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Dear Friends,

Someone gave me a Church magazine from another church and pointed out the following to me:

**Do you just belong?**

Are you an active member? The kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?  
Do you take an active part? To help the show along...  
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?  
Do you attend the meetings? And mingle with the flock...  
Or do you stay away and criticise... and knock?  
Do you ever go and visit a member who is sick?  
Or leave the work to just a few and then call them a clique?  
Think this over, fellow member, you know right from wrong.  
Be an active member and do not 'Just Belong'.

At the beginning of a new Methodist year I think this is well worth thinking about. It reminds us of the requirements of a member of the Methodist Church which appear on the Annual ticket of membership which the pastoral visitors distribute at this time of the year which states:

"As a member of the Methodist Church I am called to

**worship** within the local church, regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer

**learning and caring**, through Bible study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship.

**service**, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world

**evangelism**, through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others."

Makes you think doesn't it?

Being a member of the Church is above all about commitment--- commitment to God as He has been revealed in Jesus. If we are truly committed to Him then the above four points will be a part of our lives. As we start a new Methodist year may we resolve afresh to be active members of our church and play our God given part in it.

Love and Prayers



## Craft Club News

The Craft Club as usual is busy doing knitting, crocheting and patchwork. At the moment it is smaller than usual in numbers as some ladies are away on holiday or looking after their grandchildren.

Preparations are underway for the flower festival that will soon be upon us in September.

I look forward to Tuesday Mornings for friendship, coffee and of course in my case particularly for the chat! Ha!  
*Yvonne*

## Pastoral Piece

Here today, gone tomorrow. I feel that is what our climate is like. How many of us can remember the lovely hot summers we used to have! It all seems like a distant dream, but I can still recall them.

It is also true of time. When we were young a year seemed a lifetime, now it is gone before you know it. How many of you have already seen Christmas adverts for dining out?

Do you ever feel like hibernating??

Through it all our Pastoral team are always on hand to listen and help in whatever way they can. We trust you and yours keep in good health. I leave you with these words:-

Believe you can and you can  
Believe you will and you will

See yourself achieving,  
And you will achieve..... (Gardner Hunting)  
God Bless you All

*Margaret Hogan*

## Safari Supper in 2016

Thanks to Ruth & Peter Hosker, Ruth & Bruce Lane, and Joan & John Bell and their teams, those who donated desserts, or raffle prizes, sold raffle tickets and so on.... and to 95 people who came and enjoyed the Safari Supper on Saturday June 18 this year. The weather was kind, the food wonderful and the lower numbers far less stressful. The surplus to Church funds and our charitable giving amounted to £1019 plus £256 of gift aid. Well done everybody!

*Bruce Lane*

# Family Worker Report

What have you celebrated recently? A birthday, anniversary, exam results, starting a new school/ job / club. A birth / wedding / death.

September marks the new Methodist year and the cycle of celebrations start all over again. Celebrations are a time for people to come together, to appreciate what they have, to learn from the past and from each other and to celebrate life together.

From September to November there are three events that people living in Britain and here in Norley celebrate.

**Harvest Festival:** - marks the end of the Harvest season. It's a time to give thanks for the crops that have grown, and for the hard work involved in reaping, and a time to share what we have with others either in this country or further afield. Harvest Festivals are traditionally held on the Sunday closest to the Harvest moon and have been held since pagan times.

This year our church is holding a Flower Festival as part of its celebrations. If any children or young people would like to help put together a display depicting some of the stories Jesus told, let one of the stewards know. Information will be out shortly.

**Halloween:** - The origin of Halloween lies buried deep in the mist of time, but the celebrations around Halloween seem to be greater than ever. It's an opportunity for us as a church to remember that Halloween is All Hallows Eve, the night before All Saints day, a day to remember the lives of Christians who gave up everything for their faith in Jesus. An opportunity to learn more about a Saint perhaps?

Many churches hold light parties around this time giving children and adults an opportunity to discuss things of darkness and their fears and to celebrate that Jesus has overcome the power of sin and death and brings hope, peace and life – light in a dark world.

Here World Vision encourages Christians to carve a heart in the pumpkins as a sign of God's love for his children in dark times.

**Advent:** - this year begins on Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> and ends on Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup>. The word advent means "coming" or "arrival" and during advent Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing and as we prepare once again to celebrate Christmas may we take time to stop and remember a God who wants each of us to know him, to know his love and to share what that means with others.

As we travel through these celebrations together may we encourage each other, learn from each other and grow closer to a God who knows each of us.

*Andrea Ellams*

# First Wednesday Walks

A small group met as usual at the Chapel for the three and a half mile local Wild Flower Memorial Walk around Norley in June. The walk was set up last year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great War and records the 12 soldiers from Norley killed in that war. Each soldier is remembered with a wild flower plot and they are spread around Norley. We had previously completed the walk in September last year but decided to do the walk earlier this year to see the early flowers. The weather was reasonable and the rain did not materialise. It was a nice change to start straight from the Chapel without a car journey. During the walk we rested for mid-morning coffee and at the end had a picnic lunch in the chapel garden.

*Richard Ramsbottom*

The July First Wednesday Walk was led by Peter & Sheila Hills, and was a walk round the Tatton Park estate. We parked just inside the Park near the Knutsford entrance. We then left the Park through the way we had come in and walked through the Knutsford Moor Nature Reserve, before re-entering the Park at the extreme south east corner.

We followed the broad track up the eastern side of Tatton Mere, stopping for coffee and a photo shot at the northern end of the Mere. After passing round Melchett Mere we took a grassy path over to Tatton Hall. Lunch was taken in the Stable Courtyard, some eating their picnic while others purchased food from the café.

After Lunch we skirted the outside of the gardens and followed the trail along the Beech Avenue, looking at the various display boards en route. Finally, after a pause to admire a magnificent herd of Red Deer stags, we returned to the cars. The weather was kind to us, and all seemed to enjoy the walk. *Peter Hills*

In August an elite squad of 7 enjoyed the preamble around the Erddig estate, mostly led by Heather & Anthony but with contributions from other members. Our picnic lunch was eaten beside the river & was followed by a peaceful walk through woodland & pastureland (which was also occupied by a very large but placid bull). Our walk was rounded off by a most welcome cup of tea & "cookies". We were once again blessed with good walking weather.

*Anthony Davies*

Future walks are planned for

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September – led by Di & Richard**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October – led by Vaughan & Garry**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – led by Sheila & Peter**

Further information slips on each walk are available from the church porch in the month before the walk. We meet on the day at the church at 9.45 for a 10.00 am departure each month – we hope to see you there.

*Bruce Lane*

# District World Church Event at Helsby

On Sunday 18th September from 4.30 -7.00 pm.

Rev Val Ogden, who is home on furlough from Fiji, will be sharing some of her experiences of working in Fiji and there will also be tea and worship....hopefully with a Fijian flavour. Put it in your diary now.

## Surprise, Surprise

George Thornley's wife died earlier this year and when he decided to 'be a naughty boy' he looked inside the corner cupboard where his wife had kept all her secret 'preciouses' and found a curious bone handle. On further investigation he realised that there was something attached to the bone handle which had slipped down the back of the shelf. When he finally managed to retrieve the item he discovered that he was holding a silver trowel with the following writing on it:-

'Presented to Mrs Pickering on laying a Foundation Stone at the Wesleyan Chapel Norley on July 21<sup>st</sup> 1881'.

George is 98 and not an IT whizz so he asked his daughter to find out whether Norley Wesleyan Church still existed and, if so, did anyone know anything about the laying of foundation stones. To cut a long story short, we were able to say that the church existed, we had lots of knowledge about its history and we'd love it if George could come to Norley and we'd show him around. So, on August 8<sup>th</sup>, George's son, Derek, and daughter, Angela, brought George to Norley.

Over coffee, where Ken and Jean – long standing Church members joined us - amidst much laughter and story sharing, we were able to tell George that Mrs Elizabeth Pickering, who lived near the church at what is now known as 'Ford's Farm' had given the magnificent sum of £100 and laid one of the 5 foundation stones of the chapel, as described in the

Church history, copies of which were presented to the Thornleys. The stone is engraved 'W & EP' and can be seen as a corner stone on the left hand side of the chapel as you view the church from the gate (i.e. it is at the bottom of the ramp).

John Bell was able to detail the career of George's father, the Rev'd John Wesley Thornley – his summary follows - who indeed was a Methodist minister stationed in Northwich circuit for a short while whilst George was young – though he was not in pastoral charge at Norley.

So what was the connection and why did the trowel end up with George? Elizabeth and William Pickering had a son, Ernie, and a daughter, Alice, and Alice lived with the Revd Wesley Thornley's family as their housekeeper as he moved from circuit to circuit, and was a second mother to George while Mrs Thornley helped her husband in his ministry. Alice must have inherited the trowel from her mother and given it or left it to the Thornleys. George remembers coming to stay with the Pickerings at 'Ford's Farm' when he was about 4 or 5, and he would feed the chickens and help Ernie deliver milk on his cart by giving each housewife the amount of milk they wanted.

George, Angela and Derek were delighted to see the church and the foundation stone and to visit 'Ford's Farm' – it brought back lots of George's memories. Ernie must have loved George as he left George his signet ring which George wears with pride. Everyone was amazed at George's very fond memories of Alice and Ernie Pickering and 'Ford's Farm', which were revived by the visit.

Our surprise during their visit was over lunch, which Joan and John had prepared, and where Rev Sue was able to join us. George formally presented the beautiful silver trowel to Sue for the church, and this will be put on permanent display in the church as soon as a suitable display cabinet has been made for it.

*Historical note about the Revd John Wesley Thornley.*

George Thornley's father, John Wesley Thornley, was born in Manchester in 1877 and died in April 1961 in Nottingham, where his family had moved when he was young. The first source of information about his ministry was the Obituary notice in the 1961 edition of the Minutes of the Methodist Conference: this summary enabled the timeline of his ministry to be ascertained from the official volumes of the annual Minutes of the Conference which are kept in Methodist Church House in London.

The research revealed that he had trained as a teacher before candidating for the Wesleyan Methodist ministry in 1902 and, after a pre-collegiate year in Portleven (Cornwall), entered Didsbury Theological College in Manchester. The site and buildings of Didsbury College, when it closed in the 1950s, became a teacher training college and are still part of Manchester Metropolitan University.

From 1906 until 1936, when he had to retire early on grounds of ill-health and following a motorcycle accident, he had served in no less than 12 circuits across England (from Cornwall to Northumberland), one in Wales (at Milford Haven) and one in Jersey – 14 in all – that was itinerant ministry in those days! Most significantly, he served in the Northwich Circuit from 1921 to 1923 and although he was not minister at Norley (that was the Revd A T Skyrme), he must have preached here many times. This established the link with the Pickering family and Alice Pickering's long association with the Thornley family for many years. The house the Thornley family occupied, 63, Church Road, Northwich, still stands and is now divided into two flats.

John Wesley Thornley and his family returned to the Nottingham area after his retirement, and he remained active as a supernumerary minister, not least in the city's Albert Hall Methodist Church, as long as his health permitted: he enjoyed almost 25 years of retirement. His obituary notes 'to the end of his life he maintained his interest in the Church and the community which he had served faithfully for many years'.

*Ruth Lane & John Bell*

## **Choirs at Norley**

Both choirs contributed to the Easter services (see the last Outreach). The rehearsals came to an end for the summer break with an afternoon tea at the Lower Mill on the 12th of June.

*Saro Jesudason*

## The Church Council ...

...was held on June 21 with some 16 members attending and Sue chairing.

This meeting was held to discuss and accept the annual reports on all the church activities. The reports, covering a huge range of activities, were accepted and the collected reports are available from Ruth Lane – whether you are a Church Council member or not. It was decided to cease a regular Sunday school, replacing it with an ‘as and when’ required activity.

*Bruce Lane*

## Christian Aid 2016

A big **‘Thank You’** to everyone who donated and collected for Christian Aid this year. Over £2350 was collected, including Gift Aid, and this means that many homes in Bangladesh can be raised and protected from the annual floods.

*Ruth Lane and Rita Boon*

## A Right Royal Do

Norley celebrated the queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in the grounds of the village hall. Most of the village organisations ran stalls as part of the event. Our thanks go to the Dimelows who manned the church stall - ‘find the treasure’ map of the village - as part of the proceedings.

## CRADLE ROLL

On August 14<sup>th</sup> we were delighted to share in the baptism of Jack Westwood Groom.

So many of his family and friends gathered for this very special occasion which we all enjoyed along with Jack, his parents Claire and Charlie and big sister Poppy.

*Joan Bell*

# Diary

Craft Club meets from 10am to noon in the Open Door room on Tuesday (unless the notices say otherwise)

## September 2016

Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mrs Elizabeth Holmes of Frodsham
		6.30pm	Rev David Speed of Saltney
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday walk – Richard and Di
		7.30pm	Café Church – John Bell
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm	The Hurst Messy Church
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	District Synod at Potters House, Burslem Mission
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		8.00pm	The Hurst Café Church
Friday	16 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Church Leadership Team Meeting – Howell Croft
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Rev Brian Chantler of Winsford
		<b>4.30pm</b>	District Service at Helsby – Rev Val Ogden home on furlough from Fiji (See page 5)
Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>			Flower Festival (Fri 11-7, Sat 11-4, Sun 12-5)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Harvest Festival – Rev Sue Levitt
		<b>5.00pm</b>	Harvest Festival - Rev Sue Levitt
Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Spiritual Committee at 2, The Old Orchard, Cuddington
Thursday	29 <sup>th</sup>	12noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club

## October 2016

Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45am	Prof David Clough of Chester
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament and Pastoral Visitors Re-dedication



Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4.00pm	Kelsall Messy Church
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday walk – Vaughan & Garry
		7.30pm	Café Church – Bruce & Ruth Lane
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>			Weekend away at Abbot Hall
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Service at Oakmere
		6.30pm	Service at Blakelees
Monday	10 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Church Council
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Local Preachers' Meeting - Saltney
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		8.00pm	The Hurst Café Church
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Circuit Project Quiz at Caldley Valley
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mrs Janet Batey of The Hurst
		6.30pm	Rev Neil Stacey of Chester

### **October 2016 (continued)**

Wednesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament
		6.30pm	Mr Philip Garner of Norley
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>		Clocks go back – end of British Summer Time
		10.45am	Mr Edgar Gregory of Frodsham
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament

### **November 2016**

Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday walk – Sheila & Peter
		7.30pm	Café Church – Michael Gough
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt
		6.30pm	Pastor Nic Willis of Tarporley
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Kelsall Messy Church
Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		8.00pm	The Hurst Café Church
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr Mike Ridley of Bunbury

		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Wednesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mr Malcolm Pearson of Chester
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament
Monday	21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	Safeguarding Refresher Training Open Door Room
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr Mark Smyth of Saltney
		<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Advent Carols – Vicars Cross URC</b>

## December 2015

Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday walk
		7.30pm	Café Church
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Christmas Lunch
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Norley@9

# OPEN DOOR LUNCHES

As autumn approaches we look forward to another church year of Open Door Lunches. PLEASE NOTE that in September the Thursday lunch is a week later than usual to make way for preparations for the Flower Festival. Our dates are:

Wednesday September 14th	Thursday September 29th
Wednesday October 12th	Thursday October 27th
Wednesday November 9th	Thursday November 24th

Christmas lunch will be on Thursday December 8th.

*Joan Bell*

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## **THURSDAY CLUB**

*September 29th  
October 27th  
November 24th*

*1.15pm to 2.30pm in the Open Door Room, Norley Methodist Church*

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## ***Harvest Festival and Flower Festival***

### **Sunday 25th September**

*Services at 10:45am and 5:00pm led by Rev Sue  
Gifts for YPSF (Young People's Support Foundation) should be brought to the morning service.*

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## **Shoe Box Saturday**

We're trying something new: Join with others in bringing gifts for shoe boxes to a Saturday coffee morning, and then help to fill the shoe boxes that morning.

The date will be announced later.

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## **Norley Methodist Church - *Cafe Church***

Come and enjoy fellowship, worship and refreshments in a cafe atmosphere in the church at 7:30pm on the following Wednesdays:

7th September Led by John Bell

5th October led by Bruce or Ruth

2nd November led by Michael Gough

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## **Norley @ 9**

Join us for an informal time of worship and praise on

September 18th

October 16th

November 20th

- a time of praise lasting about 45 minutes followed by refreshments.

# Worship and Spiritual update

September 1<sup>st</sup> begins a new Methodist year once again. Two ministers, the Revds Steve Santry and Denise Harding, will meet their new congregations in Exeter and Cheshire South respectively and we shall welcome the Revd Andrew Emison who comes to the circuit from the Isle of Man to the Frodsham appointment. As the circuit was unable to secure a replacement for Steve, arrangements are in place for the year to provide pastoral cover at Helsby and Kingsley. Indeed, we shall renew our friendship with the Revd Ian Rigby who will offer pastoral support at The Hurst and Blakelees.

We were delighted to welcome Steve Santry to lead worship at Norley in July for one last visit before he headed to the south-west. On the morning of August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Plan advised that Norley was to take its turn in having a 'local arrangements' service because of the shortage of preachers on that day: however, we were most grateful when Ken Dunning stepped, out of retirement, into the breach to lead our worship. The evening services in August were shared with Blakelees and Frodsham with a service of Holy Communion at Norley at the end.

At Norley, after a break in July and August, Cafe Church and Norley@9 will resume in September. The Wednesday Cafe Churches will be led by John Bell on September 7<sup>th</sup>, Ruth and/or Bruce Lane on October 5<sup>th</sup> and Michael Gough on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. All are welcome to come and join in what are always stimulating discussions on a variety of issues relating to life and faith. Each session starts at 7.30 pm with refreshments and we finish promptly at 8.30 pm.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> we celebrate our Harvest Festival during the weekend of the Flower Festival, and will bring gifts for the work of YPSF during the morning service. Our minister, the Revd Sue Levitt will lead both services. Please note that the evening service, to round off the Flower Festival, will begin at 5.00 pm.

Sue will include the commissioning of our Pastoral Visitors in the evening service on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and there will be no services at Norley on October 9<sup>th</sup> – the Church Weekend away. If you are at home, please feel free to worship elsewhere, morning or evening – details are on the Plan.

The Spiritual Committee, which is open to everyone to attend, next meets on September 28<sup>th</sup> (at 7.00 pm at 2, The Old Orchard, Cuddington). If there is anything related to the worship and spiritual life of the Church you wish to raise, please talk to John Bell beforehand, or come along and share in the conversations and planning.

By the end of the quarter, we shall once more be into the time of Advent and an appropriate liturgy will be prepared as we reflect on Christ's coming into the world. Each year, as the events of the world unfold, we find renewed reason to celebrate again the promise, hope, light and life which, as Christians, we believe Jesus alone offers for all humankind.

*John Bell,*

*Chair of Spiritual Committee*

# The Flower Festival is nearly here

Amazingly we have so many excellent flower arrangers that all the displays will be made by people associated with our chapel! I never realised we had SOOO much talent. The displays will be based on all the special events in our church's Christian year and all the activities we are involved in.

A massive amount of designing and planning has been going on and it is expected that the church will look spectacularly beautiful when everything comes together.

The Flower Festival will run from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September and the Sunday will also be our Harvest Festival making this a double celebration. As has become our custom we will bring gifts for the Young People's Support Foundation (YPSF) to the Sunday morning service as part of our joyful outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves.

The few days before the Flower Festival will be a hive of activity as swags and other decorations are prepared as well as all the displays. If you have any free time that week and are willing to put your hand to anything – no skill required – we request your presence as everyone's help in this fun time of working together to create beauty will be greatly appreciated.

During the festival itself there will be live music playing throughout which Joan Bell is arranging. Hazel Dale is in charge of organising refreshments and so she'll be asking people for contributions, whilst Bruce Lane is ensuring we have people on the door to welcome guests and sell programmes. So offers of help during the festival will be sought and most gratefully received.

Prepare for enjoyment, camaraderie and beauty --- and perhaps a rest afterwards as we celebrate our church life together.

Join me there.....

Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am to 7pm

Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> 11am to 4pm

Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> 12 noon to 5pm

Admission Free, Refreshments available.

*Ruth Lane*

# Financial Report for the year 2015-16

At the time of writing the year is not yet quite ended of course, but it seems more appropriate to give an overview of the expected financial situation in this edition of Outreach. By December, it will be old news. Please remember that the actual figures, when presented to the October Church Council, will be slightly different, as those below include estimates of the August collections and any other income and expenditure in the month and also have been rounded.

The income to the main Church accounts (which exclude collections for external organisations and Church Weekend transactions) will be £24,900, as against a budget of £24,400: the improvement of £500 results from plusses and minuses. The main variations are weekly collections £500 more than budget, donations £600 more, gift-aid reclaims £200 more and income from carol singing and special events £950 less. The Safari Supper generated less income than expected and the Flower Festival was expected to be held this year when the budget was set.

However, expenditure, at £22,400 will be considerably less – by £2000 – than the budget of £24,400. Although donations were £300 greater (with a compensating income), and repairs and maintenance £200 greater (wholly due to dishwasher problems), several elements were less – utility costs by £600, property projects by £1100 (though some will have to be carried out in 2016-17) and the budgeted property reserve of £800 was unused.

Overall therefore, the surplus of income over expenditure will be £2500. This will enable an amount to be put aside, as the Church Council intends, towards the external redecoration due in a few years' time. Also, we are obliged to repay the first half of a loan (of £2500 to help fund the solar panels) to the Chester and Stoke District of £1250 in March 2017.

As at August 31<sup>st</sup>, the balances in the two Church accounts will stand at a little over £14,000 which will enable us to meet our obligations and maintain a satisfactory reserve.

*John Bell, Treasurer.*

# Church Weekend Away 2016

Our bookings are made, and I hope we are all looking forward to the weekend from October 7 to October 9 at Abott Hall. Unfortunately we have had one or two late cancellations so our numbers have dropped a bit. Alison is sorting out the programme which will be available later and Sue will co-ordinate transport requirements if you contact her.

Just one thing though - I need the balance payments and the Treasurer would like to see the money in the bank before we depart. I have sent out the bills for payment by the end of August please.

*Bruce Lane*

## Celebrate 15 years of 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Walks

The First Wednesday walks were started by Judith and Alan Forrest in July 2001 – so they have been taking place for 15 years. Central Scene in autumn 2001 reports on the first walks in an article reproduced below

*Bruce Lane*

### First Wednesday Walks

These walks start with coffee at the Chapel at 10.00 am on the first Wednesday of each month. We have completed the first two walks – the first in July from the park and ride at Sealand road, which took us along the Dee into the centre of Chester, around the walls with a Roman soldier, lunch on the grass by the cathedral, and back to the park and ride. This first walk was 7 miles, somewhat longer than our normal intention, and the 12 walkers raised £189 for NCH. It was very hot. The August walk, again with just over a dozen walkers started and ended at the chapel, taking in Breeches and Flaxmere mosses, Blakemere, lunch at Linnere picnic area, and returning through the forest past Judith and Alan Forrest's, about 5 miles in total. By the time this Central Scene is distributed, the third walk on September 5<sup>th</sup> through Crowton to Dutton Locks, lunch at the Leigh Arms and a walk back along the Weaver will have been completed.



Why not plan to join our future walks, meeting for coffee at the chapel at 10.00 am on  
Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>      Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>      Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>



## Solar Panels Update

Trouble free operation of our solar panels has continued into our fifth year.

After 4½ years we have generated 16,752 Kwh and earned £8125.

Our original investment was £7500, so that is now all recovered, and future income for the next 20½ years will help towards the Church's costs – and continue to help reduce global warming.

*Bruce Lane*

## Repent O Scottish Sinner...

*There was a Scottish painter named Smokey Macgregor, who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.*

*As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of their large building. Smokey put in a bid, & because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set about erecting the scaffolding & setting up the planks & buying the paint & yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with water...*

*Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, & the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church, & knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by tell-tale puddles of the thinned & useless paint.*

*Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees & cried: "Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"*

*And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke.*

***"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more."***

*(Anecdote supplied by Margaret Hogan)*

## Property Matters      Activities since the last report have been:-

John and Lewis Dimelow have been able to complete the lining of the gutters and the installation of the leaf guards bought last year. We look forward now to many years of operation without the water leakage. The property steward can now proceed with repairing the internal decoration by the High Street side buttress.

Work on the Maddock's Hill side of the garden to install a membrane and woodchip has now been completed, the woodchip being provided for free as a gift to the church. We are pleased with the result. A number of small shrubs are to be purchased and installed to complete the plans on this side.

The church lighting project has proved difficult. Attempts to define a scheme and cost it with Aurora lighting have not been successful. A Church lighting company has also been approached, but want £3000 just to design the lighting system, never mind purchasing and installing it!! A second design company is being approached. *Bruce Lane*

### **Beryl's daughter Christine's tribute to her mother Beryl.**

Mum was born in 1933 at Frith Avenue, Eddisbury, Delamere to Fred and Blanche Lewis. She had an older sister Sheila, four years her senior. She went to Norley School with her friend Jean, before moving to Station Road, Winsford, and later went to Ravenscroft Hall private

School, Middlewich. The family also lived in Cuddington for a short time before moving back to Norley. Mum was a member of the girl guides and enjoyed days at Hatchmere Lake. She was in the church choir with her lovely singing voice and played the piano. Mum had close friends Joan Dale, Jean Hindley and her cousin Joyce. She enjoyed nights at Norley dances.

Mum talked of cycling to Delamere Station every day to get the train to Chester, where she attended Davies Training College. She completed a course in shorthand typing and worked as a secretary for her father Fred at 'Lewis and Hulse' in Winsford. It was while she worked there that she met Barry White, who had recently left the Army and now drove wagons for her father Fred. They married in 1956, here at Norley Chapel. They started married life at Breech Moss, Norley and had two children, Lynn and Robin. Sadly, she lost her beloved mother, Blanche at the young age of 49. This had a huge impact on her life. Christine was later born and the family moved to Little Budworth for a short time. They later settled at Gerrard Drive, Weaverham and had three more children, Debbie, Jenny and Jacqui. They became very close to the family next door, Ettie and her family.

We have fond memories of our childhood, driving around in our minibus, having been a large family - Bonfire night, Pancake Day, special family Christmases and days in Little Budworth, visiting Nana and Grandad White. They had yearly holidays to Butlins with Dad's family. When going for days out, Mum would sit us on the sideboard in a line and wash us one by one. Even though we had a full house, Beryl invited Auntie Jean to come to stay with us for eighteen months.

Mum went to work as a waitress at Bratt and Evans Northwich, but was always there when we got home from school. She always made us a hot drink before bed and tucked us in with a hot water bottle. She would say 'G.N.G.B', 'Good night, God bless'. Our clothes were always in six piles on the back of the sofa, ready for the next day and she would always get up early to light the fire before we woke up. We have lovely memories of her reading Catherine Cookson books, with a bag of Mint Imperials next to her, wearing her Cameo broaches and 'Lily of the Valley' perfume, with Scamp and Tigger asleep on the mat.. We would dress up in her clothes and high heels and then perform shows for her, using her brass candlesticks as microphones. We would perform 'Miss World', with Robin as the judge.

Beryl went on to work at the Oaklands Hotel, Gorstage as a waitress. Sadly her marriage failed and she looked after us by herself. She never complained and always went without so that we didn't have to. Times must have been really hard for her, keeping six young people on the straight and narrow, teaching us right from wrong and about love and respect. She was proud of us and believed in us, never judged us, even if sometimes she didn't agree. She had jobs at Hartford Hall as a waitress, and the Red Lion Hartford. In 1979, she went with friends to the Endeavour Club, Pickmere; this is where she met her soul mate, Stan, who played a huge part in all our lives. She used to ride to Pickmere on her moped to visit him. They enjoyed Shearings Coach Holidays to the West Country, especially Weymouth, which was her favourite. She joked about a boat trip to the Scilly Isles where she was so sea sick that she had to travel back by helicopter.

Beryl lived in Briar Lane, Weaverham, before moving to her much loved Bungalow in Park Avenue, Weaverham. She would stand at the front window with her binoculars, admiring the lovely view over Little Leigh. She and Stan enrolled at Weaverham High School for painting classes. Beryl always said that Stan was better at it than her. They enjoyed visits to the 'Fourways' for Sunday lunch, trips to Chester and visits to Mecca Bingo with Ettie, family and friends. She also worked at Amec Sandiway. Sadly, Stan passed away in 2003 after 24 years together and her life was never the same again. Beryl was kept busy with twelve grandchildren and ten great grandchildren, who have fond memories of her and Stan. She had a love of

clocks, earning her the name of 'Nanna Tick Tock', from Molly and also a love of owls, which was evident around her bungalow.

Kelly has written the tribute below on behalf of the grandchildren and great grandchildren:

“As soon as Nanna passed away I knew I wanted to say something at her funeral. To thank her for being the person she was and for being such a lovely Nanna and Great Nanna. Nanna has had some difficult times in her life but she never let this show. She was always so happy, warm and welcoming. She was lovely to be around. She was good company and good fun and I think this is why everyone loved being around her. Nanna's door was always open. She loved company and always welcomed you in for a brew and a biscuit. Nan had a good sense of humour too and would come out with some very witty things, often quite rude so I won't repeat them! We all have lovely childhood memories thanks to Nanna. Playing in the garden at Briar Lane, days out to Northwich on a Saturday with Nanna and Stan, Bratts, Tesco's, Sainsbury's, visits to Winnington Garden Centre and the Cheshire Show. Nan's lovely spag bol on a Saturday or a Sunday roast, big hugs, Mecca Bingo plus so many more special memories.

Nanna was the kind of person who would do anything for you or give you anything...well apart from her sweets that is! She loved her sweets and always said that she would give you money to buy yourself some but you couldn't have hers! Nanna was always so glamorous as her clothes, hair and make-up were always lovely. She was always smart and well presented. She was a true lady .I can't believe that Nanna raised 6 children. She has done such an amazing job and if it wasn't for her we wouldn't have the lovely Mums, Dad, Aunties and Uncle that we have today. I remember one morning when at primary school Nanna walking into the playground, coming over to me and giving me the biggest kiss in front of all my friends. Some children may have been embarrassed by this but I wasn't as I was proud to have her as my Nan. We are all going to really miss Nanna but in time we will be comforted by our special memories of her. Thank you Nanna from all your grandchildren and great grandchildren. We will always love you”

Over the last few years, Mums health deteriorated and she was diagnosed with Vascular Dementia. We looked after her as a family, but when she needed more care we made the hardest decision ever and she moved into Newton Hall Care Home. She made many friends with residents and staff. She was treated with care, dignity and respect. For that, we thank them. Never a day passed that she didn't see one of her family, payback to our lovely mum.

Sadly, on 15th July, she passed away peacefully with family around her.

Beryl always said she was a plain Jane, how wrong she was. She was beautiful inside and out. Everyone claims to have the best mum ever, but we truly won that lottery. We have lots of eternal gratitude here for the love and care she gave us. She was our mother and she was our rock. Her infectious smile will be lighting up heaven.

For everything we thank you. Our Lovely Mum

(Words by Beryl's daughter Christine, *spoken at the funeral by Rev Sue Levitt, and edited*)

Rotas Page <b>Flowers Rota</b>		<b>Morning Door Stewards Rota</b> The September to November rota is published below. Please ensure that you find a substitute if you're unable to fulfil your duty	
Sep 4	Mrs A Twinn	Sep 4	Hazel and James Dale
Sep 11	Mrs H Davies	Sep 11	Yvonne Roughsedge & Michelle Hopley
Sep 18	Mrs B Garner	Sep 18	Rajan Jesudason & June Fay
Sep 25	All	Sep 25	Margaret Hogan and June Fay
Oct 2	Mrs J Barclay	Oct 2	Pauline Gates & Lewis Dimelow
Oct 9	None –w/e away	Oct 9	None – Church weekend away
Oct 16	Mrs L Gough	Oct 16	Heather & Anthony Davies
Oct 23	Mrs M Hogan	Oct 23	Ken & Jean Dunning
Oct 30	Mrs R Lane	Oct 30	Mary Dimelow & Yvonne Roughsedge
Nov 6	Mrs V Wynne	Nov 6	Oliver Dimelow & Alison Penny
Nov 13	Mrs J Dunning	Nov 13	Margaret Hogan & Harold Berry
Nov 20	Mrs H Dale	Nov 20	Yvonne Roughsedge & Michelle Hopley
Nov 27	Mrs P Gates	Nov 27	Hazel and James Dale
Dec 4	Mrs S Grindley		
Dec 11	Mrs M Harrington		
Dec 18	Mrs A Twinn		
Dec 25	Mrs H Davies	With thanks, as ever, to you all. Your welcomes are much appreciated <i>The Stewards</i>	
<b>Coffee Rota</b>			
Sep 4	Richard & Di		
Sep 11	Mary & Alison P		
Sep 18	Margaret & June		
Sep 25	Flower Festival		
Oct 2	Hazel & James		
Oct 9	None – w/e away		
Oct 16	Heather & Anthony		
Oct 23	Richard & Di		
Oct 30	Yvonne & Mary		

Nov 6	Margaret & June
Nov 13	Mary & Alison P
Nov 20	Hazel & James
Nov 27	Heather & Anthony

### **Car Rota**

If you need a lift to or from Church on any Sunday please contact the senior steward, Ruth Lane, on 01928 788071.

### **Café Church refreshment rota**

#### **Contact numbers for the Coffee Rota**

Sep 7	Di & Richard
Oct 5	Bruce & Ruth
Nov 2	Alison & Yvonne

01928 787196 Yvonne & Mary; 788960 Margaret & June; 787216 Hazel & James; 788969 Richard & Di; 788091 Mary & Alison P; and 01606 888896 Heather & Anthony.