

Letter from Rev Pat Christopher

Dear Friends,

As a Circuit, we are very grateful that the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev'd Stephen Poxon, took time in his busy schedule to visit our Circuit on Sunday 22nd February when we enjoyed a circuit celebration hosted by Frodsham Methodist Church. This proved to be a very special day for all involved and especially for Mrs Jean Dunning, our organist, to whom the President presented a certificate to celebrate and acknowledge forty years service at Norley Methodist Church as a church organist.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who carried me in their prayers during my visit to the 'Holy Land' in January. I found all the areas we visited to be both peaceful and welcoming to visitors. It is ten years since my last visit and I was shocked by the many changes that have occurred, not least the erection of many miles of walls which cut through Palestinian towns and villages. On an environmental note I was also amazed by how much the area covered by the Dead Sea had shrunk, now leaving vast areas of salt banks.

We travelled with a small group of Christians, mostly Methodists, led by Isaac, our Jewish guide and our coach was driven by Osama, a Muslim. Isaac and Osama have worked together for over sixteen years and their faithful friendship gave us all hope that a peaceful settlement to the problems of their homeland could be found.

This pilgrimage has added an extra dimension to many of the stories we read in the bible, adding a vivid dimension that transcends the two thousand years that have passed since Jesus walked in those places. For me, it was a very emotional and thought provoking journey and I hope to be able to share some of my reactions with you over the coming months. As we approach Easter, please pray for peace and justice to once again flourish in that Holy Land.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Thanks ...

- *To those that came out **Carol Singing** on 6 nights before Christmas. The weather was mainly fine, so the wet weather reserve night was not needed and the singing was excellent. Thanks also to the hosts who gave us generous refreshments which were most welcome. We enjoyed the fellowship and taking the Christmas message to the village. What better way could there be to spend Christmas Eve than carol singing? The response to the carol singing was fabulous as usual – in total we collected £ 1330.38 towards the funding of Church activities, an almost identical total to last year – so thank you all who gave so generously.*

Celebration of Jean Dunning's 40 years as Norley organist



Jean tells us that early in 1969, there was an urgent need to find someone to play the organ at what was then Norley Central Methodist Church. Very worried heads were scratched, then someone remembered that young Jean had once learned to play the piano. Maybe she would give it a try and fill in for a while?

Well, she did, and the rest is history. Jean has served Norley Methodist Church as our organist with unfailing dedication and enormous commitment for 40 years. Being organist is without doubt the most tiring job in any church: if you can't do it, Sunday by Sunday, morning and evening, you have to find someone who will. We are of course grateful to Alan Forrest and others who support Jean, but hers is still the major contribution to accompanying our singing in worship week by week.

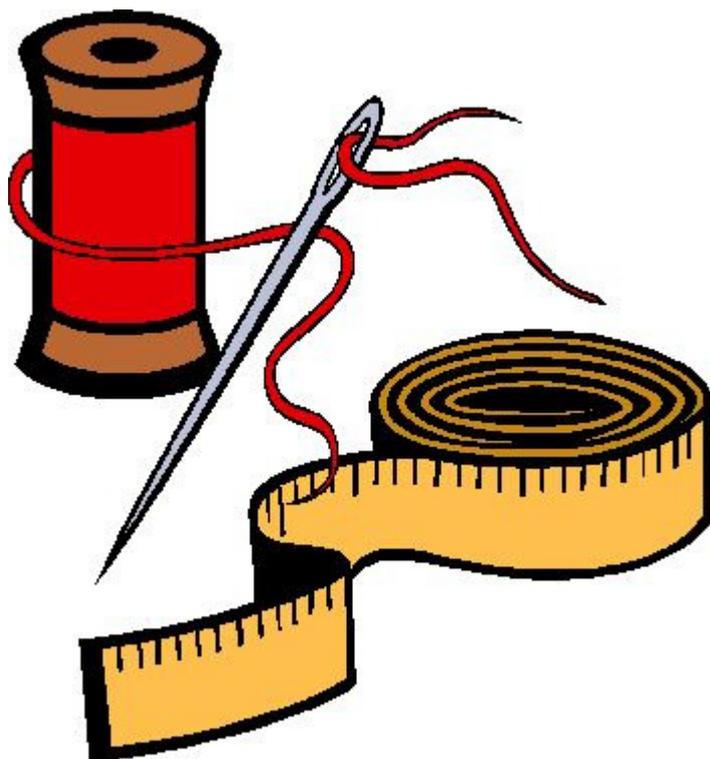
Jean was presented with a certificate to mark this milestone by the President of the Conference, the Revd Stephen Poxon, at the recent Circuit Service at Frodsham. The President spoke warmly of the vital contribution music makes in worship and the indebtedness the church owes to people, like Jean, who faithfully respond to God's call. It

was indeed a proud and momentous occasion for Jean and Ken, and those present from Norley and around the circuit were thrilled to share in it.

On behalf of everyone at Norley, both present and many past, we express to Jean a huge thank you and our immense gratitude. In praising what is past, we trust too for what is yet to come: year 41 has just started!

John Bell

CRAFT CLUB NEWS & THANKS TO JEAN



Craft Club has been in existence for approximately twelve years, and in that time has welcomed many members and achieved many things.

You will have seen, and hopefully admired, the Millennium Banner, the lectern falls, which are replaced by the Advent falls for December, and the kneelers by the Communion rail. All these were group projects undertaken by the club.

We have also worked individually, with tuition, on a wide variety of crafts: for example beading, card making, crochet, willow work, making small boxes and flower arranging. Many of us

have surprised and surpassed ourselves!

Now the inspiration behind all this amazing activity was of course Mrs Jean Dunning. It was her initial idea and she has given us all, past and present members, encouragement and leadership and shared her many skills with us. Therefore we were extremely sorry to learn that Jean is taking a break from Craft Club, hopefully not permanently. We shall miss her very much and thank her sincerely for all she has done.

However not all is lost. Craft Club continues and there are plans for the future! Everyone is welcome.

Alison Twinn

Young People's Work Report

The Norley school assemblies have continued in the Spring term ably led by Hazel, Beryl and Saro, assisted on alternate weeks by Barry. They continue to be very well received by the schoolchildren. The after school "Chat and Chill" club remains active, run by Barry on a weekly basis for the year 5&6 children. St John's Norley financial contribution was received, for which we are extremely grateful. With Hazel, Beryl, saro and Barry's work along with that of the rev'd Peter Rugen it looks as if a presence from the Christian Churches in the village can be sustained in the local primary school.

Long may the work of God here continue.

Bruce Lane



This quotation, beautiful created by Alison Twinn, now graces the Open Door room. It, and the room itself, were dedicated, and thanks given to Alison and all who had contributed to the room refurbishment at the morning service on March 8th.

First Wednesday Walks

The 1st Wednesday walks continued unabated since the last Outreach, but without the services of the resident photographer. The deputy photographer however has produced the goods – but didn't get his mind around the idea that they should show the walk!

Gary and Vaughan led a five mile walk in **December** which took 15 of us along the towpaths & bridleways of the Trent and Mersey canal, returning along the Weaver Navigation to eat at a nearby hostelry.

In **January**, Judith and Alan led a rather cold 5 mile walk from the George at Great Budworth where the picture was taken (ordering lunch before the walk started). The walk went out to Arley, before returning to the George at the end for lunch.

Judith and Alan also led the **February** stile free walk of 4½ miles through Christleton including part of the Baker Way, concluding with lunch at the Old Trooper.



Our walk leaders in **March** were Tony and Betty Knight, who took a group of over a dozen people from the Golden Pheasant at Plumley through the Halton brine fields before returning to the start for a magnificent repast.

The first Wednesday walk for **April** will be on the 1st April (it will be really this is not a joke!). The walk will be led by Bruce and Ruth. The walk will celebrate the arrival of spring, and will be a 7½ mile circular walk from the Church mainly along footpaths to Acton

Bridge, where we will take lunch after 4½ miles at the Hazel Pear, before continuing the remaining 3 miles to Norley. Meet at the Chapel at 09.45hrs for a prompt 10.00hrs departure. Do come and join in with the group if you can. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 1st April.

Put the dates in your diary now:-

Wednesday April 1st

Wednesday May 6th

Wednesday June 3rd

The Christmas Day Collection of £ 330.73 (once Gift Aid had been included) was sent to The Methodist Fund for World Mission towards the Zimbabwe Trucks appeal. Thanks to all those who contributed.

Diary

Unless otherwise stated in the weekly notices the Craft Club meets on Tuesdays at 10.00am at Norley in the Open Door Room.

April 2009

Wednesday	1 st	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Saturday 4 th – Sunday 5 th			Tarvin 25 th Anniversary Celebration Weekend
Palm Sunday	5 th	10.45am	Mrs Greta Watkin of Warrington
		6.30pm	Circuit Service at Tarvin – 25 th Anniversary Celebration Songs of Praise
Monday	6 th	Noon	Young Family Soup Lunch at The Hurst
Tuesday	7 th	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross walk at Sant Asaph
Wednesday	8 th	12.00am	Open Door lunch
		2.30pm	Network meeting at Tarvin
		7.30pm	The Hurst – Ecumenical Passover Meal
Maundy Thursday	9 th	12.30pm	Tarvin Soup Lunch
		7.00pm	Kelsall service – Rev'd Ann Rigby-Jones
		7.00pm	Tenebrae Service at Frodsham
		7.30pm	Tarvin united service at St Andrews
		7.30pm	Blakelees service – Rev'd Steve Santry - Sacrament
Good Friday	10 th	10.00am	Kelsall – led by the Worship Leaders
		10.45am	Tarvin – led by the Rev'd Ann Rigby-Jones
		11.00am	Norley – led by the Rev'd Pat Christopher
		11.00am	Frodsham Eddisbury Square Walk of Witness
			Helsby : St Paul's to Helsby MC Walk of Witness
Saturday	11 th	7.30pm	Ashton – short service followed by Prayer Vigil
Easter Sunday	12 th	10.45am	Rev'd Bernard Dodd of Frodsham - Sacrament
		6.30pm	Worship led by the Spiritual Committee
Thursday 16 th – Sunday 19 th			Visit of Jono & Beth and the Northern Ireland Youth Group
Sunday	19 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Rev'd Pat Christopher
		11.45am	Annual Church Meeting, Lunch & Sacrament
		6.30pm	Joint Service at Blakelees – Dr Ruth Lane
Monday	20 th	Noon	Hurst Soup Lunch
Thursday	23 rd		St George's Day and DRMG
		Noon	Open Door Lunch
		12.30pm	Tarvin Soup Lunch
		7.30pm	CTCKN meeting – Norley Parish Centre
Saturday	25 th	10.00am	Spring Synod Wolstanton & Audley
Sunday	26 th	10.45am	Church & Sunday School Anniversary led by the Revd Steve Santry
		6.30pm	Church & Sunday School Anniversary led by the Revd Steve Santry
Tuesday	28 th	2.00pm	Safeguarding Training at The Wyches, Kingsley

May 2009

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd Hurst Church Family Weekend

Vocations	3 rd	10.45am	Mrs Teleri Terretta of Oakmere
Sunday		6.30pm	Joint Service at Blakelees
Wednesday	6 th	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
		2.30pm	Network meeting at Helsby – Dedication of District Easter Offering
Thursday	7 th	12.30pm	Tarvin Soup Lunch
Christian Aid	10 th	10.45am	Rev'ds R & E Cresswell - Sacrament
Sunday		6.30pm	Rev'ds R & E Cresswell
Sunday 10 th – Saturday	16 th		Christian Aid Week
Tuesday	12 th	2.00pm	The Hurst - Safeguarding training
Wednesday	13 th	Noon	Open Door lunch
Sunday	17 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Professor Neville Ford of The Hurst
		6.30pm	United Service for Christian Aid at St John's Norley
Thursday	21 st		Ascension Day
		12.30pm	Tarvin Soup Lunch
Sunday	24 th	10.45am	Mrs Janet Batey of The Hurst
(John Wesley's Conversion)		6.30pm	Revd Pat Christopher - Sacrament
Thursday	28 th	Noon	Open Door lunch
Pentecost	31 st	10.45am	Mrs Flora Nell Duke of Helsby
Sunday		6.30pm	Mr Geoffrey Robinson of Helsby

June 2009

Wednesday	3 rd	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Wednesday	10 th	Noon	Open Door lunch
Saturday	13 th	6.30pm	Safari Supper
Sunday	21 st	9.00am	Norley@9
Thursday	25 th	Noon	Open Door lunch

Holy Week

April 5th Palm Sunday

10.45am	Morning worship led by Mrs Greta Watkin
6.30pm	Circuit Service at Tarvin – 25 th Anniversary Celebration Songs of Praise

April 7th Stations of the Cross

6.00pm Walk the Stations of the Cross at the monastery at Pant Asaph with the Rev'd Pat Christopher. Meet at 6.00pm at Frodsham Methodist Church to share transport. The evening will finish with a meal so please let Pat know if you intend to come.

April 8th Passover Meal at The Hurst

7.30pm Everyone is very welcome to attend, but please let Janet (01928 788706) know you are coming for catering purposes

April 9th Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Tenebrae Service at Frodsham

7.30pm Joint Service for Kingsley, Norley and Helsby Methodists at Blakelees led by Revd Steve Santry

April 10th Good Friday

11.00am Service at Norley Methodist Church led by Revd Pat Christopher

April 12th Easter Sunday

10.45am Worship led by the Revd Bernard Dodd including Communion

6.30pm Worship led by the Spiritual Committee

Important Dates after Easter**April 16th – 19th**

We are delighted that Jonathan and Beth Griffin will be bringing some of the youth group over from Ireland to share time with us. About 13 will come in total – offers of accommodation for Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, transport etc. would be welcomed by Lesley Gough who is co-ordinating the weekend. Join in the programme – activities in the Forest including Go-Ape, a day in Liverpool, a quiz on Friday evening – and Norley@9 on the Sunday.

Sunday April 19th Annual Church Meeting

The Revd Pat Christopher will lead worship at 10.45am. Following straight on at the end of the service we shall hold the Annual Church Meeting, followed by a lunch for everyone in the Open Door Room, and then a communion service.

Sunday April 26th Church Anniversary

We are delighted that the Rev'd Steve Santry will lead our celebrations at the 10.45am and 6.30pm services on this our 127th Anniversary in this building

Safeguarding Training Course – Tuesdays 28 April and 12 May

The second training course in this circuit for workers with children and young people will take place on Tuesdays 28 April and 12 May from 2 – 4pm in Kingsley – the first at he Wyches, the second at The Hurst. Those people (including me) who work with children and young people but were unable to attend the first course should try to attend these sessions. Please let Ruth Lane know if you hope to attend.

10th -17th May Christian Aid Week

Di Ramsbottom is very grateful to everyone who has supported Christian Aid Week in the past by collecting and/or donating and hopes she can count on your support this year.

OPEN DOOR LUNCHES.

Have YOU tried our twice monthly Open Door Lunches yet? If not, why not come along and join the fun. We regularly get up to 30 guests who all enjoy their time with friends old and new, while enjoying a hearty two course lunch of freshly cooked food followed by coffee or tea and chocolates, and all for £3.50!

Just remember to book by the previous Sunday so arrangements can be made for you, and then look forward to the excitement. Hope to see you on:

- Thursday March 26th
- Wednesday April 8th
- Thursday April 23rd
- Wednesday May 13th
- Thursday May 28th
- Wednesday June 10th
- Thursday June 25th

See you for lunch.

Norley@9

Join us for an early, informal time of worship and praise on

April 19

May 17

June 21

**A monthly service for all at 9.00am
lasting 45 -50 minutes.**

**Refreshments after the service for those present and those coming for the 10.45
service**

Norley Methodist Church

Safari Supper

Saturday 13th June 2009

Start times between 6.30pm and 7.30pm



Put the date in your diary NOW!!!!

Music at Norley Methodist Church

The Harmony Choir and the Band of Hope and Joy sang beautifully at the Carol Service on the 21st December, 2008.

It would be remiss of me if I fail to mention the compliments given to Jean, our soloist, in the **Harmony Choir**. It was said that she sang like a treble from a boy's chorus. She even managed to go Carol singing on most nights! Well done Jean. We feel fortunate to have Joan with an incredible range from Alto to Descant. John and Rajan ably make up the quartet.



The **Band of Hope and Joy** (pictured) looked a 'Million dollars' in black and white with red poinsettias kindly donated by Margaret Hogan. Everyone was impressed that, within a relatively short time they were able to sing two part harmony beautifully. We were told that the children started dancing when the Band sang 'See Him lying in a bed of Straw', especially with Mike on the guitar.

Both groups will be contributing to worship at the Easter services.

Little Stars. – Our thanks to Lewis for his beautiful singing at the Advent and Christmas services. The children have been learning some songs suitable as a second hymn for the morning services. They are practising to sing on Easter Sunday, Zack has assured us that 'his teeth knew the words'!!!

In Bruce Forsyth's words, 'They are my favourites'!

Saro Jesudason

Norley Church Weekend Away

Beth Eden, Llandudno

24th to 26th September 2009

The booking forms have been given out, and bookings and deposits made. Almost all the rooms have been snapped up, with 27 adults and 3 children booked to attend. Soon we will pay the hotel our second deposit and I will allocate the rooms. If you want to go and haven't booked, see me at once. We are looking forward to a great weekend.

Judith Forrest