

# Winter 2010

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Dear Friends,

I find it hard to believe that another year has almost passed and we are preparing for Christmas once again.

Someone said to me recently, "Christmas isn't the same when the children have grown up!" and at the time I agreed with her. But it set me thinking. Why? Why is Christmas not the same? At first sight it appears that once the pretence of Father Christmas is no more that the excitement and the expectation of the season dies with the myth. And if this was all that Christmas was about then yes Christmas wouldn't be the same.

However, Christmas is about so much more. It is about a babe born in an oxen stall to save you and me. It is a season of hope, of joy and of peace. And maybe we need the children to remind us. Maybe we have heard the story so often that we have lost the expectation of Advent, the excitement, the awe of wonder, the surprise that we see reflected in children's faces as they hear the story for the first time or kneel at the crib to greet the new born King.

May we this Christmas time come as children to the crib. May we have that feeling of expectation, that sense of excitement as if we were hearing the good news of the birth of Jesus, Saviour, God with us, for the very first time. May we too be filled with the wonder, joy and peace that this news brings.

Love in Christ,



Sue.

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The following prayer was given to the editor by a member of the congregation at Norley Methodist Church :-

Dear Lord

I pray for wisdom to understand my man,  
love to forgive him  
and patience for his moods,  
because Lord if I pray for strength I'll beat him to death.

Amen

## ***Pastoral Piece***

As we approach Christmas we celebrate with those who are enjoying additions to their families, rejoicing especially with the Dale family on Harry's arrival.

We stand alongside those who have concerns:-

- those with health issues either for themselves or family and friends;
- those worrying about how the recession is going to affect their lives and those they know and love;
- those who feel isolated at this social time of the year;
- those who mourn thinking particularly of those for whom this Christmas will be the first without a loved one.

We pray that all may receive the support, help and love they need.

If you feel in need of support and would like someone to talk to please do not hesitate to get in touch with me (tel: 01829 741022).

Love and prayers

Rev Sue.

# Craft Club

During the last few weeks we have been very busy making Christmas decorations out of various fabrics, resulting in Christmas wreathes, trees, bells, mobiles, sweet dishes etc. What an interesting experience this proved to be. For some, no problem. For one or two, a bit more stressful!! (not mentioning any names!).

Nevertheless, we all succeeded in completing our chosen tasks and were pleased with all our efforts. Thanks to Alison, Liz and Pearl for their excellent tuition.

We extend a warm welcome to Kate Humphries who has recently joined our merry band.

We look forward to rounding the year off with Christmas lunch at the Fishpool on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

*June Fay*

## Children's work in Norley

### Lunch club.

#### Budding Actors and Actresses.

The children in year 5/6 are writing and performing short plays in assembly based on a story from the bible.

Their first play was based on the parable of the lost coin and was about a girl who earned enough money for an iPad and then lost the last £50 in her bedroom.

Eventually she found it again and went to celebrate with her friends.

Up to Christmas the children will be looking at peace and the true meaning of Christmas. I wonder what the play will be about?

Are you amazed that stories written by Luke about the life of Jesus are so relevant to today. People felt just the same about losing items all those years ago as we do today. The parable of the lost coin shows how God can relate to our feelings and cares for us.

### Assemblies.

As the weeks are racing by and we are looking forward to Christmas the assemblies are looking at how important it is to have self belief. Remembering too that God wants us to co-operate and support each other. We will be illustrating this by looking at David and Samuel from the Old Testament and how God worked through them.

In our last assembly we focus on Angels and how they asked people to co-operate with God.

Thank you for all the support you give me in my work. It is very much appreciated.

Mother Teresa wrote.  
If we have no peace it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

I do not want the peace that passes understanding, I want the understanding which brings peace.  
Helen Keller.

### Looking ahead.

#### **Angels and Shepherd**

A Christmas Holiday club

Come and join the fun  
On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.  
For children of Primary school age from 12noon until 4pm.

All welcome

Ring Andrea on 07749877823 to book a place.

#### **Cookery Club**

Sometime before Easter, a cookery club for children in year 5/6 will be taking place after school. The children will be cooking with ingredients which are mentioned in the bible. If you would like to be involved in either of these please let Alison or myself know.

*Andrea Ellams*

# Church Weekend Away at Abbot Hall, Grange-over-Sands

The Church Weekend Away retreated to the South Lakes in early October. The weather was most kind to us and a varied programme of arranged activities and free time and space was appreciated by all, as well as the excellent meals and hospitality provided by Abbot Hall, the Christian Guild Hotel at Kents Bank near Grange-over-Sands.

For the early arrivals, a walk beckoned on Friday – as Alison Twinn reports

‘A group of seven followed one of Wainwright's lakeland walks from a layby just off the A590 towards Grange, not much above sea level up to Lord's Seat, the highest point on Whitbarrow about 800 feet above sea level! The 5½ mile walk began quite steeply though beautiful mixed woodland and continued upwards until the open grassland was reached. Then followed a more gentle undulating walk on grassy slopes scattered with tiny flowers, between limestone pavements and stunted junipers with their tops turned over almost at right-angles by the prevailing wind. Fortunately this was a calm day. Wainwright himself describes this part of the walk as 'exceedingly pleasant, in surroundings high above encircling valleys amid scenery that has no blemish. All is fair to the eye on Whitbarrow'. And so it was. After a packed lunch sitting with our backs to a wall we began the descent. This proved somewhat tricky in places clambering over loose stones and tree roots. However all arrived safely at the bottom and were refreshed with a cup of tea and home-made cakes outside a barn called the Hikers' Rest. Have you ever come across a 'help yourself, make your own tea and do your own washing-up, please, and put your money in the envelope provided and post it though the letterbox of the cottage next door' cafe? A wonderful day was enjoyed by everyone, and thanks go to Di and Richard who organised it.’

Everyone gathered for dinner, followed by a hilarious game of ‘beetle’ (arranged by Sue and Peter Levitt) during which we built churches rather than creating beetles. Some people acquitted themselves extremely well – a combination of paying attention, understanding the rules, keeping the dice on the chair, writing quickly and the luck of the dice: others – well, the least said the better. Prayers led by Ruth Lane and community singing (sacred and, as an innovation, secular) concluded the evening.

After Saturday morning prayers, led by Alison Twinn, we went our separate ways for a relaxing day. Many beauty spots, Lakeland sights and retail opportunities were sampled during the day.

Some of us reconvened after lunch to follow the westwards coastal path around the bay towards Humphrey Head: we made some progress but finally (and very sensibly) had to abandon our intended walk due to the extraordinarily high Spring tides which blocked our progress in a very watery sort of way.

The ‘locals’ we met en route had never seen anything like it!

*The Humphrey's Head Assault Party  
before we were defeated*

After dinner Bruce Lane Entertained us, despite the constant (and, it has to be said, unexpected) barracking from certain members of the company who shall be nameless, with a slide show of Ruth's and his recent holidays in Australia and Costa Rica. The latter made ‘Outward Bound’ seem like a walk in the park. We drew the evening to close with Prayers led by John Bell and a little more singing. Then the jigsaw – ah, yes, the big

jigsaw!

Throughout the weekend, for something new, Alison arranged for games and a big jigsaw to be available, just as a quiet sideline for those who wished. Well, did this reveal the jigsaw addicts? It is confidently reported that the 1000-piece picture (of which several hundred very similar shapes seemed to be bits of blue sky and white cloud) was triumphantly completed. Funny how different people approach jigsaws in different ways – don't ask!

Much use was made of the swimming pool by many of our number, older and younger, and the Coffee Shop too.

We shared in Sunday morning service with Holy Communion led by Sue and Peter: It was a fitting act of worship and reflection. Then, more time and space to relax, walk, drink coffee or just do nothing before an excellent Sunday lunch and return journey home.

We are immensely grateful to the many people who arranged and contributed to a most enjoyable weekend away.

*John Bell (& Alison Twinn)*

## First Wednesday Walks

The September walk was delightful. The weather played its part, and Richard and Di led a walk from Brereton Heath Country Park around Swettenham, which was much enjoyed. The views were great – and a part of Cheshire not well known to most of the walkers.

This was followed by a figure of eight walk in October led by Peter and Sheila near Maeshafn. After the splendid views from Moel Findeg on the first half of the figure of eight, we had lunch at the Miners Arms Inn – the start, middle and end of the walk – and were surprised by running into Diane Hodgson from Norley there.

The November walk is reported on by Garry who led the walk with Vaughan. Garry writes :-

'The threat of poor weather did not deter sixteen participants from meeting in the car park at Beeston Castle on the November First Wednesday Walk.

Led by Vaughan and Garry the troupe headed south along part of the Sandstone trail, through the woods alongside the Peckforton hills to emerge at the top of Bulkeley Hill.

The mist shrouded views west across the Cheshire Plain to Wales bore testimony to the weather to come. Undaunted the group headed down the lane, beneath the sandstone 'Haunted Bridge', scene of headless (but quiet!!) apparitions, past the large ancient oak where John Wesley is reputed to have preached and on into Peckforton village.

Pausing only to admire the statue of the elephant with a castle instead of a howdah on its back in Laundry Cottage garden we then took to the fields past the remnants of Peckforton mere and across Beeston Moss. Our emergence into this vast open space

was a sign for the rain to descend in a futile attempt to dampen our spirits and with both castles in our sights we headed back to the car park. Lunch was taken at the Shady Oak where some feasted on Battered Cod which would have given Moby Dick a swim for his money.'

December will be a 4 mile walk around Cuddington followed by lunch at the White Barn and coffee or tea at John and Sylvia's. Future walk dates for your diary are :-

**Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Why not join us for a great day out? We meet at the Church at 9.45 for a 10am departure. See you there.

*Bruce Lane & Garry Wynne*

## *Harvest Festival*

We celebrated the Harvest Festival in the traditional way, as ever. The Church was beautifully decorated on Saturday morning ready for the occasion. Sunday Services were well attended and led most thoughtfully and ably by our minister, the Rev'd Sue Levitt: in the morning, All-age Worship and in the evening, Holy Communion.

We brought gifts of useful produce for the Young People's Support Foundation (YPSF) in Manchester, delivered on the next morning and hugely appreciated. The YSPF management marvel that a 'small Methodist chapel' in Cheshire can be so generous in its giving and they thank you all most profusely for your gifts.

There is something very special about Harvest Festivals in country churches and chapels that our urban friends surely miss. It is to do with the outpouring of gratitude for the gathering in of the harvest on which our ancestors in this place were so deeply dependent: we, in our day and age, continue to reflect that sentiment. Have the urban and city church congregations lost the connection, as they see only the supermarket, but not what lies beyond it? In the end, someone – a farmer – somewhere in the world cultivates and grows the produce on which we all rely for our sustenance: in Norley, we still remember them more readily, and rightly so.

Thanks be to God!

John Bell

## **Spiritual Matters**

The Spiritual Committee organised the prologues and epilogues at the chapel weekend away which were much appreciated by everyone. On the Sunday morning our worship was led by Peter and Sue Levitt and everyone felt that the sung communion added greatly to the feeling of holiness and increased the love and friendship we shared by being together.

Discussions on the book 'Time to Talk of God' have started and been very interesting. If anyone wants to join the group do come along to the Open Door Room at 7.30pm on the following Wednesdays - 24<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December.

On October 24<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Holmes led our All Age Worship on 'Shoebox Sunday'. A magnificent number of bulging shoeboxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child and will be taken to the Wrexham Depot to be sent onward to needy children. We'll let you know which country they are sent to, so you can imagine the joy and gratitude of the children receiving the boxes. Very many thanks to everyone for their generosity.

The next activity of the Spiritual Committee is to prepare and lead the Candlelit Carol Service, and any one interested in planning this should come to a meeting at Howell Croft on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

*Ruth Lane*



# 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

## December 2010

Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup>		World AIDS Day
		9.45am	First Wednesday walk - Cuddington
		7.30pm	Business & Management Meeting at Howell Croft
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>			Frodsham Methodist Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday (Advent 2)	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mrs Avis Palmer of Tarvin
		6.30pm	Mr Geoffrey Robinson of Helsby
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Band of Hope and Joy Practice at Little Mill
		7.30pm	Ladies Carol Service at Tarvin Methodist Church
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup>		Craft Club Lunch at the Fishpool
		7.30pm	Spiritual Committee meeting at Howell Croft – plan Carol Service
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Network Carol Service at Kelsall
		7.30pm	'Time to Talk of God' at Norley Methodist Church
Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Christmas Lunch
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>			Tarvin Tree Festival
Sunday (Advent 3)	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament
		4.00pm	Christingle Service & Tea for Cradle Roll led by Rev'd Sue Levitt
		6.30pm	No evening service at Norley
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Hurst Soup Lunch in aid of Team Oasis, Liverpool
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Carols and Tea at Bunbury
		7.00pm	Seasonal supper at The Hurst Guild
			followed by 'getting us in the mood for Christmas'
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm	Messy Church at Tarvin Methodist Church
		7.00pm	Carols at Tiverton
		8.00pm	Café Church at The Hurst
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	First Norley Carol Singing Night
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	until 8pm. The Hurst 'Too busy to Stop?'
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	until 1pm. The Hurst 'Too busy to Stop?'
		11.00am	Band of Hope and Joy Practice at Church
		6.30pm	Carol Singing
Sunday (Advent 4)	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr Philip Garner of Norley
		4.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service – Spiritual Committee
		6.30pm	No evening service at Norley
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Carol Singing
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	6.30pm	Carol Singing spare night if rained off earlier
Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	12 noon	until 4pm. Holiday Club at Norley Methodist
		6.30pm	Carol Singing
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	until noon. Holiday Club at the Kingsley Community Centre
		6.30pm	Christingle service at the Kingsley Community Centre

Christmas Eve	24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Carol Singing
Christmas Day	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Family worship - Revd Sue Levitt
Boxing Day	26 <sup>th</sup>		No services at Norley

## January 2011

Sunday (Epiphany)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45am	Mr John Bell of Cuddington
		6.30pm	No evening service at Norley
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm	Messy Church Christingle at Frodsham Methodist Church
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt – Covenant Service
		6.30pm	Joint Service for Plough Sunday at St Johns, Norley led by Rev Sue Levitt and Rev Peter Rugen
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Café Worship at Ashton
		7.45pm	Hurst Guild – John Woulds on 'A View from the Bench'
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>		District Study day for Lay People - the President of Conference
		10.45am	Mr Geoffrey Robinson of Helsby
		6.30pm	Mr Edgar Gregory of Frodsham
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	5.15pm	Messy Church at Frodsham Methodist
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.45am	All Age Worship led by Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
		6.30pm	Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacrament
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Café Worship at Ashton
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		6.00pm	New Year Church Family Party
Homelessness Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Professor Neville Ford of The Hurst
		6.30pm	Mrs Janet Batey of The Hurst

## February

Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mr Mike Ridley of Bunbury
Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.45pm	Hurst Guild – Martin Mann on 'The History of Catten Hall'
		6.30pm	Mr Andrew Ellams of Frodsham
Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		2.30pm	Network Communion Service at Tarvin
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacrament
		6.30pm	Joint service at St John's Norley
Sunday (Bible Sunday)	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr Edgar Gregory of Frodsham
		6.30pm	Mrs Judy Ford of The Hurst
Tuesday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm	Local Preachers' meeting at The Hurst
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	All Age Worship – Rev'd Sue Levitt
		6.30pm	Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacrament
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> March			Fair Trade Fortnight

## March

Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
		7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Oakmere
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Norley@9
Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Wednesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Church Council
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch

## Special Christmas and New Year Services

First Sunday in Advent  
November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm

A joint service for  
Methodists and Anglicans at  
Norley Methodist Church

**Candlelit Carol Service**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

**4.00pm**

at

**Norley Methodist Church**  
followed by refreshments

**Christingle Service**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 4pm**  
**at Norley Methodist Church**  
**All Welcome**

**Christmas Day**

**9.30am**  
**Family Worship**  
led by the  
**Revd Sue Levitt**



# Angels and Shepherds

**Come and join a Christmas Holiday Club**  
at Norley Methodist Church

where you can ...explore the meaning of Christmas  
through games, crafts and quizzes

**Date 22nd December Time 12noon – 4pm**

Primary School Aged Children Welcome



## Lots of Fun.



Cost £3.50  
Bring a packed lunch  
Meet at Norley Methodist Church

Ring Andrea on 07749877823 for details and to book a place

*January 9<sup>th</sup>*

*10.45am Covenant Service*

*at  
Norley Methodist Church  
led by the  
Revd Sue Levitt*

*6.30pm Plough Sunday Joint Service*

*at  
St John's Norley  
led by the Revds Peter Rugen and Sue Levitt*

*See you there*

# Christmas Open Door Lunch

at Norley Methodist Church

Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup>



Reserve the date  
and a seat



Please arrive for 12 noon. Cost £6.00

# Carol Singing Dates and Routes 2010

***Please make note of the dates and come and help us take the Christmas message to the village***

Date	Route	Meeting Place and Time
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fingerpost Lane, Cow Lane	6.30pm at the Church
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Any houses left on Cow Lane Moss Lane The Paddocks, Forresters Close, School Bank, Westview Road	6.30pm at the Church
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Maddock's Hill Hough Lane Gadbank High Street Breech Moss	6.30pm at the Church
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Spare night if rained off earlier	6.30pm at the Church
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Post Office Lane, The Spinney, Crabmill Lane School Lane,	6.30pm at the Church
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Gallowsclough (James') Harthill Farm	6.00pm at Gallowsclough
Christmas Eve	Then normal route from Hatchmere Caravan Park	

This year we have 5 nights Carol Singing – do try to join us to take out the Christmas message. The Church Council decided not to do the 6<sup>th</sup> night after the Carol service, but to encourage people to come to the Carol Service instead. So apologies if you live on the car route (Ruloe, Delamere Park, Cuddington) or on Ashton Road. We won't make it to you this year – but we hope to see you at the candlelit Carol Service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.

# The Church Council

The Council met on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

It decided that, at the stewards suggestion, the Carol singers would go out on 5 nights this year, and that there would be no carol singing in the evening after our carol service and St John's carol service (which in the past has been the 6<sup>th</sup> night). This means we could no longer cover the car route or Ashton Road. It was also decided not to provide refreshments on each night after the carol singing.

Children and Youth Work was discussed, with decisions that Andrea would be involved regularly in the craft activity for Norley@9, should hold a Christmas holiday club, and run a 6 week 'cookery club' in the new year in addition to her activities at Norley School.

The banner display at the front of the church would only be used intermittently to improve its impact, and that notices for special events, such as the Christingle and Carol Services would be displayed.

The accounts and reserve policy for the year to August 31 2010 were approved and accepted, with thanks to the treasurer and the auditor. Financial authorities were delegated to various Church officials and groups. The Schedule A and the property stewards schedule A supplement were accepted, with the priority property work sanctioned (see the Property Matters later in this edition).

Finally both the secretary (John Bell) and treasurer (Bruce Lane) offered their resignations having exceeded their allowed terms of office. Sue quoted from CPD (Standing Orders) which allowed John and Bruce to be reappointed for a further year – and the council approved their reappointments.

*Bruce Lane*

## *Norley@9*

**Norley@9 is on the first Sunday of the month. Come and join us at Norley Methodist Church for an early, informal time of worship and praise lasting about 45 minutes on**

**December 5<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am**

**February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am**

**March 6<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am**

## All Age Worship

10.45am at Norley Methodist Church on  
23<sup>rd</sup> January led by Ruth  
27<sup>th</sup> February led by Sue

*Everyone Welcome*

## Christmas Day Offering

The Church council decided to donate the offering at the Christmas day service to Action for Children (which was formerly known as NCH). Please give generously at Christmas to this very needy and worthwhile cause.

## **OPEN DOOR LUNCHES.**

We are all looking forward to our Christmas Lunch on Thursday 9th at 12 noon. I do hope that you have booked a place for this exciting occasion, if not HURRY! HURRY! If you have not joined us yet for lunch, why not come along for a festive meal and some seasonal carols and songs. See you there. Our lunch dates for the next quarter are:

Wednesday January 12th  
Wednesday February 9th  
Wednesday March 9th

Thursday January 27th  
Thursday February 24th  
Thursday March 24th

Happy Christmas!

*Joan Bell*

## **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE.**

Plans are well advanced for our Christingle service on Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Once again this will be a service for ALL ages, led by our minister Rev'd Sue Levitt. It will be followed by party tea for the children and seasonal refreshments for all. Do come along - we look forward to seeing YOU.

*Joan Bell*



## Church New Year Family Party

The Church Stewards are pleased to advise that we plan to hold a Church Family Party on January 29<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 9 pm. We will follow a similar format to that in early 2010 when an enjoyable evening of supper and party games was had by \_\_\_\_\_ all who came along.

We shall be asking for help nearer the time – just book the evening for now and look forward to it in those dark days at the end of January 2011.

## Ordination Service 2011

We were delighted to hear the wonderful news that the Rev'd Sue Levitt, our minister, is to be ordained at the Southport Methodist Conference next July. This will be a momentous occasion in Sue's life and ministry and we rejoice with her, Peter and her family that the Church has agreed to bring it forward from 2012 as was originally planned.

After their period on probation, ministers are received into the Full Connexion of the Methodist Church in Britain and ordained into the authorised ministry of the universal Church during the annual Methodist Conference. There is a subtlety here that perhaps needs explaining.

All ministers are 'received into Full Connexion' as a sign of the covenant relationship between themselves and the Church for the rest of their lives: this is a unique aspect of Methodism and has certain practical obligations on both sides. This event will happen at the end of the Sunday morning worship at Conference in Southport, as each minister (presbyter or deacon) is called by name by the Secretary of Conference and presents her/himself on the platform: when all are gathered, the President of Conference addresses them, reminding them of the meaning and significance of the occasion.

Later in the day (at places and times to be advertised), there will be a series of Ordination Services at different venues in the Southport area when the ordination into the ministry of the whole Church of God takes place. A small number of ministers are ordained at each service so that each can experience the unique moment of ordination in the sight of the whole congregation. These are simply magnificent occasions – I have often said that every Methodist should attend at least one in their lifetime – well now is your chance, and for a very special reason.

What do we know of the arrangements so far? The date most certainly will be Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011. The Conference Sunday Worship including Reception into Full Connexion is open to anyone, as are the Ordination Services in the afternoon, but both will require tickets – they are extremely popular. We will ensure that details of venues and ticketing arrangements are advertised as soon as they become known. We are truly fortunate that Southport is so close for us and easily accessible there and back on the day.

Whilst decisions still have to be properly made, it seems highly probable that we shall not hold an evening service at Norley on that Sunday to encourage and enable as many as possible to support Sue and share in her Ordination Service.

May I urge you to do so – it will be a memorable and uplifting occasion.

*John Bell*

# ***Hubert Henry Cooper***

Hubert Henry Cooper from all that I have heard about him is someone I am so sorry I never had the opportunity to meet. For from all accounts and from the number of cards and letters Florence and Mike have received he was a lovely man... as one person put it 'a perfect gentle man'.

He was one of six children and lived all his life in the same family home in Moss Lane. He belonged to Bethel Methodist Church with the rest of his family until it closed but he never lost his faith, and knowing God's love and care in his own life, he wanted to share that love and care with all those that he knew and met.

He was devoted to his family and friends especially his brothers and his sisters. He lived with Florence (and with Mike when Florence married) and he called them 'the team'.... for that is how they lived and worked together... as a team... all for one and one for all supporting, encouraging, helping one another throughout their lives in the good times and the bad.

He was also very close to his sister Lucy and visited her every day to make sure she was OK and often took fruit and vegetables he'd grown sharing his abundance with her.

For Hubert loved his garden. He enjoyed sharing with God in His creation and he was good at it. Florence tells me that they were always self sufficient in fruit and vegetables due to Hubert's green fingered touch.

He was known as a good and faithful worker all his life from starting out in farming working for Dales, then moving on to working for Woodwards and then for Fred Stubbs as a labourer and then finally as a van driver travelling the country for Northwich Glass where he continued to work until he was 70. It is a tribute to him that people he worked for and alongside have all expressed a wish to be at his funeral to pay their respects to such a caring diligent man.

In his spare time (when he was not in the garden) Sport was his passion. He loved football and was an avid and ardent supporter of Manchester United... and nearer to home he helped out at Norley Football Club. For many years he marked out the ground for them each week and was on the committee helping in any way that he could. He enjoyed playing bowls and I am told was an excellent player and team member playing for Norley and always willing to help other teams when needed. He was also very keen on cricket.

But most of all he loved people and particularly his family... not just his sisters that I've already referred to but also his brothers... Ken and Billy who have preceded him in death and Ron who now lives in Ireland near to his son (with whom Hubert spoke often on the telephone) and also his extended family. He was always more concerned about them than he ever was himself. Florence told me of even in the last days when she and Mike went to visit him in hospital or in the nursing home he would always say, "Never mind about me just take care of yourselves.. I'm more worried about you." And when he was diagnosed he made Florence and Mike keep to themselves what was wrong because he didn't want people to be upset or worried on his account. For that was the caring, loving, self deprecating man Hubert was.

But now for Hubert the trials and tribulations of this world are over and death is past and I know he will have been received into the arms of his heavenly loving Father with the words,

'Well Done, my good and faithful servant'

*Rev'd Sue Levitt*

# Property Matters

**The recent Church council set as priorities for the forthcoming year:-**

1. Fit rollers to the screen between the Church and the Open Door room.
2. Replace 88 worn out buttons on the organ Swell Octave coupler as recommended by Edwards Organ Builders at a cost of £480.
3. Implement fast pay back items from the energy efficiency survey.

Since the last report in the summer edition of Outreach, the refurbishment of the lounge/Sunday School Room has been completed. Over the summer new skirting boards were fitted, the end wall papered, the woodwork and walls painted and a new carpet laid.

The large conifer was removed from the High Street side of the Church by a contractor, which should cure the blocking problem with the gutters. Thanks go to James Dale and John Dimelow for the removal of the felled tree. The shutters were removed, and the internal paintwork around the buttress repaired before the wedding of Craig and Dorothy. The organ had had a repair visit just before this, to sort out problems prior to the wedding, but the tree felling upset it, and 2 more visits were required to get it back in shape for the wedding.

The report of an energy efficiency survey carried out for the Methodist Church was also received. This identified a number of items that could be addressed to reduce our energy usage, and some of these will be taken up over the winter.

Since the Church council set the priorities for 2010/2011, the rollers have been fitted to the screen between the Open Door Room and the Church, which will make it much easier to open up the Open Door Room into the Church when required.

There will be a meeting of the Business & Management Committee on Dec 1 at Howell Croft, Cow Lane at 7.30pm to make plans to reduce our energy consumption. All are welcome to attend.

*Bruce Lane*

# Church Weekend Away 2011- Urgent

A booking has been made at **Willersley Castle, Cromford, Derbyshire for the weekend of October 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2011**. The booking forms will shortly be made available for completion (by a date early in 2011 that will be indicated on the form), so please note the dates and prepare to indicate your wish to come and also pay the deposit required. This is needed so soon in advance so that we can secure the reservations.

Volunteers to make the detailed arrangements and prepare the programme will be much appreciated a little later: we envisage that we will adopt a 'team approach' as in 2010 and confirm the planning at the Church Council in March.