

Dear Friends,

It was a privilege to share with you the Church Anniversary celebration weekend in April. We looked back at what society was like over two hundred years ago when Methodism first came to Norley; remembering and celebrating our roots and the people of faith who have gone before us. We rejoiced at the goodness God gives to us each day and marked the changes that have taken place over the last five years. But we also rejoiced for the things which have not changed:- God's love and guidance for us and the faithfulness of the present congregation. We also welcomed Dorothy, who has transferred her membership to Norley. Finally we rededicated ourselves afresh to the work of God accepting that we are in a time of great change in our society and so need to adapt the way we do mission and outreach in order to continue to be relevant to today's society. As the followers of Jesus we are called to be Christians but also to be disciples. As disciples we are called to pursue personal and social holiness as Methodists have sought to do since the movement began. We cannot be a disciple on our own but only by working with others. Neither can we be disciples if we have a drawbridge mentality that says 'we're alright and that's all that matters'. We are called to imitate Jesus and, with the power of the Holy Spirit working within us, to transform the world.

Reflecting the society in which it serves, the Methodist Church has undergone changes at every level. The vision, held by many people is for larger and therefore better resourced circuits. At the Spring Synod we celebrated those circuits which have merged and heard about other planned mergers. The Circuit Leadership Team continues to discuss circuit changes aware of the time scale set by presbyters' moving dates. As yet they do not have any proposals to send to the Circuit Meeting whose responsibility it is to decide any changes.

Meanwhile the mission and outreach of this church in Norley continues and I pray that God will give us a vision for his church, the faith to work with Him to fulfil that vision, the courage to continue in all circumstances and the hope that those who follow will complete the work.

Yours in Christ,

Pat.

Pastoral Scene

Hello, what a start we have had to this month. We normally look forward to sunny days but that's not happened. We have experienced wintry weather, occasional sunshine, showers and of course all the lead up to the election (enough about that).

On a brighter note the daffodils throughout the village and gardens have been beautiful, but have you noticed that since they faded the dandelions have certainly put on a show. Some say it's a sign of a good summer. Let's hope so.

Our friendly Pastoral team continues doing visits and support. It's heartwarming to have a friendly face to visit you. Do you know of someone who is in need of a friendly visit?

Remember :-

Friendship isn't a big thing.

It's a million little things.

Till next time may God watch over you and yours

Margaret Hogan (01928 787960)

Craft Club News

Our eleven regular members continue to enjoy their Tuesday morning craft sessions. Much of the time we follow our own inclinations and work at card-making, beading, knitting, rug-making etc. Since Christmas many of us have been experimenting with making very attractive fabric covered boxes. The record held by one member stands at the moment at thirteen boxes!

Outings to Lady Heyes and Blakemere craft centres have also been much enjoyed.

As usual we invite anyone, whether 'crafty' or not to share these very sociable occasions.

Alison Twinn

Lent and Easter 2010

The Lenten Liturgy and the decoration of the cross devised by John Bell and the Spiritual Committee made the period of Lent much more meaningful for many people.

The themed preaching during Lent considered six individuals who were involved in the last days of Jesus' life on Earth: Pontius Pilate, Barabbas, Joseph of Arimathea, Pilate's wife, Peter, and Mary Magdalene. The related Lent Bible Study and Discussion Group, ably led by Sue or Peter Levitt, tried to understand their insights, conflicts and doubts as they lived through those days and then related those to our own choices and feelings in life today.

On Easter Sunday we were delighted to have the Chairman of our District, the Revd Peter Barber to lead our morning worship. His sermon on 'while it was still dark the women came to the tomb' was inspiring. Our worship was enhanced by the singing of the Band of Hope and Joy.

As you can see from the photographs the decoration of the cross with daffodils brought a true sense of resurrection to everyone present.

John Bell led our evening worship to conclude our anniversary celebrations with a graceful service enhanced by two pieces from the Harmony Choir (see the following article).

Ruth Lane

The Choirs at Easter

The two choirs contributed to worship on Sunday, 4th April for the Easter services.

Band of Hope and Joy

The choir sang a lively song entitled "Sing, Sing Halleluiah" with a Bossa Nova beat. They really got into the spirit of the song, especially Shelley. Interestingly, Handel said "What the English like is something they can beat time to, something that hits them straight on the 'DRUM' of the ear!".

The choir also rehearsed and gave a lead to the singing of the second hymn "The Lord is risen today" with a rock and roll beat.

Harmony Choir

The quartet contributed to the evening service. They sang a beautiful introit entitled "Lord, for thy tender mercies sake" by John Hilton.

Later they sang J S Bach's "Jesu Hope of Men Despairing" which involved intricate contrapuntal parts for each voice. When Jean sang the second verse with the others 'humming' their respective parts, there was a truly 'spiritual moment'.

In 1780, in his preface to the collection of hymns for the people called 'Methodists', John Wesley wrote, "above all, sing spiritually, have an eye to God in every word you sing, and

a heart that is offered to God continually". What matters more than the spirit of poetry in any hymn is the spirit of piety with which it is sung.

Our thanks to both choirs for bringing piety to our worship in varied musical expressions

Saro Jesudason

Norley Methodist Church Council

The Church Council meeting was held on March 17th with Pat in the chair.

Andrea presented a report of her work with children and in the local school: the work and the report were well received. The Christmas Holiday Club had been successful. Andrea was warmly thanked for her work, commitment and enthusiasm.

The council decided, amongst other things covered elsewhere in this newsletter, that :-

- a) Now the banners had arrived, the stewards would be trained in putting them up to advertise Craft Club, the Wednesday Walks and Norley @9 on the frame kindly erected by John Dimelow.
- b) To make donations of £50 to the Poppy Appeal, £150 to the Connexional Property Fund and £150 to Englesea Brook. John Bell commented that Englesea Brook had much appreciated the donation last year.
- c) To pay around £100 per year to Martin Bell for the ongoing maintenance and updating of the Church web site, which he had developed free of charge.
- d) To repeat the successful Christingle Service this year
- e) Sue brought proposals (agreed with the Stewards the previous evening) for a monthly pattern of worship at Norley that will enable her to complement the pattern at Kelsall from September when she becomes minister of both churches. It was agreed that normally it will be as follows: 1st Sunday Norley@9; 2nd Sunday Holy Communion in the morning, St John's in the evening; 4th Sunday All-age Worship in the morning, Holy Communion in the evening.
- f) That the work of the Pastoral Visitors would be dedicated during the September 5th evening Communion Service .
- g) That, as the Stewards had proposed, that John Dimelow would act as Senior Steward from September 2010 for about 18 months, when Lesley Gough would take over for the following 18 months until August 2013.

The Church & Sunday School Anniversary

We held our 128th Church Anniversary celebrations on April 25th and were delighted that the Rev'd Pat Christopher was able to take both services in her last connexional year as our minister.

We gave thanks to God for 128 years of the faithfulness of Methodist people in Norley and for many others who had enabled us to grow in Christian discipleship wherever we had lived. It was an uplifting day.

Bruce Lane

The Annual Church Meeting

Each year, every Methodist Church is required to hold a General Church Meeting. It has a few essential purposes as defined in the Methodist rulebook (otherwise known as 'The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church', or CPD for short, though it runs to 819 pages), and as Sue reminded us in her introduction on May 2nd, it is the opportunity for anyone within the congregation – not just Church Members in the strictest sense – to raise any matter they wish and ask for it to be considered by the highest court of the Church, that is, the Methodist Conference. Heady stuff, indeed!

In recent years, in order to encourage a good attendance, we have developed the pattern of holding the Meeting after a morning service and followed it with lunch and Holy Communion. We were delighted that Sue was able to lead the service and chair the Meeting, and then to share in the Holy Communion Service with Pat. We record our gratitude to those who prepared and served us with a rather tasty and lovely lunch.

At the Meeting, we elected Mrs Alison Twinn as a Church Steward from September 1st and we are delighted that she is willing to serve us in this way. We ensured that our retiring Steward, Ruth Lane, remains on the Church Council, and we expressed our thanks to her for serving as a Steward for six years.

Those elected as representatives on behalf of the congregation to the Church Council were re-elected, as none had resigned or completed their six-year term.

We affirmed the registration of the Revd Sue Levitt as the authorised person to conduct marriages at Norley as from July 1st. This is just as well as she will be officiating at Dorothy and Craig's wedding later in that month.

We agreed to make donations of £200 to each of three charities. They are (1) Practical Action, which does all sorts of relief work in Third World countries, (2) the Samaritans branch at Northwich and (3) CLEM, a Methodist charity in Bolivia (South America) that works with women and for women's rights.

Thank you to all who came – next year's is May 8th.

John Bell – Church Council Secretary

First Wednesday Walks

The first Wednesday walk on the 3rd March from Whitegate to Winsford and back was led by Tony & Betty Knight, and was well attended as you can see from the photograph taken in front of Vale Royal Abbey. Picture courtesy of Garry our roving photographer. Lunch was enjoyed in an excellent hostelry in Winsford before the circle was completed. We were delighted to welcome Alison Twinn to our walking group for the first time for many years.

The walk on April 7th was led by Ruth and Bruce. It was a 6 mile circular walk with about 8 stiles, starting and ending at the Verdin Arms in Wimboldsley where we took lunch. We walked alongside the River Weaver, across fields to Lea Green Hall, and back along the road by the Weaver to the delightful village of Church Minshull. We returned to the Verdin Arms via the Shropshire Union Canal. This was another of Jan Darling's 'Best Pub walks in Cheshire' which we have enjoyed in the past and this one was no exception. Our only problem was the boggy few yards shown in the picture opposite.

The walk on May 7th was led by Archie in the Goyt valley, and was enjoyed by about a dozen walkers, captured on the photograph below by Anthony Davies. The picture is taken in the ruins of Erwood Hall. We welcomed Richard Hull who joined us for this walk (which he thought was around Norley!). The goslings and ducklings were apparent but the azaleas and rhododendrons had yet to make an appearance - fortunately the walkers were spared any rain.

Betty and Tony Knight will lead the circular June walk of 6½ miles in the Great Barrow area with a lunch in the middle and a skeleton hunt.

Future walks will be held on

Wednesday July 7th

Wednesday August 4th

Meet at Norley Methodist Church at 9.45 for 10.00am departure. We look forward to seeing you there.

Property Matters

The last report was in the winter edition of Outreach, and work since then has concentrated on the refurbishment of the lounge.

Proposals were tabled at the March Church Council by the Property Steward to revamp the lounge that included the retention of 9 of the 12 easy chairs. All the proposals were agreed except that it was further decided to dispose of all the chairs: we accepted that we are short on space, and that keeping any easy chairs in the lounge would inhibit its use by the Sunday School and as a small meeting room. Following discussion on Mike's proposal to install new lighting, it was agreed that portable lighting could be brought in for specific purposes as required. A large white board for Sunday School use was added to the requirements. The Council voted £1000 towards the project, which was the estimated cost.

Since then the project has been started - a large cupboard has been built in the lounge for the Sunday School equipment, the rear wall has been dry lined, a white board installed, up lighters purchased to give alternative lighting when required, and the side walls plastered. New skirting, wall papering, painting and carpeting remain to be completed the time of going to press.

Other property activities include awarding a contract to take down the conifer on the High Street side of the church in June and shuttering the windows by the organ in preparation for this (removing the conifer was the second priority project set by the September Church Council); renewing in copper the piping from the header tank to the central heating boiler (which had become blocked); carrying out an energy survey of the Church as part of a Connexional project on carbon footprints, where a written report is awaited; and constructing a frame to display the banner we have bought. Minor and routine activities included installing paper towel holders and bins in the toilets, services to the gas boiler and the fire extinguishers and the organ (which included repairs), renewing an emergency light battery, and repairing the open door room clock.

During the last month Mary Dimelow was appointed the official winder upper for the Church and trained for her weekly duties. Thanks Mary.

Bruce Lane

Children & Young Family Work At Norley

Work At Norley School.

I am in the last term of the school year. How time flies. I continue to arrive each Tuesday with a bag of props for us to use during the assemblies with the children. Together we have explored many topics about the Christian life, through games, song, drama and discussions.

Around Easter we talked about what happened on Palm Sunday, and Jesus being a Servant King. It was followed after Easter by the story of Jesus telling the disciples to throw their nets on the other side of the boat after they had caught nothing.

The children gave the team a fantastic surprise at Easter when they sang an Easter song we had introduced to them adapting it in their own unique way. It sounded superb.

This term we are looking at the themes of relationships and change For example: from remembering that everyone sometimes needs help, and that we can be good friends if we help others, to understanding that if we really feel we are loved, we can be loving towards others.

May God continue to bless our presence at Norley School and please pray that he gives us the right words to say.

God bless

Andrea Ellams.



Lunch time

Although numbers have reduced, we continue to look at Bible passages and what they mean to us today. The Children followed a rope blindfolded as we discovered how Saul became Paul and then we made statues out of clay because in Act 20 v1 the Goldsmiths were not happy with Paul as he converted people to a belief in God. We have also looked at rules today and the 10 commandments.

A prayer written by the children in an assembly, when we talked about Jesus loving all of us not just his disciples.

Thank you Jesus for...

**Loving us,
Helping us,
Caring for us,
Looking after us,
All Spring flowers,
All animals,
All gifts he gives us.
Amen.**

Diary

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

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

June 2010

Disability Sunday	6 th	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt & Rev'd Braithwaite - Sacrament
		6.30pm	Mr Philip Garner of Norley
Wednesday	9 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		2.30pm	Network meeting at Bunbury
Thursday	10 th		Presbyters' Training Day
		7.30pm	Norley Church Council
Saturday	12 th		Safari Supper at Frodsham Methodist Church
Methodist Homes	13 th	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt – All Age Worship
Sunday		6.30pm	United service at St John's Norley
Monday	14 th	12 noon	Hurst Soup Lunch – Help for Heroes
Tuesday	15 th		District Supers meeting at Nantwich
Wednesday	16 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Norley
		7.30pm	Hurst Café Church
Thursday	17 th	12.30pm	Tarvin Soup Lunch
Sunday	20 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mr Andrew Ellhams of Frodsham
		6.30pm	Rev'd Pat Christopher - Sacrament
Thursday	24 th		Conference begins
		12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.45pm	Pastoral Visitors' Meeting
Saturday	26 th		Kingsley Carnival
Conference	27 th	10.45am	Mrs Ann Wright of Oakmere
Sunday		6.30pm	Rev'd Bernard Dodd of Frodsham

July 2010

Thursday	1 st	12.30pm	Tarvin Soup Lunch
Sunday	4 th	10.45am	Mr Mike Ridley of Bunbury - All Age Worship
		6.30pm	Dr Judy Ford of Kingsley
Monday	5 th	7.30pm	Spiritual Committee at Howell Croft
Wednesday	7 th	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
		2.15pm	Women's Fellowship Rally at Tarvin
Friday 9 th – Sunday 11 th			Cliff College Breakout Event

On July 7th the Tarvin Women's Fellowship is holding a rally to celebrates 25 years since its foundation. Do go along if you can.

July 2010 (continued)

Action for Children Sunday	11 th	10.30am	Circuit Joint Service at Kelsall – Rev'd Peter Barber, Chair of the District
Monday	12 th	6.30pm Noon 7.00pm	Professor Neville Ford of Kingsley Hurst Soup lunch Local Preachers' Meeting at Helsby
Wednesday	14 th	Noon	Open Door Lunch
Sunday	18 th	2.30pm 9.00am	Network Meeting at Blakelees Norley@9
Wednesday	21 st	10.45am	Mr Philip Garner of Norley
Thursday	22 nd	6.30pm	Rev'd Bernard Dodd of Frodsham - Sacramento
Saturday	24 th		Café Church at The Hurst
Sunday	25 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
			Norley Safari Supper
		10.45am	Rev'd Pat Christopher - Sacramento
		Noon.	Lunch & Communion at Howell Croft to celebrate the ministry of Rev'd Pat Christopher at Norley
		6.30pm	Joint Service at Blakelees
Friday	30 th	1.00pm	Dorothy & Craig's wedding at Norley

August 2010

Sunday	1 st	10.45am	Spiritual Committee
		6.30pm	Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
Wednesday	4 th	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Sunday	8 th	10.45am	Mr John Bell – All Age Worship
		6.30pm	United service at St John's Norley
Wednesday	11 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		2.30pm	Network Meeting at Tiverton
Sunday	15 th	9.00am	No Norley@9 - summer break
		10.45am	Rev'ds Peter & Sue Levitt - Sacramento
		6.30pm	Mrs Elizabeth Holmes of Frodsham
Sunday	22 nd	10.45am	Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
		6.30pm	Joint Service at Blakelees
Thursday	26 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Friday 27 th – Monday 30 th			Greenbelt Festival Cheltenham

Sunday	29 th	10.45am	Mr Mike Ridley of Bunbury
		6.30pm	Rev'd Pat Christopher – Sacramento

September 2010

Wednesday	1 st	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Saturday	4 th	6.00pm	An evening occasion with supper to welcome the Rev'd Sue Levitt as our minister
Sunday	5 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		6.30pm	Dedication of Pastoral Visitors – Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacramento
Wednesday	8 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Saturday	11 th	10.00am	Autumn Synod (Stoke South Circuit)
Tuesday	14 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Frodsham
Thursday	23 rd	12 noon	Open Door lunch
Sunday	26 th		Harvest Festival

Looking Forward to Summer

Hopefully this summer will be warm, sunny, bright and cheerful. Am I being too much of an optimist? Not really - it is how we feel that's most important and if our personalities are warm, sunny, bright and cheerful then the day becomes a lot better for everyone around.

The Safari Supper will be on July 24th and the first course will be at the home of Ruth and Peter Hosker at Barn Holt, Town Farm Lane which we all know as a very friendly and welcoming place. So everyone is asked to reserve the date, ensure friends reserve the date, and hone their cooking, serving and washing up skills as these will all be needed!!!

'Eat Up Sunday' as it's known is on July 25th at Howell Croft and the occasion will be used to say a big '**THANK YOU**' to Pat Christopher for all her work with us over the last six years. As Pat was reminding us at the Church Anniversary a lot of things have changed in our activities and the fabric of the church since she arrived, so we hope that we are a church moving on confident in our future in the twenty first century. On August 1st the Spiritual Committee will lead our worship and the Harmony Choir and the Band of Hope and Joy will participate in the service.

Looking ahead to the next Connexional year which starts in September, Sue Levitt will be taking over from Pat as our minister. Sue will be responsible for Norley and Kelsall churches. We all have appreciated getting to know Sue this year, and there will be a dinner on Saturday September 4th to welcome Sue as our minister. So put that date in your diary!!

Sue's responsibility for two churches means that there will be some changes to our regular pattern of worship from September. Norley@9 will be on the first Sunday of the month; Holy Communion will be on the morning of the second Sunday and the evening of the fourth Sunday; and All Age Worship will be on the morning of the fourth Sunday.

Our Harvest Festival will be on
Sunday September 26th and both services will be led by Sue Levitt.

And finally.....Shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child will be collected
at the All Age Worship Service on October 24th.

Norley Methodist Church Safari Supper

**Saturday 24th July 2010
Start times between 6.00pm and 7.00pm**

**Adults £12; Family Ticket (for children under 11) £30
For more information and tickets contact Hazel Dale on 01928 787216**

Open Door Lunches

Once again it is time to find our diaries and enter the dates for Open Door lunches for the next few months. Each second Wednesday and fourth Thursday 30 - 35 guests enjoy a two course lunch followed by coffee/tea and chocolates and all for £3.50p. If you have not tried it yet we would love to see you - just book in by the previous Sunday and come along and enjoy the fun. Our Summer dates are:

Wednesday June 9th
Wednesday July 14th
Wednesday August 11th
Wednesday September 8th

Thursday June 24th
Thursday July 22nd
Thursday August 26th
Thursday September 23rd.

We hope you will be able to join us

Joan Bell

Norley@9

Join us at Norley Methodist Church for an early, informal time of
worship and praise on

June 20th at 9.00am

July 18th at 9.00am

a service for all lasting 45 minutes

(Please note there is no August Norley@9 - summer break.

The service will resume on September 5th - the 1st Sunday of the
month - under the new arrangements)

Norley Methodist Church

Safari Supper Eat Up

Sunday 25th July at noon

At the home of Bruce and Ruth Lane

This gathering of the church family will be used to thank Pat
Christopher for all her work with us as our Minister.

Everyone welcome, please do come.

Norley Methodist Church Weekend Away

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

Following the departure of Judith & Alan Forrest, Bruce and John (Bell) had picked up the immediate tasks of collecting and paying the deposit to Abbot Hall and allocating the rooms for those attending, and John will prepare the printed weekend programme, once information is to hand.

The Spiritual Committee have agreed to arrange the devotions, Sunday service and musical accompaniment.

Pat has offered to arrange transport for those requiring it to and from Grange, and anyone who needs transport should let Pat know in good time.

Alison Twinn has offered to find volunteers to organise the evening social activities, and Alison and Joan (Bell) offered at the Church Council to discuss and research possible day-time activities and approach Di and Richard Ramsbottom, who may be willing to lead a walk on the Friday and/or Saturday. It is looking as if a great team effort will ensure a superb Church weekend away.

Bruce Lane

Y GRO , OUR PARTNER, AT WORK IN SRI LANKA AMONGST THE TAMILS

– DISTRIBUTION OF 117 BICYCLES

The pictures opposite tell the story. By God's grace we distributed 117 cycles [84 gents and 33 ladies] to the resettled families in Parappankandal on March 26th and April 5th 2010. The initial delivery was conducted in the presence of the Divisional Secretary, Village Officer, the Rural Development Society, the Women's Rural Development Society, Donors, the Army Commander of the area and the people of Parappankandal.

DISTRIBUTION POINT

We selected the RCTM government school as it is a public institution.

IMPACT

As this was the very first distribution, the resettled families were extremely happy and thankful to the donors, the government and to us for this generous initiative. As there was a large need in the community, they urged the government and us to provide further assistance in livelihood.

ACCOUNTS

The following is the cost breakdown of the cycles. USD

- 84 gents: Lumala 22 STD – black 7470.00 [Inclusive of seat, bell, carrier, mud flap, side stand, lock]
- 33 ladies: Lumala 21 D/M – black 2930.00 [Inclusive of seat, bell, carrier, mud flap, side stand, lock]
- Tax – VAT [Value Added Tax] 1250.00 **TOTAL Value 11650.00**

SEED PROGRAM

We consider this as a seed program and we continue to look to Jesus to help us to assist the people to get livelihood grants in the future. This will move us in the direction of our vision of “**Bringing Wholeness to Whole Communities**” of resettled families. We thank God for providing the funds through one Christian institution.