

Dear Friends,

As you know the Circuit Leadership Team brought a plan for the pastoral responsibilities of Presbyters as from September 2010 to the December Circuit Meeting for affirmation. A full report is printed later in this edition of Outreach but the most important item for us as a church is that Rev'd Sue Levitt will take full pastoral charge of Norley and Kelsall Methodist Churches as from 1st September 2010. She will also be the Local Preacher Tutor. I will continue as Superintendent and care for Frodsham and Tarvin Methodist Churches. Rev'd Sue has already worked very hard at Norley and I know she will continue to do so and I thank all of you for encouraging her with your care and prayers.

Later in the December Circuit Meeting as a 'Good News' item, Bruce did a presentation about the disabled access and car park at Norley Methodist Church, thanking the Circuit for their help. Mrs Linda Watkin also spoke of her call to the Diaconate and was unanimously endorsed. In mid February Linda went before the District panel at which she had two interviews and then did a presentation. Again the panel voted unanimously to endorse her request and she will appear before the Connexional panel sometime in March. Please continue to hold her and her family in your prayers.

Snow may still be on the ground in certain parts of the Britain but the month of March tells us that spring and the wonderful celebration of Easter is approaching. But throughout Lent before we celebrate the victory of Easter Day, the Sunday readings encourage us to reflect upon our Christian living.

After visiting the Holy Land last year the events leading up to Holy Week and Easter have taken on another dimension. Standing in the places where these events took place has meant that for me the story now has a richer and deeper meaning for which I am very grateful.

I am hoping to take a group from the Circuit on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land later this year in October or November to visit Jerusalem and the Galilee area. The group will need to be quite small, 15 to 22 people, and so if you feel you would like to come then please contact me as soon as possible.

I pray that through the coming months God will bless each one of us and enable us to discern His will in our lives and in the church.

Yours in Christ,

Thanks ...

*To those that came out **Carol Singing** on 7 nights before Christmas. We were rained off one night, so had to use our wet weather reserve. The singing was excellent, and we send our grateful thanks 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 £ 1239.21 towards the funding of Church giving – so thank you all who gave so generously.*

Pastoral Scene

December! January! Gone, gone.

Looks like we made it without any major mishaps. Hope you were as fortunate as I was during the terrible snow and ice.

Along with the weather we face colds, 'flu etc. Anyone needing our help please don't hesitate to contact us.

We now arrive at the stage of 'Valentine's Day' and Easter goodies in the shops. It reminds us that spring is not far off. Evenings are getting a little lighter. In the gardens bulbs are pushing up through the hard ground. It's wonderful how they survive in the cold (nature sure is wonderful).

Thinking of Easter, why not try to join us at our Easter services? You would be most welcome. Our pastoral team continues to offer care and visits as required.

Until next time, keep warm and well.

God bless you and yours

Margaret Hogan

CRAFT CLUB NEWS

One of the highlights of our autumn term was when we made Christmas wreaths. We followed excellent instructions from Heather and our efforts were also very good though the finished articles were all slightly different. This term some of us are going to make fabric-covered boxes of various shapes and sizes. Anyone is welcome to join us and although the crafts may differ, the friendliness, refreshments and chat are constant.

Alison Twinn

Work with Children and Young Families in Norley

The school 'team' has bonded well and the children are involved and appreciate the assemblies that we do. We use the Twelve Baskets resources which the children clearly enjoy. We have a great relationship with the school and I attended their Christmas play which was very good.

The Lunch Time Club was started at the beginning of December and now more children attending. They enjoy the discussions, the art work and the drama. I have used material from Roots and U.C.B to talk about the life of Jesus and what it might mean to be a Christian. We have discussed the creation of the world and the Christmas story. This term we will look at some of the miracles that Jesus did. My aim is to help the children to grow in knowledge and faith.

The Christmas Holiday Club was attended by a group of 11 children and led by Rev Sue, Rev Pat and myself with a group of willing and able volunteers from the church. It was enjoyed by all. The church building worked very well and provided a warm, large space in which to do all the activities. All who helped and attended want another one so, see the information below! May I thank everyone who supports this work through actions and prayer.

Andrea Ellams

Easter Holiday Club
@ Norley Methodist Church
Wednesday 31st March 2010
12 noon to 4pm
(Bring a packed lunch!)
Theme - The Easter Story
for more information contact

Andrea 01928 732612 or Rev Pat 1928 733180

First Wednesday Walks

It has been a great delight to welcome Archie and his dog to augment our numbers for the last 3 months.

In **December** we met at the Church for half an hour for refreshments before the walk to decide who will lead each month in 2010. We were then led by John and Sylvia on a 4 mile walk around Cuddington, followed by lunch at the White Barn and coffee or tea at John and Sylvia's. What a great day.

January should have seen Heather and Anthony leading us on a walk around Appleton Thorn, Grappenhall and Wrights Green. There was deep snow on the ground, so the walk was cancelled and replaced by a lunch at the Abbey Arms, followed by coffee or tea at Heather and Anthony's. Some of us managed to walk through the snow from home to the Abbey Arms in the beautiful scenery.

Gary and Vaughan led the **February** walk. The 3rd of February saw 14 participants set off from the village of Northop on a 5 mile ramble through fields and woodland towards the small hamlet of Sychdyn. Small it might be, but the streets of this village proved a challenge for the leader's sense of direction. Some might say he got lost, others, more generously, that he had a 'change of plan' to avoid heavy conditions underfoot. The group returned to Northop along green lanes and bridle-ways, passing the grand Sychdyn Hall, owned by footballer Michael Owen, to complete the day with a meal at the aptly named Boot Inn.

Our walk leaders in **March** will be Tony and Betty Knight, walking from Whitegate village via Vale Royal Locks to a lunch at Wharton, before returning to Whitegate for a total of 7 miles. In **April**, Bruce and Ruth will lead the walk.

Put the dates in your diary now:-

Wednesday March 3rd

Wednesday April 7th

Wednesday May 5th

Wednesday June 2nd

The Christmas Day Collection of £ 177.10 (once Gift Aid had been included) was sent to The Methodist Relief and Development Fund. Thanks to all those who contributed.

Social Evening

What a good night we had.

Lovely buffet provided by us all.

Entertainment second to none joined in by us all.

Organised as usual superbly by John.

Comment by Sophey (June's 10 year old grand-daughter) – "When are we having our next family party?"

Ruth Howarth

Music at Norley

Christmas time is a very special time for all of us. More than presents and decorations and getting together, the Christmas music gives me that special feeling of excitement, exhilaration and nostalgia.

Both our choirs contributed to the Carol service on the 20th December. The Harmony choir sang "The Shepherds' Farewell" by Berlioz. The comments were that this was the 'best yet'. Despite leading the carol singing on several nights prior to this occasion, Jean sang her solo part beautifully.

The band of Hope and Joy sang the carol "A maiden most gentle" by Andrew Carter. Their singing was excellent. A special mention has to be made of Katie Levitt, who sang the descant with precision and confidence. James described her, quite appropriately, as our nightingale. The nightingale did sing at Norley! Our thanks to Katie and we wish her well at University. I am impressed with this choir for their commitment, sensitive singing and attention to the dynamics. They are also a friendly group and we are able to enjoy both humour and fellowship.

Our thanks to Sue Levitt for fitting her rehearsals among her many other commitments. It is lovely to have a minister who is passionate about music. When I was working as Head of the Music department in schools, it made a significant difference to the 'ethos' of the school to have a Headteacher who is supportive of the Music Department.

We have started rehearsals for Easter. Let us, in our own unique way, continue to help everyone appreciate the wonderful warm glow that music brings to our worship.

Saro Jesudason

HAITI APPEAL

VERY MANY THANKS

to everyone who supported the Appeal either at
Norley Methodist Church (£250 raised) or the
coffee morning on February 13th at the Parish
Centre when £370 was raised for Christian Aid and
£92 for Fairtrade



OPEN DOOR LUNCHES

Woke up early with the sun,
It's Wednesday! – Gods work to be done!
Time a plenty – take it steady,
Apron, peeler at the ready,
Lots of Greens & Roots to prepare,
Happy helpers everywhere,
Take a peep – to see how the tables are looking,
Catch a 'cuppa' whilst all is cooking!
Now we hear God's family arriving,
Now we know why we have been striving,
Appetites satisfied, friends chat together,
Newly made acquaintances could last forever,
Now to the kitchen we won't shed a tear,
Take care 'till the next time we'll welcome you here.

Heather

The next lunch dates are:-

Wednesdays

10th March

14th April

12th May

and

Thursdays

25th March

22nd April

27th May

Looking forward to seeing you then.

DIARY

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

March 2010

Tuesday	16 th	7.30pm	Stewards meeting at Heather Davies'
Wednesday	17 th	7.30pm	Norley Church Council
Thursday	18 th	7.30pm	Lent Discussion Group - Peter
Sunday	21 st	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mrs Flora Nell Duke of Helsby
			Theme - Peter
Thursday	25 th	6.30pm	Mr Geoff Robinson of Helsby
		Noon	Open Door Lunch
Palm Sunday	28 th	7.30pm	Lent Discussion Group – Mary Madgalene
			Summer Time begins - CLOCKS GO FORWARD
		10.45am	Rev Pat Christopher – Sacrament
			Theme – Mary Magdalene
Tuesday	30 th	6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt United Service
		6.00pm	Leave Frodsham MC for Pantasaph to walk the stations of the cross. Details from Rev Pat .
Wednesday	31 st	Noon	Holiday Club at Norley (until 4pm)

April 2010

Maundy Thursday	1 st	7.00pm	Frodsham - Celebration of Tennebrae & Love Feast - Rev Sue Levitt
		7.30pm	Blakelees – Rev Steve Santry - Sacrament
		7.30pm	Tarvin - United Service – Rev Pat Christopher
Good Friday	2 nd	11.00am	Rev Sue Levitt
		11.15am	Frodsham Eddisbury Square – Walk of Witness
Easter Saturday	3 rd	7.00pm	Kelsall Vigil Communion – Rev Pat Billsborrow
Easter Sunday	4 th	10.45am	Rev Peter Barber - Sacrament
		6.30pm	Mr John Bell of Cuddington
Wednesday	7 th	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Low Sunday	11 th	10.30am	Circuit Joint Service at Helsby
		6.30pm	Mr Nic Willis
Tuesday	13 th	7.30pm	Spiritual Committee at Howell Croft

April 2010 (continued)

Wednesday	14th	Noon	Open Door Lunch
		2.30pm	Network meeting at Tarvin
Sunday	18 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.00am	'Live Earth Run for Water' – 6km at Heaton Park Manchester until 12 noon.
		10.45am	Mrs Ann Wright of Oakmere
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt
Wednesday	21 st	8.00pm	Hurst Café Church
Thursday	22 nd	Noon	Open Door Lunch
Saturday	24 th	9.30am	Spring Synod in the
		- 1pm	Mow Cop, Biddulph & Congleton Circuit
Sunday	25 th	10.45am	Rev Pat Christopher – All Age worship. Church and Sunday School Anniversary
		6.30pm	Rev Pat Christopher – Sacrament Church and Sunday School Anniversary
Tuesday	27 th	7.30pm	Local preachers meeting at Kelsall

May 2010

Vocations	2 nd	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt
Sunday		11.30pm	Annual Church Meeting + Lunch + Communion
		- 2.30pm	
		6.30pm	Joint Service at Blakelees - Rev Steve Santry Sacrament
Wednesday	5 th	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Christian Aid	9 th	10.45am	Mr John Bell of Cuddington – All Age Worship
Sunday		6.30pm	United Service at St John's Norley
Sunday 9 th – Saturday 15 th			Christian Aid Week
Wednesday	12 th	Noon	Open Door lunch
		2.30pm	Network meeting at Kelsall – Dedication of District Easter Offering
Thursday	13 th		Ascension Day
Sunday	16 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Professor Neville Ford of The Hurst
		6.30pm	Rev Pat Billsborrow - Sacrament
Pentecost	23 rd	10.45am	Rev Bernard Dodd of Frodsham - Sacrament
Sunday		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt
Thursday	27 th	Noon	Open Door lunch
Trinity	30 th	10.45am	Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
Sunday		6.30pm	Rev Pat Christopher - Sacrament

June 2010

Wednesday	2 nd	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Wednesday	9 th	Noon	Open Door lunch
Wednesday	16 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Norley
Sunday	20 th	9.00am	Norley@9
Thursday	24 th	Noon	Open Door lunch

Easter Week Services

April 2nd Good Friday

11.00am Service led
by the Revd Sue Levitt



April 4th Easter Day

10.45am Family Communion
led by the Revd Peter Barber

6.30pm Evening Worship
led by Mr John Bell

Sunday April 25th Church & Sunday School Anniversary

We are delighted that the Rev'd Pat Christopher will lead our celebrations at the 10.45am and 6.30pm services on this our 128th Anniversary in this building



Sunday May 2nd Annual Church Meeting

The Rev'd Sue Levitt 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 led by Rev'd Pat Christopher.

Ruth Lane

Sunset

Waiting for the sun to go down.

The passers-by. Two joggers. A few family groups.

Walking, stopping, looking. Pointing things out to each other: disagreeing about some small detail.

A young couple with a baby, not noticing anything special. A girl and boy, teenagers, hand-in-hand.

People speaking different languages. People from different parts of the world. People of all colours. Women and men, young and old: all have gathered.

The wind brushes through the trees, as it always does.

The sun sinks lower in the sky to the west. Yet still bright.

The sky still blue, though now a paler shade than at midday.

The air turns colder. People notice it and put on an extra cover.

The shadows lengthen as every minute passes.

Slowly.

It all happens so – slowly.

The sinking sun, the paler sky, the colder air, the lengthening shadows.

The outline of the rocks across the Canyon darkens, each rock less discernable. Now, just the faintest silhouette.

Until the sun slips silently away beneath the distant horizon and the light has drained away.

The Grand Canyon is in gloom and gathering darkness.

Yet still people come. With cameras, to capture the imminent event. Will they, in snapping it, not see it?

The light has indeed gone now, from the Canyon, from the world. Now it is very dark indeed.

Dark and very cold.

This is Good Friday evening. Will it ever be day again?

©John Bell

Written at the Grand Canyon, April 13th 1990, Good Friday.

Christian Aid Week 2010 9th - 15th May



Time again for a reminder to those who collect for the above very worthy cause. I hope all the "regulars" will still be able to help.

We have lost 2 loyal helpers in Alan and Judith so need new volunteers to take their places.

Please ring me if you can help - I will presume the "regulars" are still willing.

*Diane Ramsbottom
Tel. 01928 788 969*

Pastoral responsibilities of Presbyters from 1st September 2010

The Circuit Leadership Team, as the responsible body, had the following proposals affirmed at the December Circuit Meeting.

- Rev'd Pat Christopher:
Superintendent Minister, Frodsham, Tarvin
- Rev'd Steve Santry:
Helsby, The Hurst, Blakelees
- Rev'd Sue Levitt:
Kelsall, Norley and Local Preacher Tutor
- Rev'd Pat Billsborrow:
Oakmere with Ashton, Bunbury and Tiverton

Rev'd Pat Christopher will continue to oversee the link with Tarporley. The agreement with the Rev'd Pat Billsborrow to serve as an active supernumerary will change to one and a half days per week.

This pattern was chosen as the workload of the presbyters must be equitable, in terms of numbers of churches/membership and bearing in mind the significant additional responsibilities borne by the Superintendent. Counting the latter as equivalent to one 'church unit', then

Rev'd Pat C has 3+, Rev'd Steve has 3, Rev'd Sue has 2, Rev'd Pat B has 2.

It seems sensible that the three largest churches that account for 60% of the Circuit membership should be in different groups - thus the placing of Frodsham (176), Helsby (141) and Kelsall (102) as the starting point.

There is merit in retaining as much as the present year's groups as possible. Hence, Rev'd Steve retains his existing group, Rev'd Pat retains hers with the exception of Norley. However, Rev'd Sue is already working with Norley, and will retain this

contact in addition to taking on Kelsall and the position of Local Preacher Tutor. We also wish to retain the natural links identified in the recent questionnaire, such as Kelsall with Oakmere/Ashton and The Hurst with Blakelees.

Norley@9

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

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

**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**

Finance Matters

The Church started its new financial year on September 1st 2009. The weekly collections since then have averaged £240 per week, some £16 a week higher than that achieved last year at this stage. This will certainly keep us afloat, but the new tax year is about to start, and the Gift Aid recovery % is reducing with the change in the basic rate of income tax, so as we reach the end of the tax year, could you please reassess your giving and see if you can increase it next tax year?

So far in this Methodist financial year we have also benefited not only from the Carol Singing (£1239), but also from a generous donation from Judith and Alan, and donations towards Outreach from Doug & Jen Corse and Jack & Kath Wilson. . Thank you all for your generosity.

On the expenditure side, up till now the largest bill (as always) has been the Assessment (November & February totalling £6080). Repairs and maintenance have been high (£682), with the normal organ tuning, piano tuning, CCL licence, and gardening costs being increased by electrical work following the 5 year electrical inspection (£116) and renewal



of the water feed pipe for the boiler (£264). Insurance (£630), and utilities (£925) dominate the regular spending.

Looking at the project expenditure so far this year, only £363 has been spent - the final payments on the access ramp and asphaltting work that completed last year's major project. Rather embarrassingly, the miscellaneous expenditure at £780 is larger than many of the other items – but it does contain £253 for banners which will shortly be gracing the entrance, £121 for the lunch after the dedication of the new ramp and car park, and £124 for the costs of the notices.

We collected and passed on money, including gift aid for JMA (£136 from the Harvest Supper), Samaritans Purse (£30 plus several cheques made out to Samaritans Purse for shoe boxes), The Children's Society (£63 from the Christingle service), MRDF (£177 from the Christmas Day Collection), The Cumbria Appeal (£132) and The MRDF Haiti Appeal (£250). Many thanks for all these generous donations.

So where does this leave us for the rest of the Methodist year? Well, looking pretty good. We have no major extra expenditures facing us, and I have confidence we will have sufficient funds for the rest of the year without having to call for special fund raising efforts.

Bruce Lane

Norley Methodist Church Weekend Away

8th - 10th Oct 2010 Abbot Hall Hotel, Grange

We have 27 adults and 4 children booked in for the Church Weekend away, with deposits paid, to Abbott Hall. John Bell by the time you read this will have sorted out the rooms. We are delighted to be able to report that Rev'd Pat Christopher is able to attend – as our way of saying thank you for all she has done for the Church. By then, Revd Sue Levitt will have pastoral charge of Norley, and we are also pleased that Sue and her husband Peter are also able to join us for the weekend.