo. Whilst there he contracted glandular fever: he told me that he will always remember being in the hospital, not because he felt unwell (as he didn't), but because they brought in a bucket full of Guinness each evening and patients had their own cup to dip in the bucket! From Egypt he was posted to Tripoli where an officer who didn't care much for his driving, coached him and he feels he became a much better driver because of this (He later discovered that the officer used to race at Brooklands!).

At the age of 20, after completing his two years in the Army, Harold was posted home via Malta. Back at home, he played as goalkeeper for Frodsham Athletic Football Club and returned to ICI to complete his apprenticeship, where he received his indentures at the age of 21, working there for a little while at the Carbide Plant. From ICI, Harold continued his working life at Shell Stanlow, initially in the Research Plant, then at the Refinery. During his work at Stanlow, he initiated a new process for improving how the interceptors worked. Another employee helped to put this in motion and they both received a reward from Shell for this. He continued to work for Shell until his retirement – his final position there being 'Mechanical Equipment Inspector'.

On 24 March 1951, aged 23, Harold married his sweetheart, 21-year-old Ellen Kathleen Clarke at Five Crosses Methodist Church. Brother Jack was his best man and sister Sylvia was one of the bridesmaids. The honeymoon was spent in Llandudno and good friends Nancy and Les Worrall joined them following their own marriage two days later! Having lived with Ellen's parents on Top Road Five Crosses for 3 years the

couple finally moved to 36 Hillside Road, Frodsham. Jacqueline was their first born in 1955 and her sister Rosalind was born 5 years later in 1960.

Christmas parties always involved Harold's brother Jack, sister Sylvia and their young children – Harold's young nieces. There was always music and singing with the piano and ukulele banjo with family members doing their own particular party piece. Harold and his brother Jack wouldn't take too much persuading to sing their own 'party piece' 'My Grandfather's Clock' with Jack standing on a chair, swinging a plate and making all the appropriate noises of the clock as Harold sang the song!! This became a firm favourite whenever the family were together.

Harold was a member of the RAOB Sun Lodge for a number of years, following in the footsteps of his Great Grandfather, Joseph, his Father, Norman and Cyril, his uncle, together with brother Jack. He was a member of the local Probus group and thoroughly enjoyed their regular meetings. He was delighted when more recently the group made him an Honorary Member.

The family enjoyed wonderful summer holidays at Abersoch, staying in a friend's small caravan and often meeting up with good friends. They never really wanted to go anywhere else. However as Rosalind and Jacqueline left the nest, Harold and Ellen ventured further afield to Cornwall and Southern Ireland – a trip planned by good friend Colin Maddock – and many good times were shared with Colin and his wife Glenis. In the late 1970's Harold and Ellen moved to 24 Bracken Way, Frodsham, where Harold lived until this year. Daughter Rosalind gave birth to his first granddaughter, Emily in 1990 – Emily now lives in New Zealand, and his second, Sara in 1992. Jacqueline has lived in South Shropshire with Roy since 1983 and Harold and his wife very much enjoyed coming to stay with them and exploring the local Shropshire countryside. Harold always enjoyed sport and the outdoors. He would take their Lakeland Terrier, Cindy out for regular walks, continued his lifelong enjoyment of playing Crown Green Bowls (he was a member of 'Overton Memorial Hall' bowls team) and later found great pleasure in the game of golf. He was a member of Helsby Golf Club and actually managed a 'hole in one' on two occasions! In later years he also took to indoor Flat Green Bowling which he enjoyed with friends. Travel ventures now took Harold and Ellen to the Channel Islands and onto the Continent. Holiday experiences were also enhanced when they joined the Norley Club and had holidays and day trips with the Club. Here they made new friends and enjoyed the social activities. Harold enjoyed a lovely family celebration in 2008 for his 80th birthday and in March 2011, Ellen and Harold Celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and were delighted to receive a letter of Congratulations from the Queen. Sadly, however, Ellen passed away just three months later. The Church and members of the Norley Club were a huge support to Harold at this time. The passage of time brings its sadness's and Harold said goodbye to brother Jack in 2014 and sister Sylvia in 2016.

2012, however, opened up a new phase of life for Harold as his friendship with Norley Club Member, Margaret flourished. After caring for Ellen for a good number of years, he was now able to enjoy a well-deserved happy social life which included singing with the church choir, outings, and holidays and a few more trips down to Shropshire – where both his 85th and 90th birthdays were celebrated. The Norley Club also hosted a 90th birthday celebration for him where he sang one of his favourite songs 'Little Ole Wine Drinker Me', danced with Margaret and cut into his 'crossword puzzle' cake – the crossword puzzle was his usual daily task and he and Margaret would spend many hours enjoying this activity together.

The latter years saw Harold struggling with his mobility and just over 2 years ago he made the very difficult decision to let his car go (a safe decision for us all at the time, but a huge wrench for him). Taxis however enabled him to get to the Norley Club and make his precious visits to Margaret on Hatchmere Park where he enjoyed his Sunday roast dinner and regularly joined in with any celebration being held on the park (food always being high on Harold's agenda!).

Finding it more difficult to manage at home Harold chose to move into Mount Pleasant Residential Home, Norley in June of this year. The care he received was wonderful and he enjoyed the company of both the staff and the visits from the caring friends who visited him. Jacqueline so enjoyed watching the lovely relationship that deepened between himself and her husband, Roy, at this time.

Despite his health problems, Harold always managed to have a laugh and find a joke – his wonderful sense of humour staying with him right until the end! The end of an era – the last of the Berry family.

(with thanks to Jaqueline, Harold's daughter whose Eulogy has been shortened to fit the space available))



**Norley
Church
Stewards
December
2023 –
February
2024**

Date		Time	'Special'	Stewards		
				Church	Welcome	Communion
December	3rd	10.45am	Confirmation & HC	Philip & John	Joan	Alison & Yvonne
	10th	10.45am		Mary & Lesley	Mike & Gay	
	17th	4.00pm	Carol Service	Bruce & Lewis	Ruth L	
	25th	10.00am	Christmas Day	Ruth H & Philip	Alison	
	31st	10.45am		Philip & Mary	Yvonne	
January	7th	10.45am	Covenant & HC	Ruth L & Bruce	Philip	Alison & Yvonne
	14th	10.45am		Ruth H & Bruce	Lewis	
	21st	10.45am		Ruths H & L	Vaughan	
	28th	10.45am		John & Lewis	Mary	
February	4th	10.45am	Informal Worship	Ruth L & Lesley	Hazel	
	11th	10.45am		Mary & John	Oliver	
	18th	10.45am	Holy Communion	Philip & Lewis	Heather & Anthony	Alison & Yvonne
	25th	10.00am	Joint Service at The Hurst			

Norley Methodist Church Flower and Coffee Rota

December 2023 – February 2024



Date		Time	'Special'	Flowers	Coffee
December	3 rd	10.45am	Confirmation / S	Eileen Burrows	Heather & Anthony
	10 th	10.45am		Joan Barclay	Mike & Gay
	17 th	4.00pm	Carol Service	Ruth Lane	Di & Richard
	25 th	10.00am	Christmas Day		Heather & Anthony
	31 st	10.45am		Alison Twinn	Peter & Sue
January	7 th	10.45am	Covenant / S	Beryl Richards	Mike & Gay
	14 th	10.45am	Informal Worship	Christine Gleave	Vaughan & Yvonne
	21 st	10.45am		Ruth Hosker	Mary & John
	28 th	10.45am		Heather Davies	Alison & Yvonne
February	4 th	10.45am	Informal Worship	Lesley Gough	Vaughan & Yvonne
	11 th	10.45am		Gay Wilson	Peter & Sue
	18 th	10.45am	Sacrament	Sue Levitt	Richard & Di



Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR

Why not start in November to collect in time for Christmas!
 To enable packing and distribution before Christmas, please drop off any Christmas related items at our warehouse (weekdays 9-2) or any donation point by Friday December 15th

Email : info@westcheshire-foodbank.org.uk | T: 0151 355 7730

1	Selection Box	2	Milk (UHT)	3	Tinned meats	4	Sweet treats	5	Cup a Soup	6	Tinned Puddings
7	Juice (UHT)	8	Pot Noodles	9	Tinned veg	10	Instant/tinned potatoes	11	Pasta sauce	12	Milk (UHT)
13	Tinned Spaghetti	14	Tinned tomatoes	15	Custard	16	Coffee 100g	17	Juice (UHT)	18	Biscuits
19	Tinned fruit	20	Tinned soups	21	Jams/Spreads	22	Meat/fish pastes	23	Christmas Puds (No alcohol)	24	Tinned Meat

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