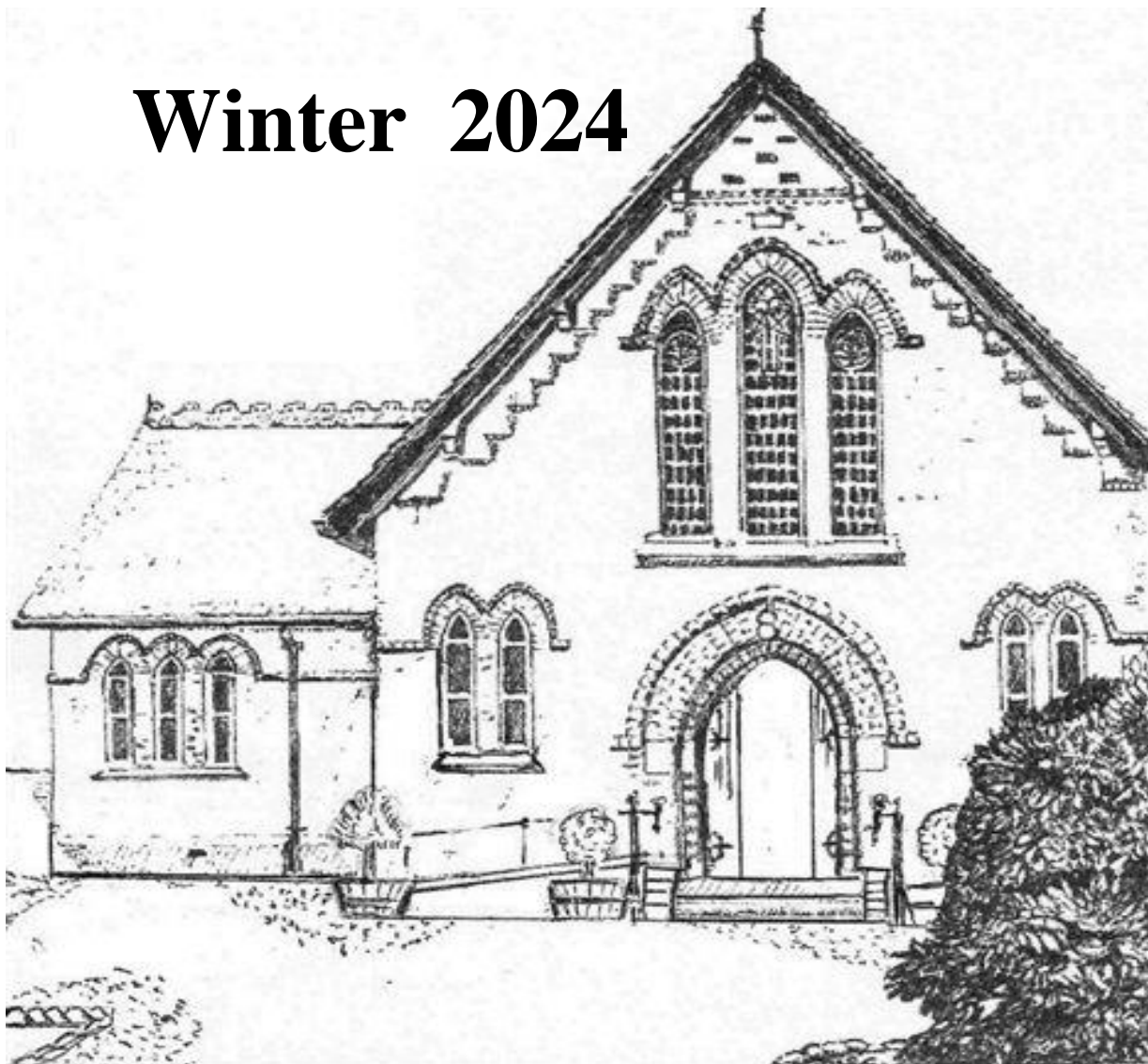


# Winter 2024



## OUTREACH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM NORLEY METHODIST CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP  
HOLY COMMUNION  
BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS  
WEBSITE

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

MINISTERS

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**December 2024**

Dear Friends,

*Before the paling of the stars,  
Before the winter morn,  
Before the earliest cock crow,  
Jesus Christ was born*

With this wonderful imagery, Christina Rossetti starts one of her Christmas poems and we are pointed towards the stable of Bethlehem. Was it a cave or a timber structure? In a sense it doesn't matter. What does is the knowledge that the birth of Jesus marks new life for humanity and creation. You will not need me to tell you that the scene presented in most representations of the Nativity doesn't bear much relationship to the actual birth of Jesus. What most seek to do is to lead us to an understanding of the light which Jesus brings into the world – the light of God's love for each one of us.

When St. Francis of Assisi introduced the first crib using live people and animals in 1223, he wanted to remind everyone what Christmas was really about. He was concerned that too many people were drawn to the materialism of the age – not focusing on the things that really matter.

If you pop into any church over the Christmas season, you will find a crib scene – a gentle reminder that the baby Jesus at the heart of the scene transforms the tinsel and lights of Christmas into the knowledge of the ultimate reality of God's love for each and every one of us.

We see so much in the world which shocks us, very often shaking us out of complacency. Yet the birth of Jesus assures us of one unshakeable truth: that Emmanuel – God is with us – with us in each of our situations – something to celebrate and give thanks for.

We are all called to be signs of hope in a troubled world.

May I wish you a wonderful Christmas and joyous New Year.

*Love and Prayers*

*Sue*

**Rev Sue**

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

- *The Open Door Café volunteers on their successful launch of the Tuesday morning weekly Café on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.*
- *Dorothy, Wilf and Clara (and Dorothy's Mum) who made it to the Harvest Festival service.*
- *Shelagh Salter and daughter Emma who also made it to the Harvest Festival service and again a couple of weeks later.*
- *Jean after her return to the organ at the end of October following her successful cataract operation*
- *Wilf Turnbull (who was 9 years old on 16<sup>th</sup> July), and Harry Dale (who was 14 years old on 29<sup>th</sup> October).*

## **Welcome to .....**

- *Katy Gifford who has transferred her membership to Norley Methodist Church (which means we will see more of **George**)*
- *Councilor Gillian Edwards who attended the shoebox service at the beginning of November*

## **Thank You.....**

- *to **Margaret** for 13 years' service as the secretary of the Pastoral Committee, a role Margaret has performed brilliantly. She resigned due to ill health at the recent at the recent Church Council, but will continue as a pastoral visitor.*
- *to **Sue. Levitt** who was appointed to take Margaret's place, as the Pastoral Secretary, also at the recent church council.*
- ***Heather and Anthony** would like to thank you all, on behalf of the RNIB, they sent off the first 1kg of the huge haul of stamps left in the porch. As an ex philatelist Anthony found it most interesting, as they were trimming & sorting, how postal charges have increased since 1952 (the oldest stamps we found ) & the vast array of commemorative stamps issued during this period to the modern day. Thanks again & please remember to leave 1cm (3/8 inch) around each stamp. This batch will earn £20 for the RNIB, so please keep up the good work.*
- *to everyone who helped or contributed in any way, with the lovely arrangements on the window ledges and in the porch, for our Harvest Festival Service. Your creative ideas and standards are amazing.*  
*Heather*

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

- ***Doug Menelaws and family** following the death of **Moira** on 12<sup>th</sup> August after a long illness.*
- ***Margaret Hogan, Shelagh Salter & Brenda Oultram** remain in need of our prayers.*

- **The family of Margaret Wallwork** who died in mid-October. Many of us will remember her husband **Norman Wallwork**, a former minister at Norley.
- **Kaye and Liz** and their families following the death of **Marion Thomas**. Her life was celebrated at St John's Church Norley on 1<sup>st</sup> November.
- **Beryl Colley-Davies** who is recovering after breaking a hip on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.
- **All our members who have been suffering from illnesses in the recent months and have needed treatment – some more extensive than others, but all those involved are still with us. Praise the Lord.**

**Please remember them in your prayers.**

## **Pastoral Piece**

Greetings to you all. What does one write about.?

There is so much sadness in the world at present. Each day we watch the news unfold about the devastation of the recent floods in Spain, we pray for everyone. And the wars that continue. Please pray for peace in our time.

Meanwhile back home we continue the best we can. Our pastoral team continue diligently, and I personally thank them for all that they do.

For the past thirteen years I have been pastoral secretary but sad to say this will be my last pastoral contribution. I have resigned due to ill health, but hope to maintain my pastoral role.

I sincerely hope that you all enjoy the festive season. I wish you all good health. My very best wishes to everyone.

I leave you with these words.

*Life's Journey - Words by Charlotte York.*

*Life is like a journey, as each day we travel on,  
Sometimes the road is easy, sometime 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.*

God Bless you all.

Margaret Hogan 14/11/24

## The Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> September & was led by Rev Sue Levitt.

The service was well attended and as usual, with very creative floral decorations.

The contributions to the decoration came from our congregation, including our youngest attendee, George.

The gifts of food & monies to the Foodbank was very impressive from such a small congregation. So, thanks again for the flowers & gifts.

*Anthony*



## 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. around the former Frodsham Golf Course.

Just nine of us drove to Frodsham Woodlands to see how the old Frodsham Golf Course had changed since it had been taken over by the Woodland Trust. The grass had been allowed to grow so that very little sign of tees or greens remained.

Last winter 30,000 new saplings had been planted although mostly the only evidence of this was a multitude of canes and plastic tubes. The whole area is criss-crossed with paths which we used for our two mile stroll before going to The Goshawk at Mouldsworth for lunch.

Owing to a clash of dates, November's Walk took place on the last Wednesday in October. This in some ways turned out to be fortuitous, as Autumn has come a little earlier this year. We had chosen November for this walk based on our experiences

last year, when there was plenty of colour left in early November, but we found this time that many of the trees had already shed most of their leaves; another week and much would have been lost.

Sixteen of us set off from the Marbury Country Park car park, initially heading westwards, before doubling back and descending to the southern shore of Budworth Mere. After entering the Marbury woodlands, we left the Mere and continued through the woods to loop round to join Marbury Lane at its crossing of the Trent and Mersey Canal. Five of the group chose to leave us part way round this loop to take a shorter route back to the cars. After a short walk along the tarmac toad, we re-entered the park and made our way back to the car park, picking up most of the breakaway group on the way, enabling us to get the usual photograph.

The walk was followed by lunch at the Spinner and Bergamot in Comberbach.

For future walks meet at Church at 9.45am on

**Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup>**

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

## **Shoebox Weekend**

I am always amazed at the generosity of people towards giving shoeboxes to needy children in eastern Europe. This year was no exception as many people from our church family and others from Norley, Kingsley and Oakmere came laden with a wide range of gifts for boys and girls of all ages. Teams4U is the charity we are supporting this year as they work with 'in country' partners like the Red Cross to help find children that are most in need. This year the shoeboxes are going to children in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania. Teams4U also give families 'home' shoeboxes which give parents items to use in the kitchen and around the house and we have enjoyed thinking of the adults as well as the children at this time.

Saturday morning was very busy filling 26 shoeboxes and 8 more were added at the very happy service on Sunday led by the Rev'd Sue Levitt.

Donations towards transporting the shoeboxes amounted to £225 including gift aid – a magnificent help towards Team4U's work.

Many thanks to John Bell who had a very full car when he took the boxes to a collection point in Wrexham.

Everyone was very pleased to support such a worthwhile organisation, bringing happiness, excitement and fun to so many children and their families.

*Ruth Lane 3.11.24*

## **Church Leadership Team Meeting (CLT)**

The CLT met for the first time on 9<sup>th</sup> September under the chairmanship of Peter Levitt Michael and Lesley reported that the Places of Welcome was up and running with 13 attending on 3 September including Councilor Gillian Edwards and Deryn, the Chair of the PCC. So far £1286 had been spent preparing for the opening, with £500 from the District Fisher Fund, £200 from Places of Welcome and the balance from the John Salter Memorial Fund donations.

More importantly a number of volunteers had come forward, some at the Norley Garden Show on Saturday to populate the rotas where a stall had increased awareness. We await to see if people turn up tomorrow. (which they did)

Bruce produced a draft design for the James Dale memorial, which was discussed in detail, the CLT concluding it was sensitive and not unacceptable. Following debate, a majority were in favour of taking the design as presented to the church council in November but without any recommendation.

Mickle Trafford had produced a list of items for disposal which included 20 blue chairs and Ruth had expressed an interest with Liz Barton and was waiting for a reply. They looked suitable as a replacement for the yellow chairs and if still available Bruce, Ruth and John D and Lewis would go to look at them and decide. It was agreed that the yellow chairs should then be disposed of.

A proposal for a shoebox Sunday on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (and a shoebox Saturday on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov) was approved but with Teams for You rather than Samaritans Purse.

Michael agreed the dates for events into the New Year (which will appear in the diary) and also reported on the meeting held that morning with St. Johns which had been productive. A further meeting will be held on 13 January. Weekly notices will be shared, and collaboration was agreed on major activities such as Remembrance Day, Carol Service and Carol Singing. An unresolved issue is which Church would receive people from a village Alpha course

On Carol Singing, John is liaising with Anne Davidson-Lund of Crowton, St Johns, for 2 nights carol singing one in the church garden around the Christmas tree and then at the Tiger's head.

*Bruce 2.11.24*

## **The Remembrance Day Service**

We were delighted to host 1<sup>st</sup> Norley Beavers, Cubs and Scouts on 10<sup>th</sup> November for their annual parade and Remembrance service. This year they paraded from the Tiger's Head to our Church for a service led by Peter Levitt.

After the service, the Scouts paraded on to the Tommy for wreath laying. As well as the Scouts, a large number of parents walked with the parade and attended the service



## **5 Generations of the Oultrams**

Great great grandma Brenda provided this photo for Outreach of herself, her eldest son David, his daughter Alison and her daughter Molly with Kobie born on August 5.

Quite an achievement. Many congratulations.

**Norley Methodist Church  
December 2024 –February 2025**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>December</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> Advent 1	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt	Communion at Norley Methodist
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am to noon		'Open Door' Café
4 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>			Frodsham Christmas Tree Festival
8 <sup>th</sup> Advent 2	10.45am	Mrs Elizabeth Holmes	Worship at Norley Methodist
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		Open Door' Café
14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Decorating the church for Christmas
15 <sup>th</sup> Advent 3:	<b>4.00pm</b>		Candlelit Carol Service at Norley Methodist
17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		Open Door' Café
18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm		Carol Singing with Anglicans in the church garden and then The Tiger's Head
19 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm		Carol Singing with Anglicans at (1) The White Lion at Alvanley, (2) the Co-op at Kingsley and (3) The Hare and Hounds at Crowton
21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am to noon		Christmas Coffee Plus
22 <sup>nd</sup> Advent 4	10.45am	Mr Ken Martin	Worship at Norley Methodist
22 <sup>nd</sup>	4.00pm		Carol Service at St John's, Norley
25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.00am</b>	Mr John Bell	'Christmas Day Celebration
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mr John Bell	Worship at Frodsham
29 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Rev'd Gordon Gresswell	United Service at Tarvin
<b>January</b>			
5 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Peter Levitt	Covenant Service at Norley Methodist
7 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		Open Door' Café
8 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt	Worship at Norley Methodist
14 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		Open Door' Café
15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm		Local Preachers' Meeting at Hoole
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr Michael Gough	Worship at Norley Methodist
21 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am to noon		Open Door' Café
21 <sup>st</sup>	7.00pm		CLT Meeting at Howell Croft

25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am to noon		Coffee Plus
26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.00am</b>	Mr Matthew Barnard	United Service at The Hurst
28 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		Open Door' Café
29 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm		Soup 'n' Pudding Lunch
<b>February</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45am	Mr Mark Smyth	Worship at Norley Methodist
4 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		Open Door' Café
5 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk
9 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt	Communion at Norley Methodist
11 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		Open Door' Café
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Ms Anne Hanks	Worship at Norley Methodist
18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am to noon		Open Door' Café
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am to noon		Coffee Plus
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Alison Crookes	United Service with The Hurst at Norley Methodist
26 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm		Soup 'n' Pudding Lunch

**Advent 2024** will follow a liturgy produced by Rev Sue starting on Advent 1 on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

### Christmas Card Distribution

There will be a post box in church from December 8<sup>th</sup> onwards for cards for people who are part of our congregation.

The cards will be sorted and any for you will be found on a table in the porch.

### Decorating the Church for Christmas and Candlelit Carol Service

Our candlelit Carol Service starts at 4pm

#### Carol Singing

**Carol Singing by the Christmas Tree**  
in the church garden

**Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
from 6pm

followed by  
refreshments  
and Carol Singing  
at The Ti

Carol Singing (around the tree) will be held in the grounds (weather permitting) of Norley Methodist Church on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm-8pm.** This year the singing is joint with St John's.

#### Carol Singing with friends

#### Decorating the church for Christmas

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December

10am to noon



Please come and help  
EVERYONE is most welcome

**December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**at Carol Service**

**4.00pm**



**Everyone Welcome**

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, followed by carol singing at the Tiger's Head. The following night we will also be carol singing with the Anglicans starting in Alvanley. Do come and join us.

The family worship on Christmas Day is at 10am. Make sure you bring a Christmas Present you've received.

That unique Methodist tradition of the covenant service takes place on January 5

and don't forget our regular activities

## Christmas Day



10.00am Family Worship

**Come and celebrate with us**

Norley Methodist Church



10.00 – 12.00

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

No charge – donations welcomed



## Soup and pudding lunch dates

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> January

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> February

at 12.15pm

Everyone welcome!



## Covenant Service

January 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.45am

led by Peter Levitt



## November Church Council meeting

The Autumn Church Council meeting always has a busy agenda – with quite a few items that we have to confirm and check at this time every year. We are grateful to Rev'd Peter Levitt for Chairing the meeting and steering us through!

The first item on the agenda was for us to confirm the Church Council membership for the next year, and this will be: Rev'd Gordon Greswell (Superintendent Minister), Rev'd Peter Levitt (Chair), Rev'd Sue Levitt, Simon Kelly (Circuit Steward), John Bell, Hazel Dale, John Dimelow, Mary Dimelow, Lewis Dimelow, Oliver Dimelow, Jean Dunning, Philip Garner, Lesley Gough, Michael Gough, Ruth Hosker, Bruce Lane, Ruth Lane, Yvonne Roughsedge, Alison Twinn, Gay Wilson and Mike Wilson.

Margaret Hogan has decided to stand down as Pastoral Secretary, and Rev'd Sue Levitt was confirmed as her successor. We are very grateful to Margaret for being our Pastoral Secretary for many years, and thank her for the care and dedication she has given to the role. John Bell

was confirmed as Church Treasurer, and Lesley Gough as Church Council Secretary, for a further year.

Our regular agenda item ‘Conversations on the Work of God in this Place’ generated some positive discussion: Over the last few months we have continued to build relationships with Norley School, and Sue is now also in the process of being appointed as a Governor. We have had a couple of positive meetings with St Johns and following a collaborative approach to Remembrance Sunday, we now look forward to jointly offering two carol singing evenings in Norley and the surrounding villages on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of December, as well as joint planning to ensure that dates and times for Christmas Carol Services don’t clash!

The Open-Door Community Café opened its doors in September and has made an encouraging start with a steady stream of visitors. We have a great team of volunteers including those who help on Tuesday mornings, and others who have provided some delicious home baked cakes. Some good connections with the local community, groups and organizations have been established, and there are some interesting ideas for ways we can add to what we offer.

Fundraising activities for our nominated charities is now planned: The collection from Carol Singing and money donated for the Food Banks in November and December, will be shared between the West Cheshire and Runcorn Food Banks. Michael Gough is organising a concert for early February, and the proceeds will support the Air Ambulance Charity and ‘Lifted’ (a charity based in Wythenshawe which offers support and advice to parent-carers of people with learning difficulties).

The Church Council approved a series of papers: the audited accounts for the previous financial year, the property proposals, the safeguarding policy, health and safety policy, our ‘annual return’, and our statistics for mission (updated numbers of members).

Finally, news from the Circuit, and Simon was able to share that a potential ‘match’ for the Minister role which will include Norley had been identified, and that a visit and various meetings were planned for the following weekend.

*Lesley Gough*



### Shopping list

- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned veg/fruit
- Cooking sauces
- Coffee
- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Cereals
- Fruit juice (long-life)
- Tinned pudding
- Jam
- Instant mashed potato

Up to Christmas, the West Cheshire Foodbank will provide at least 500 food parcels for individuals and families who are facing hardship.

During the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> December we will be taking our collection of food and other essentials, such as toiletries, across to the Foodbank Depot in Ellesmere Port. This will

ensure that there is time for the goods to be distributed to those in need before Christmas. In addition to the food items listed on the shopping list, chocolates, sweets, small selection boxes and biscuits are also appreciated at this time of year.

Monetary donations are, as always, very welcome, and at this time will be split between the West Cheshire and Runcorn Foodbanks.

Very many thanks for your continuing support!

### **Solar Panels Update**

We have just received £738 for the electricity the panels generated for the 3 months from August to October. We have now generated 43560 Kwh altogether, that is saving 460 Te of CO2 being emitted to the atmosphere from burning coal.

That feels good.

In addition our total receipts are now £23,291 from 12 1/2 years of operation

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

*Bruce Lane*



## **Open Door Café Update November 2024**

Our Open-Door Café opened its doors at the beginning of September! Over recent months many people have been busy creating a warm and welcoming place in our Open Door Room, which opens every Tuesday morning from 9am-12 noon.

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who contributed with every aspect of the preparation in so many ways: by preparing the Open Door Room, publicity, monetary donations, providing food and drink and ensuring that we have everything in place to operate safely. The help and support we have received from volunteers from our local community, as well as those within the Church is greatly appreciated.

The café is registered with the Places of Welcome network and as such is committed to their values which are:

**Place:** an accessible and hospitable building, open at the same time every week.

**People:** Open to everyone, regardless of circumstances.

**Presence:** A place where people actively listen to one another.

**Provision:** Offers free refreshments – at least a hot drink and a biscuit, and some local information.

**Participation:** Everyone brings their talents, skills and experience that they may be willing to share.

Over the first couple of months of operating we have welcomed a steady stream of visitors every Tuesday morning, and they have enjoyed hot drinks, delicious cakes (many donated by local volunteer bakers), and good conversation. As well as the regular and growing team of local volunteers, we have been well supported by the local Parish Council and our local Councillor, Gillian Edwards, who will be holding regular Councillor surgeries alongside the café.

Norley Methodist Church has been added to the bus stops used by the local i-travel bus service – so those who wish to come along, but have no transport, can now use the i-bus. You may have noticed a few changes in the Open Door Room – new cloths on the tables, ‘new’ chairs, which we were very pleased to inherit from Mickle Trafford Methodist Church, and some photographs of ‘old Norley’ on the walls.

If you haven’t visited yet, do come along. A warm welcome is guaranteed! *Lesley*

### **Financial matters**

This is the 2023-24 ‘annual report’, the full details of which were presented to and approved by the Church Council in November. The year began with financial balances of £19,963 (mostly in the CFB deposit account) and ended with £21,190, a modest increase of £1227. However, this seemingly healthy balance includes £1400 restricted for a Dale family memorial, £800 for property expenditures held over into 2024-25, £2000 to cover a budget deficit in 2024-25, £1800 for unexpected property emergencies (of which we have become all too familiar) and £15,000 to comply with the Methodist Church’s policy to hold a reserve of six months’ expenditure.

During the year, collections exceeded budget by £981, gift-aid refunds by £579, personal donations by £799 and we received donations in memory for church funds of £771. The generosity reflected in these figures is hugely appreciated.

On the expenditure front, we benefited from the Circuit’s decision to give all churches an assessment refund (as there were fewer ministers than expected) – in Norley’s case, £2819. The gas and electricity costs were just £150 over budget, and that was after a refund from the electricity supplier of £500: the costs of drying out the walls could have been much worse. Property repairs, mainly consequent on water problems, cost £1920 more than budget. The upgrading of the Open Door room was budgeted, and we were most grateful for the grants from Circuit and District amounting to £3000.

Donations to charities mostly comprise monies generously given with gift-aid added wherever possible, such that the effect on church funds is neutral year on year. In 2023-24, they were as follows, in total £4911 – an excellent achievement once again:

- £2046 to West Cheshire foodbank
- £1238 to Christian Aid
- £325 to Operation Christmas Child (shoebox appeal)
- £275 to All We Can (ex-MRDF)
- £275 to Mid-Cheshire Samaritans
- £200 to Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum (from the Church Council)
- £180 to Methodist Church World Mission Fund
- £172 to MHA (Methodist Homes)
- £100 to Norley News (from the Church Council)
- £100 to OPAL Frodsham

The Open Door Café initiative was much encouraged with grants from several sources which wholly covered its start-up costs partly incurred in 2023-24 and more in 2024-25. It is already evident that it is financially viable as well as greatly valued by those who come on Tuesday mornings.

Overall, financially we have no immediate cause for concern, thanks to the sustained generosity of our regular congregation and many other local supporters.

*John Bell, Treasurer November 2024*

## **Property Matters**

This report presents the proposals for 24 – 25 connexional year approved by the Church Council and updates on the property stewards' activities since the report in the Autumn Outreach to the June Church Council

### **The Property Stewards proposed to**

- 1. Get the Bees nest removed from the rear of the storeroom.**
- 2. Make a trench along the rear wall in the neighbour's garden well below the dampproof course and fill with gravel.**
- 3. Provide a trellis well away from the wall for the neighbour's plants if required, having removed them from by the wall.**
- 4. Make good the bricks and mortaring at the base of the wall.**
- 5. Spray the wall with water repellent clear paint.**
- 6. Get the woodwork painted that was not completed in the recent external redecoration.**

**In addition, the mortar will be renewed along the sides of the church near the air bricks and the Wi-Fi once installed will be set up to run the heating**

**Council approval was obtained for these proposals at a possible cost of £2350**

The main property activities since the last Outreach in June were: -

### **1. Upgrading the Open Door Room**

The original project reported previously was completed thanks to Mike Wilson in July.

A further project was undertaken to set up the ODR as a 'Place of Welcome'. A £500 Fisher Fund grant from the District and other grants enabled table cloths, plates, cups and saucers, teamaking equipment, a new fridge and pictures to decorate the walls to be purchased. The pictures were installed recently and in addition 40 modern blue chairs were obtained from the closure of Mickle Trafford church and the old yellow chairs were disposed of.

### **2. Water Leaks**

Following the completion of the reconnection of the central heating water supply to the kitchen kick heater and lounge radiators, the heating is working well and the lounge has dried out rapidly.

A socket and electrical supply for the heater in the space in front of the toilets was installed and the defective heater replaced under warrantee and set up to protect this area from excessive cold.

### **3. Kitchen refurbishment**

All the kitchen units and their contents were cleaned and sorted by Lesley Gough in preparation for the start-up of the place of welcome café in September. The property stewards repaired and repainted the kitchen to complete the work.

*Bruce Lane*

**Norley Church Stewards  
December 2024 – February 2025**

Date		Special	Preacher	Musician	Stewards			
					Church	Communion	Welcome	
<b>December</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	HC	Sue Levitt	Jean	John, Philip	Alison & Yvonne	Mike & Gay	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		Elizabeth Holmes	Jean	Ruth L, Bruce		Yvonne	
	15 <sup>th</sup>	4pm Carol Service.	Sue Levitt	John	Bruce, Lesley		Philip	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Ken Martin	Lesley	Ruth L, Ruth H		Vaughan	
	25 <sup>th</sup> 10am	Christmas Day,	John Bell	Lesley	Philip, Lewis		Alison	
	29 <sup>th</sup>		US at Tarvin, 11am, Preacher - Gordon Gresswell					
January	5 <sup>th</sup>	Covenant, HC	Peter Levitt	Saro	John, Mary	Alison & Yvonne	Oliver	
	12 <sup>th</sup>		Sue Levitt	John	Philip, Lesley		Joan	
	19 <sup>th</sup>		Michael Gough	Lesley	Lewis, Mary		Mike & Gay	
	26 <sup>th</sup>		US at the Hurst at 10am, Preacher - Matthew Barnard					
<b>February</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>		Mark Smyth	Jean	Bruce, Lewis		Yvonne	
	9 <sup>th</sup>	HC	Sue Levitt	Alan Wright	Ruth L, Bruce	Alison & Yvonne	Philip	
	16 <sup>th</sup>		Anne Hanks	Jean	Lesley, Mary		Vaughan	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	US with the Hurst	Alison Crookes	John	Philip, Lewis		Alison	

## Norley Methodist Church Flower and Coffee Rota

**December 2024 – February 2025**

Date		Preacher	Flowers	Coffee
<b>December</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Communion - Sue Levitt	Eileen	Heather & Anthony
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Holmes	Joan	Mike & Gay
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service - Sue Levitt	Lesley	Alison & Yvonne
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ken Martin	Heather	Mary & John
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day - John Bell	Ruth L	Di & Richard
	29 <sup>th</sup>	US at Tarvin, 11am, Preacher - Gordon Gresswell		
<b>January</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Covenant - Peter Levitt	Christine	Heather & Anthony
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Levitt	Alison	Vaughan & Yvonne
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Gough	Gay	Alison & Yvonne
	26 <sup>th</sup>	US at the Hurst at 10am, Preacher – Matthew Barnard		
<b>February</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mark Smyth	Hazel	Mike & Gay
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Communion - Sue Levitt	Beryl	Mary & John
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Hanks	Eileen	Alison & Yvonne
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Alison Crookes	Joan	Di & Richard