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September 2017

Dear All,

Happy New Methodist Year!

A new year is always a good time to reflect on the past, but also to look to the future. A time to acknowledge what has been well done over the past year and what could have been done better, but also a time to recognise where we are and what we could/should do differently into the future.

This is no different in our church life. At the last Circuit meeting we were all challenged to look at what we see as the vision for our Circuit in the future.

The reality is that in 2019 4 ministers in the Circuit are due to look for re-invitation or move on and due to the limited number of ministers available across the connexion the likelihood is that the number of ordained staff in the Circuit will be reduced.

So we need to do new things with fewer resources.

We need to do things differently!

What is the balance of effort between simply "keeping the show on the road" and engaging in faithful discipleship, worship and mission?

Can we find a way through to releasing more time, energy, gifts and prayer for faithful discipleship, worship and mission?

Could we allow ourselves even to imagine for a while, and to think through, how we might do things very differently?

Is it really too hard for Methodist people to contemplate working together for the sake of the Kingdom?

No-one has a secret blueprint of what our Circuit should look like.

As a Circuit we have designated the first week in September as a week of prayer for the future of the Circuit and its churches. Activities are being arranged in different churches throughout the week, and inviting all our people to pray about the future - whatever its shape needs to be.

Neil Stacey, the Circuit superintendent minister has produced a discussion document on this issue. If you would like a copy please contact John Bell for an electronic copy or ask one of the stewards for a paper copy.

Here in Norley we will be using our Café Church on Wednesday 6th September, at 7:30pm for prayer and discernment.

Come and share in this with us. All are welcome. All are needed.

Love and prayers,

Craft Club News

We all have our differing views on the weather, some of us complain when it's too chilly and rainy (the latter is very problematic to our pooch Teddy, who won't even be dragged to the door when he smells rain) and some when we are having to keep cool in a heatwave. In this respect June appears to have dealt us a very mixed bunch with the wettest June on record which was also the hottest for forty years. Our gardens are flourishing though and on Tuesday mornings there is much conversation about sweet peas, geraniums, cosmos and the like and occasionally an exchange of surplus plants and seedlings also takes place. Our camera phones come in very handy to show off the results of our endeavours in both gardening as well as our crafty makes.

Last month saw us returning to Abakhan Fabrics in Mostyn, North Wales. We endured a somewhat bumpy journey in a minibus (in rather narrow seats for some of us, and with the presence of a somewhat piercing seat belt holder in the unmentionable region) although immensely grateful that we were being chauffeur driven. We were blessed with a sunny and warm day to saunter around the various buildings to commence the serious business of sifting through the £1 fabric bundles and the extremely cheap fabric roll ends for our bargains. Bargains were non-existent in the paper dress pattern section, and at almost £10 per pattern there were definitely no takers!! Fortunately, the dressmakers in our group were able to delve into their archives and supply them free of charge instead allowing the bargains to be beautifully transformed into garments.

The wool shop was a target for all the knitting and crocheting ladies amongst us and stocked a massive range of wools in many types and shades and knitting and crochet patterns together with many other accessories. Some of us were able to glean quite a few ideas from a visit to the craft shop which was a delight for all the would-be painters and birthday card makers amongst us.

Lunch in the restaurant was delicious and enjoyed by all. In fact I personally enjoyed the nicest salad I had ever tasted for my own lunch (maybe that's one for Trip Advisor!) This was followed by a browse around the gift shop where a few of us made last minute purchases before our return to Norley. Whilst we were waiting for our little group to assemble before our impending minibus journey home, we were able to sit outside the restaurant and soak up a few rays of glorious sunshine. All in all the trip was a most enjoyable experience for us all.

We are currently industrious in producing goods to put on sale at our Craft Stall at the Norley Garden Show at the Tiger's Head on Saturday 2nd September, the proceeds of which will be donated to one of our chosen charities - the Petty Pool Trust in Sandiway. For the benefit of those who may be unfamiliar with the work at Petty Pool it consists of an educational college for young adults with learning difficulties, providing vocational courses in preparation for the working environment in various areas of work i.e. catering, horticulture, leisure, animal welfare etc. There is an outdoor activity centre with a climbing wall, zip wire and other confidence building equipment and also a variety of small animals :- ponies, goats, chickens, rabbits, guinea pigs etc. and an aviary in beautifully kept grounds. A very worthwhile charity.

We were all very thankful for the donation of fabrics received recently via Eleanor and these are presently being converted into functional items of various sorts to sell on our stall. This year will possibly see the widest array of goods ever, as our skills across the membership are quite diverse and interesting making for a wider range of items in process of manufacture.

At the celebrations this year for the 20th year of Norley Craft Club during the harvest festival, we plan to include an exhibition of some of the items our members have made over the years. We hope that this will give a better understanding of the extensive skills of our group.

I would like to take this occasion, on behalf of all our members, to thank both Liz and Pearl for taking time out of their precious Tuesday mornings collecting subs and bookkeeping and for their 'out of hours' endeavours sorting out the finances and organising outings such as our recent trips to Bridgemere Garden World, Abakhan Fabrics and our annual Christmas lunch (my apologies for mentioning the 'C' word so early in the year).

On a more serious note : it must be said, that groups like Norley Craft Club are a very important remedy for loneliness and we all gain from the friendliness extended to us at our weekly meetings. Equally important is knowing that someone cares in our times of bereavement, illness or when enduring hospital procedures.

On a less serious note:

If you can start the day without caffeine,
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can conquer tension without medical help, if you can relax without alcohol,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

Then you are probably the family dog!!

Kind regards to all

Doreen Law

Pastoral Piece

“Here we are again happy as can be all good friends and jolly good company”. I know our team are happy to assist you if you require a friendly face and a listening ear.

Already the year is going by. It has not been a great summer, but better than last year. How has your summer been? I trust it has been good for you all.

Today as I prepare this item for Outreach, it is raining. At least it will save me watering the garden tonight, but a little more sunshine would be appreciated.

Whatever plans you have left for your summer I hope you enjoy them, and that God will keep you and yours safe.

I leave you with these words by Patience Strong :-

SINCERITY.

*It's the little things that count, the way a thing is said
The faintest suspicion of a frown, the turning of a head.
The tone of voice that's kind of cold, the smile that's real or fake.
The way a letter's written ... oh, the difference it can make!
If the heart is wholly filled with love and charity –
All you do will bear the imprint of sincerity.*

God bless you and yours
(11/7/17)

Margaret Hogan

Family Worker Report

My school year finished with assemblies and working with others to provide a transition day for the year 6 children from Norley, Crowton and Kingsley St John at Foxhill Christian Conference Centre. During the day the children explored different aspects of going to high school through 4 sessions using the 'Its your move' booklets. Sessions included looking at bullying, being strong in yourself and prayer space, facing your fears. Vicar Pete finished the day with a service in the chapel. I wish all those who are starting high school in September a smooth first week and may you settle quickly into a new rhythm of life. Our thoughts and prayer are with Darcey and all the children who have left Norley school during this time.

Greenbelt.

During the August Bank Holiday weekend a group of nine young people and six adults are off to the Greenbelt festival. The theme of the festival this year is 'Me, You, Us - The Common Good' and no doubt we will experience different music styles, poetry, humour and stories from others from across the world. We trust that along with rain perhaps, we hopefully will have sunshine and definitely camping beds. The highs and lows will be in the next addition. Check out the festival on www.greenbelt.org.uk

In July, I went to hear Mel Lacy, a lecturer at Oakmere College, London focusing on 'Ministering to the next Generation'. Her talk was based on Psalm 78 and focused on the duty to pass on to the next generation the truth and knowledge of God through the Bible. Children need firstly to know about God, which leads to know God, trust him and live for him. Mel challenged us through Psalm 78 v 1-8 not to hide God's truth in what we do, but to show how the Bible makes sense in today's world and how children naturally have a spiritual interest. She suggested that learning together encourages understanding and knowledge of God.

Mel challenged me to find time to read and understand the Bible more and there are lots of ways for us to do this through apps, the Methodist church website and Bible reading material from Amazon, Eden.co.uk and Scripture Union. Also for children you can download Bible story apps.

May we continue to learn more about a God who loves each of us and discover how we together can make a difference in our world today.

Andrea Ellams

Safari Supper in 2017

Thanks to all 72 who bought tickets and attended on June 10, and particular thanks to the hosts – Heather and Anthony for the starters, Ruth and Bruce for the main course and Joan and her team for desserts at the Church. Thanks to those who moved tables and chairs, put up gazebos and event shelters and took them down again, to all those who donated desserts or soups or money. The splendid evening with gift aid raised £1267 to be split between our charity giving and church funds. Well done everybody!

Bruce Lane

The Church Council ...

was held on June 12 to receive reports on the whole range of Church activities and to discuss them. This Church is amazingly active – some 24 reports were tabled ranging from Norley@9 and the Foodbank, through Café Church and the Craft Club to Pastoral Visitors, the Church website and the Church Weekend away as well as Spiritual Committee, Finance and Property reports.. The reports and the minutes are on the notice boards in the Open Door Room – do take a look.

Bruce Lane

Christian Aid Week 2017

Very many thanks to the collectors and those who gave so generously.

£2324.70 was collected, including Gift Aid.

Ruth Lane and Rita Boon

First Wednesday Walks

Unusually the May walk was a linear rather than circular walk. We started by the bridge over the Weaver at Acton Bridge and walked along the Trent & Mersey canal, then down to the Weaver by Dutton Locks and along the rather overgrown towpath to our picnic lunch by the Weaver at the entrance to Warburton's wood. A delightful walk up through this nature reserve brought the 13 of us to pre-parked cars near the top. As you can see, the walk was well attended by over a dozen walkers.

Bruce Lane

A small group gathered at the church to complete the circuit of the Norley Wildflower Memorial Walk. This is the third time this has been done and it makes a pleasant change from having a car journey to a more remote starting point. The Memorial Walk visits the 12 wildflower gardens spread around Norley to commemorate the 12 soldiers from Norley who gave their lives in the Great War. The walk was only about 3.5 miles but we took almost 3 hours to complete as we

spent long periods of debate in trying to determine the different wildflowers in the gardens. It didn't help when we decided that we had different names for some of the flowers depending on which part of the country we originated from. Part way round the walk we also paused for a coffee and rest at Stable End. The walk ended back at the church where we had a picnic lunch using the new garden benches and admiring our very own wildflower garden.

Richard Ramsbottom

The August walk was organised by Vaughan and Garry and based on a route provided by Tony Knight, thanks once again Tony. Parking at the Little Roodee in Chester seven of us set out across the Welsh Bridge heading for the Duke of Westminster estate. We expected the worst from the weather and were kitted out in defiance. We trekked down Duke's Way where one of our members, he of the bird impressions, lifted our expectations telling us that he had spotted Hawfinch in this area, sadly... it turned out to be 25 years ago!!

Leaving the path we turned into a small wood and eventually emerged onto Eaton Road, crossed it and headed down to the River Dee.

Unbelievably the weather stayed fine as we walked along the meadows, with great views of the magnificent buildings on the opposite bank, back to the suspension bridge and thence to the car park.

Deserving sustenance we met up with John Lynch at the Stamford Bridge and enjoyed a grand meal.

(Bruce, Ruth and grandchildren were meant to join us, but sadly days before, Bruce when performing some acrobatic feat totally unsuited to a man of extended years, slipped and broke a rib which he then used as an excuse to opt out. I would think that Adam made less of a fuss when he had his rib problem and the whole of Eden to weed.)

Garry Wynne

Future walks are planned for

Wednesday September 6th

Wednesday October 4th

Wednesday November 1st

Meet at church at 9.45 for a 10.00 am departure each month – we hope to see you there.

Bruce Lane

Choirs at Norley

The Band of Hope and Joy have been rehearsing to contribute to the harvest service in September. Their last rehearsal was on the 13th of July. After the rehearsal we enjoyed a supper in the garden in good weather. It happened to be James's 75th birthday, so we were able to celebrate James's special birthday.

Saro Jesudason

Property Matters

The garden work has now been completed well within budget with the construction and installation of the two benches made from the old doors. Thanks are due to Lewis and John Dimelow for the completion of this work.

At long last an acceptable design has been found for renewing the main lighting in the Church and an electrician appointed to install them for a cost of £2000 including VAT (the Church meeting had approved a higher total of £1780 + VAT - £2136 but the price has been negotiated downwards). Installation is expected following delivery of the units in mid August. The earlier scheme was rejected by the electrician as inadequate!

The Lincat water boiler failed, and was repaired at a cost just less than buying a new machine, but still an expensive repair. It is surprising how reliant we had become on this constant supply of boiling water.

A project to refresh the toilets and vestry, approved 2 years ago, has again been deferred to next year, as the available funds have been more than consumed by the lighting project and the Lincat repair.

A Bluetooth receiver has been installed to enable audio from projected items to be relayed through the Church speakers, removing the need to replace the separate speakers which failed. The system has been used successfully a couple of times already.

The Treasurer is building up a fund to redecorate the church externally in a few years' time. Inspection of the state of the external paintwork has revealed only minor touch up is required in 2 or 3 places, and redecoration is not required during the course of this quinquennial.

Bruce Lane

Spiritual Matters

Another Methodist year ends and a new one begins on September 1st. Some ministers and their families will have moved home in August and begin to settle into their new surroundings, and congregations will be wondering how things will be. After the gap year in the Helsby and Kingsley appointment, we welcome the Revd David Bintliff, a probationer minister who has completed his formal training at the Queens Foundation, Birmingham, and is stationed (as the saying goes) to the Circuit.

The Circuit Welcome Service is to be held at Helsby in the afternoon of Saturday, September 2nd and the time will be advertised: all are invited to attend. At some point, we will be pleased to see David at Norley, as the circuit planning permits.

HARVEST 2017

We celebrate our Harvest Festival and the Craft Club's 20th Anniversary over the weekend of September 23rd/24th. The details will be publicised on the weekly notice-sheet during September. This year, harvest gifts will be brought for the West Cheshire foodbank, and information about suitable items will again be circulated nearer the time.

We have decided that, as there are a number of people not going to Beth Eden for the Church weekend away, we will hold a service at Norley on the morning of October 8th. This will be a service of Holy Communion led by the Revd Neil Stacey. It is good that those at home will be able to share in Communion as do those away on the same Sunday morning.

Do note that the Morning Communion services in September will be on the 3rd (led by the Revd Sue Levitt) and in November on the 5th (led by the Revd Anne Gibson). The latter is to enable us to host the village Remembrance Day Parade service on November 12th.

CAFE CHURCH

Come and enjoy fellowship, worship and refreshments in a cafe atmosphere in the church.

Café Church will meet on September 6th led by the Revd Sue Levitt, on October 4th led by the Revd Peter Levitt and on November 1st – leader to be announced.

The coincidence of the Wednesday Walk and Café Church on the same day has been noted, not least by those who seek to support both, and consideration will be given to changing the Café Church Wednesday as from December.

The circuit's initiative, agreed by the June Circuit Meeting, to reflect on its future shape and to nominate the first week in September as a Week of Prayer for the Circuit is mentioned elsewhere in Outreach and this will form the basis of Sue's theme at Café Church on September 6th.

NORLEY @ 9

Norley@9 will meet on the 3rd Sundays, except that there will be no service in September due to people being away on that date. Norley@9 is planned for October 15th, November 19th and December 17th.

Straying beyond the forthcoming quarter, but to give advance notice, the Revd Christine Dutton has kindly agreed to lead worship on the morning of December 3rd, during the weekend of the Christmas Tree Festival.

The Church Council agreed that the Carol Service will be at 4 pm on December 24th, Christmas Eve. Carol-singing in the village will be arranged on two evenings just before that.

The next Spiritual Committee will meet on Wednesday September 20th at 10.30 am at 2, The Old Orchard, Cuddington. We took the decision to hold a morning meeting as those who attend are available during the day – all are welcome, as ever. The main agenda will be to plan the

weekly worship for the December 2017 to February 2018 quarter and consider any other aspects of the worship and spiritual life of the church. If you have any matters to raise, do let John Bell know – we are always pleased to receive input and feedback. *John Bell*

It worked well last year – so we decided to repeat the shoebox Saturday this year. Do come along and join in.

The shoe boxes will be received on Sunday 29 October during the morning service. They will be taken shortly after to the distribution centre so that they can be reach the needy children by Christmas.

Ruth Lane

OPEN DOOR LUNCHES

As Autumn approaches we are looking forward to more good times together at Open Door Lunches. Please tell your friends about our twice monthly lunches if you have not already done so, and do bring them along. As long as we know before how many are coming we can always accommodate a few extras.

Lunch is served at noon on the following dates:

13th September 28th September

11th October 26th October

8th November 23rd November

Christmas Lunch is on Thursday December 14th

We look forward to seeing you all

Joan Bell

Christmas Tree Festival

at Norley Methodist Church

*Friday December 1st
Grand Lighting Up ceremony at 6pm
Festival remains open until 8pm*

*Saturday December 2nd
Festival opens from 11am to 5pm, ending with 4pm to 5pm A Big Christmas Sing*

*Sunday December 3rd
10.45am Service - Revd Christine Dutton
Festival open from 12 noon to 4pm
4pm Closing service led by Revd Sue Levitt*

Thursday Club

1.15pm to 2.30pm in the Open Door Room

on

September 28th

October 26th

November 23rd

Cards for Good Causes

Cards for Good causes will be on sale at Wesley from 18th October until 13th December during Wesley's opening hours 10am – 6pm .

Cheshire Search and Rescue (CSAR)

will be at

Norley Village Garden Show on September 2nd from 2pm

Come and find out more about their life saving work.

The CSAR Team are all unpaid volunteers

The Circuit has chosen CSAR as its project for 2016-7 as CSAR's work reflects our Christian commitment to care for the vulnerable. Money raised will be used to maintain and replace vehicles and worn or damaged equipment.

Just imagine - someone you know may well be the next person that goes missing and the CSAR team goes out to locate and rescue.

Church Weekend Away 2017

We remain at 16 people for the church weekend at Beth Eden from Friday October 6th to Sunday October 8th.

Rooms have been allocated and second deposits paid. Final balance requests will have been issued by the time you get this Outreach, for payment by 24th September.

Sue is arranging transport on request and Alison Twinn is organizing an exciting programme, so all looks set for a fun weekend. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Beth Eden has room for 3 or 4 more. If you would like to come see Bruce Lane and we can see if Beth Eden have let the other rooms or if they are still free. *Bruce Lane*

Solar Panels Update

In 5 ½ years of trouble free operation our solar panels have generated 20205KWh of electricity, that otherwise would have released 16 metric tonnes of Carbon Dioxide into the environment to contribute to global warming.

We have been paid for generating this electricity over £10,000, a good return on our £7500 investment – and the payments will continue for a further 19 ½ years – and continue to help reduce global warming.

The new lighting about to be installed will be LED based, and will use only ¼ of the amount of electricity of the current fluorescent lights further reducing our environmental impact.

Bruce Lane