

OUTREACH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM NORLEY
METHODIST CHURCH

**MORNING WORSHIP
HOLY COMMUNION
BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS
WEBSITE**

**10.45am
ONCE A MONTH
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE MINISTER
<http://www.norleymethodistchurch.org.uk>**

MINISTER

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Dear friends,

I almost can't believe that it has been 12 months since I wrote my first piece for the Outreach magazine! Looking back at that first one, I hoped that we would be friends on a journey and I'm happy to say that I truly believe that we all are friends on a journey together.

I am happy to report that I still love a cup of tea, reading a good book and am still a crazy cat lady, with three crazy cats! I love going for a walk in the Delamere forest and enjoy having both Chester Zoo and the Welsh Mountain Zoo so close by for a visit and to marvel at the variety of God's creation. It is also amazing to be so close to both mountains and the sea – both of which I find places of wonder and peace.

It has been an interesting first year – getting to know everyone, how things work here in Norley, the local area and customs; as well as getting involved with all that goes on here. We have also engaged in some Bible study groups and trialled the new Methodist Course – On the way. What a journey so far – and hopefully many more adventures to come!

As we look to the new church year, we begin to think about what may happen in the coming weeks and months. We cannot know everything that will happen, but I'm sure that there will be more Bible studies, fellowship and worship. We look forward in hope to the start of our new, churches together led, Messy Church. We pray that this will bring God's love, our fellowship and friendship to the families in our community and the community of Kingsley.

We look forward to ongoing and new work with our brothers and sisters at St. John's Church, with the local primary school and with many others within our community. Wherever the next year leads us, whatever blessings and challenges we face, we journey onwards assured that God is walking with us every day.

May God bless you all as we move into a new church year. May you know the fire of the Holy Spirit bringing you joy, compassion and guidance on the journey. May you know God's unending love and unfailing grace. May the deep peace of Christ, the prince of peace be with you always.

God bless

Claire

Congratulations

- to **John Lynch** who reached his **90th** birthday on 3rd June which he celebrated with the walkers on the Wednesday Walk.
- **Paul and Annie Tremble** on the birth of their granddaughter **Etta Ivy** on 13th June weighing in at 6lb 5oz, baby sister to 4 year old Otis
- to **Rajan and Saro Jesudasen** who reached their **60th** wedding anniversary on 27th June



In Our Thoughts.....

- **Chris and all the family and friends of Aileen James** who passed away on 31st May
- **Colin and sons, Martin and Nick, and all the family following Jackie Howard's** passing on 1st May,

Please remember them in your prayers.

First Wednesday Walks

Fifteen souls turned out on the 3rd of June for the First Wednesday Walk which was led by Vaughan and Garry. The contingent included a friend of Bruce and Ruth's visiting from Canada who took the photo.



The plan was to walk along the Navigation in Acton Bridge for as far as legs would allow. However, unusually for our Wednesday walks, it was raining quite heavily but after a

delayed start, and coffee break, we set off. The more energetic of us almost reached the locks before turning back in time for a meal at the Leigh Arms.

But this was no ordinary lunch as we also celebrated John Lynch's 90th birthday complete with birthday cake and fizz. Congratulations John (who does not wish to be known as the grumpy old man!)

Words by Garry

1st July 2026 Wednesday Walk.

"The Select Six set forth", nod to Enid Blyton, around Lymm Upper Dam. Due to the



make up of the group we were able to proceed in a clockwise direction along the boardwalk at water level along one side of the Dam. I left a dogwalker no option other than to take our photo on the Crossfield Bridge, only to pass him again on the way back. Our wildlife scout, Richard, managed to spot a large Pike, unfortunately deceased. The

Church Green is still closed so, as arranged, we ate well at the Jolly Thresher.

Heather & Anthony

5th August Wednesday walk

This month Janet led her first walk this month. We walked around Little Budworth Common. Some of the group went direct to the carpark, and some gathered in the Chapel first as normal. We were delighted to welcome back Margaret after a long absence (now of course as Margaret Green, formerly Margaret Harrington).



Photo Anthony Words

Bruce

A good walk was enjoyed by all 13 people, but Garry led off a splinter group looking for a shorter walk though we all met up back at the car park and retired to the local Little Budworth hostelry for lunch and to celebrate Bruce and Ruth's 59th wedding anniversary which happened to fall on that day.

Future walks are planned for

Wednesday October 7th

Wednesday November 4th

Please note no walk is planned for September

Meet at the church by 9.45am to drive to the walk start. These days the walks are 1-3 miles maximum followed by a lunch in a local hostelry. You would be most welcome to join this leisurely activity.

Bruce

Summary of June Church Council Meeting



The Church Council met on 16th June with eleven members attending and Rev'd Claire Chairing the meeting.

As is our usual practice, the June Church Council spent time reviewing our activities and outreach as a Church. The Open Door Café, Saturday Coffee Mornings ('Coffee Plus'), and Wednesday Walks are all well supported and enjoyed by those who attend. The Church Council agreed that Soup

and Pudding lunches should be paused for the time being. Re-starting them on a regular or occasional basis will be considered later in the year.

There was some discussion about the Church website and Outreach magazine. The aims and content of both will be considered in more detail by the Leadership Team with suggestions coming back to the November Church Council meeting.

We have had a busy few months raising funds for nominated Charities. The Choir Concert in May was an enjoyable afternoon and successfully raised over £900 for OPAL. At the time of the meeting, planning for a 'Big Brunch' as a fundraiser for Norley Scouts was well under way – and this subsequently was a very successful event with over £900 being donated to the Scout Group towards the refurbishment of the Scout Hut. Fundraising for next year will be for a charity supporting the homeless and further details will be confirmed at the November Church Council meeting.

The Church Council also heard that our partnership with the Benefice continues to develop, with several joint services (including Remembrance Sunday with the Scout Group) being planned for the Autumn. Rev'd Claire and Rev'd Margaret Byrne are planning to establish a monthly 'Messy Church' – more information to follow! Rev'd Claire's leadership in running Bible studies and taking us through the Methodist Church 'On the Way' course has been greatly appreciated by those who attended.

Several other 'business' items and updates were also noted:

- The need for regular attenders to complete 'ICE' ('In case of emergency') forms – so that contact details of next of kin or significant others are available if needed.
- An amendment to the fundraising policy, as discussed and agreed at the Annual Church Meeting (further details available from the Treasurer).
- The need for care in handling and holding personal information, and what to do in the event of an information 'breach'. (further details from the CC Secretary) .
- Access audits, data security audits and safeguarding audits have all recently been completed and filed or submitted as required.
- The completion of safeguarding training (via a session hosted at Norley). The stationing process for two Ministers in the Circuit and one Deacon has commenced (Rev'd Neil Stacey, Rev'd Alison Crookes and Deacon Susie Sale).

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd November.

Lesley Gough, Church Council Secretary

An article taken from the Church newssheet of August 8th

An organ involuntary

If you were at church last Sunday, August 2nd, I'm reliably informed that you heard the organ offering a whistling accompaniment all of its own. You'll know that an organ's sounds are generated by blowing air through various pipes which contain holes here and there: remember the treble recorder you used to play at Junior School? Well, it's just like an organ, only smaller. Jean wisely called the tuner; he duly came, diagnosed the problem and fixed it.

It appears that a spider had decided to spin its web in one of the holes in a pipe; it's the sort of thing that spiders do, I suppose. But, being a hunter-gatherer sort of spider, and looking for a challenge, cunningly managed to capture a meandering woodlouse in its web, thereby creating a new but involuntary musical instrument in the hole in the organ pipe. The brave organ tuner persuaded the aforesaid creatures to vacate their new habitat, and returned them to the wild, though the exact state and fate of the imprisoned woodlouse remains unknown.

Yes, really - that's what happened!

Any unusual sounds emanating from the organ on August 9th are entirely due to the (undersigned) organist's incompetence.

John Bell

Solar Panels Update



Our solar panels generated 1574Kwh of electricity during the last quarter, resulting in a payment to the church of around £1,230 which will swell the coffers shortly.

We passed a milestone this quarter – we have now generated over 50,000 Kwh from our panels. If this electricity was produced from gas, a further 10.000Kg of CO₂ would have been released to the atmosphere. When we started in 2012, only 10% of our electricity came from solar and wind versus

90% of the country's electricity being generated from coal and gas. Nowadays coal is no longer used, 50% is generated by gas and 50% by solar panels, wind turbines and other non CO₂ generating sources. One wonders what the split will be in another 10½ years when we receive our final payment

Bruce

The Big Brunch at Church



On July 11th Ruth Hosker organized a Saturday Brunch to raise funds for 1st Norley Scouts, one of the charities chosen by the annual church meeting



last year to be a recipient of our giving.

It was a great affair with wonderful refreshments provided in the church by our catering team and bacon and bangers cooked on gas on the church lawn by 1st Norley Scouts (well Sheena and Lewis with John).



The event was widely advertised and well attended, the weather was excellent, and everyone enjoyed the morning festivities and generously donated.

In the end, with gift aid added by the treasurer, the chapel was able to donate the magnificent sum of £1001 to the 1st Norley Scout Group from the Brunch and earlier donations, which was gratefully received enabling them to

repay the loans taken out for the refurbishment of the Crabmill Lane HQ and to fund the completion of the safety items which will enable the Scouts to reoccupy the HQ at the beginning of September. The church received a letter of thanks from the Chairman of the Board for our generosity.

Our thanks go to Ruth Hosker and all the catering team for this magnificent effort. The amount raised far exceeded our expectations.



Photos John Bell Words Bruce Lane



Norley Methodist Church Diary

Date	Time	Preacher	Activity
September			
1 st	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
5 th	2.00pm		Presence at Norley Garden Show for Open Door Café
6 th	10.45am	Ann Wright	Morning Worship
8 th	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
8 th	2.00pm		Pastoral Committee at Howell Croft
10 th	3.45 – 5.45pm		Messy Church at St John's Primary School, Kingsley
12 th	9.30am		Synod at Keele University Chapel
13 th	10.45am	Mark Smyth	Morning Worship
15 th	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
19 th	10.00am - noon		Coffee Plus
20 th	10.45am	Revd Claire Rawlinson	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
22 nd	10.00am - noon		Macmillan Coffee Morning at the 'Open Door' Café
27 th	10.45am	Sian Davidson	Morning Worship
28 th	2.00pm		Spiritual Committee at the Gough's
29 th	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
October			
3 rd	10.00am		'Decorate the church for Harvest
4 th	10.45am	Rosemary Wass	Harvest Festival
6 th	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
7 th	10.00am - noon		'First Wednesday Walk
8 th	3.45 – 5.45pm		Messy Church at St John's Primary School, Kingsley
11 th	10.45am	Neville Ford	Morning Worship
13 th	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café

14 th	7.30pm		Preachers' meeting at Saltney
17 th	10.00am - noon		Coffee Plus
18 th	10.45am	Revd Claire Heald	US with The Hurst at Norley with Holy Communion
20 th	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
24 th	10.00am - noon		'Shoebox Saturday' – packing Shoeboxes
25 th	10.45am	Ruth Lane	'Shoebox Sunday and Morning Worship
27 th	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
November			
1 st	10.45am	Judy Ford	Morning Worship
3 rd	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
4 th	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk
8 th	10.00am	Revd Tim Macquiban	Remembrance Sunday - Morning Worship
8 th	11.00am		Village and Scouts wreath laying and 11am silence at the Tommy
10 th	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
12 th	3.45 – 5.45pm		Messy Church at St John's Primary School, Kingsley
14 th	10.00am - noon		Coffee Plus
15 th	10.45am	Kate Matthews	Morning Worship
17 th	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
22 nd	10.45am	John Bell	Morning Worship
24 th	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
29 th	10.45am	Revd Claire Rawlinson & Revd Margaret Byrne	US with Anglicans & The Hurst at Norley Methodist Church
December			
1 st	10.00am - noon		'Open Door' Café
2 nd	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk



You will find in this issue that our ecumenical activities are blossoming. Revd Claire and Revd Margaret are starting a messy church on the second Thursday each month starting in September (see article below).

The Norley and Kingsley Methodists and the Anglican Benefice of Norley, Kingsley, Crowton. Alvanley and Manley hold joint services in every month with a 5th Sunday. On Sunday 20th August the service is at St John's Norley at 10am. and on the first Sunday in Advent, 29th November, at

Norley Methodist Church including Holy Communion. In addition, the joint remembrance service on 8th November is at Norley Methodist church

Bruce

Dear Friends,

We are not just called to follow Christ, but to help others follow him too. We have a really exciting opportunity! Working together, the Methodist Churches and Anglican Churches in Norley, Kingsley and Crowton, are hoping to plant a Messy Church in Kingsley St John's Primary School.



This will run once a month, beginning on Thursday 10 September. Parents and carers will come along with their children from all three church schools for fun, food, fellowship and the chance to explore faith together. In September we hope to learn all about the Good Samaritan; then in future months we will look at Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.

To make this possible, we would be very grateful for help from you all. We need people who can assist on the day with setting up, welcoming families, helping with activities, serving refreshments and clearing away afterwards. Any help at all would be greatly appreciated.

We are also asking for donations of food for a simple tea, especially sandwiches, crisps and cake (with ingredients listed to avoid food allergies) – sharing a meal is an important part of the session.

Most importantly, please pray for the success of Messy Church: that families will feel welcomed, that parents will enjoy sharing the faith journey with their children as all grow closer to God.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support. If you are able to offer help in any way, please speak to Rev Claire or Rev Margaret.

God bless, Rev. Margaret and Rev Claire

COFFEE + Autumn Dates



• 10am – 12 noon on

• 19th September

• 17th October

• 14th November

and.....

**FESTIVE BIG BRUNCH on
12th December!**



*We are open and you are
welcome!*

**The Open Door Café
at
Norley Methodist Church
Maddocks Hill, Norley
Cheshire, WA6 8JT.
Every Tuesday 10am – 12 noon**

*(A member of the Places of Welcome
network)*

Remembrance Sunday

**Service at Norley Methodist Church at 10.00am led
by Revd Dr Tim Macquiban**

**1st Norley Scout Group leave service part way
through to parade to the Tommy for 11am Silence**

**Remaining congregation observe the 2 minute
silence at 11am at Norlev Methodist Church**



Macmillan Coffee Morning



Tuesday 22nd September
10am – 12 noon

At the Open Door Café, Norley Methodist Church

Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks, Cakes, Raffle

**Please join us and raise funds for
the wonderful work of Macmillan!**

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Shoe Box Saturday and Sunday

Teams4U is a small charity based in North Wales operating through partners in Uganda, Sierra Leone and Eastern Europe. It was founded by Dave Cooke in 2006 after experiencing the atrocities of 2004 when over 300 people were killed in a school attack in Russia.

Each shoebox we send will be given to a vulnerable child, or family, through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages. The aim is that each box is given in relationship with the local community as part of a long-term commitment to these children. Just like last year the shoeboxes will be heading to the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.



A few years ago we, in Norley, started 'Shoebox Saturday' as we realised that it could be very expensive to fill a shoebox by oneself. So, we thought we'd have a morning when people could bring items to go in shoeboxes. This proved very successful as an immense range of toys, pens, paper, toiletries, hats scarves and gloves were brought as everyone had their own ideas of what children and young people would like. In addition, last year, we were invited to make up 'family

boxes' so that parents and the whole family could have help with necessities as well as presents for adults.

At the Sunday service the filled shoeboxes are brought forward and blessed as they start their journey to bring joy and happiness to children and families who are amazed that people so far away from them can be thinking of them and sending their love in a box.

WHAT CAN GO IN A SHOEBOX?

There are suggestions below of what you might put in a shoebox. Please do not include anything from the 'NO' list. Items should be new, however preloved items in good condition are acceptable.

For boys or girls: Toothbrush & toothpaste, hair accessories/brush, soap & face cloth, stationery & paper, gloves, hat & scarf, new socks/underwear, a soft toy, game, puzzle, small musical instruments, toy vehicles, small ball, sweets (use by date from June 2027), a photo and message from yourself.

Ideas for a Home box: Candles, cooking utensils, plastic containers, t-towels, washing up cloths, hairbrush, small toiletries, bowls & cups, small decoration, soap, clothes pegs, headscarves, new socks and underwear, jewellery, new makeup. **NO:** Food (only exception is sweets), medicines, military themed items, anything highly flammable, sharp items, novels. No sanitary items in shoeboxes although they can be sent out separately.

Ruth Lane



UPDATE Christian Aid Week - 2026 (10th-17th May)

Norley has a proud history and track record when it comes to supporting Christian Aid.

Set against the background of the Ebola epidemic in neighbouring countries, the focus of Christian Aid Week 2026 is on families facing hunger and urban poverty in Nairobi, Kenya, particularly mothers and grandmothers who are using small-scale urban farming to feed their families and generate income. Through Christian Aid's local partner, Beacon of Hope, families receive seeds, tools, and training to grow food in limited urban spaces.

As Co-ordinator for Norley's Christian Aid Group, I am pleased to report that this year's collection through our village e-Envelope, the Norley Open Door Cafe, and in-church collections at Norley Methodist Church and the churches of the United Benefice of Norley, Crowton, Kingsley, Alvanley and Manley has raised at total of £1,376.75.

On behalf of Christian Aid, many thanks to all our supporters for your donations.

Michael Gough Co-ordinator, Norley CA Group Christian Aid

Financial Update



Preparing this update in mid-August, when the Methodist financial year still has a few weeks to run, is akin to writing the report of a football match after 87 minutes play. As aficionados of the great game well know, a match lasts 90 minutes and nowadays, there is 'added time', sometimes nearly 15 minutes, to compensate for wasted and lost time in the second half. Moreover, goals are often scored post-87 minutes as pressure mounts to equalise or score the winner. It's not over until the ref blows the whistle!

However, unlike the hapless football reporter keen to file copy and avoid the rush, the church treasurer has a pretty good idea of what might happen financially in the remaining weeks of August and can offer a reliable update with a degree of confidence. The comprehensive report, once the audited 2025-26 accounts have been approved by the Church Council on November 3rd, will appear in the Winter edition of Outreach.

The year's break-even budget will be more than achieved, adding a small surplus to church funds, though this will be mostly carried forward into 2026-27 as reserves to pay for known property jobs to be undertaken in September. Incomes and expenditures have both shown swings and roundabouts – a bit more here and bit less there – but overall nothing to be unduly concerned about. The balance held in the Central Finance Board deposit account at the end of August will be near enough the amount recommended by the Methodist Church to be retained as reserves for contingencies plus known and unforeseen future expenditures.

Donations to external charities in the year 2025-26 will hit the remarkable amount of £6400: this compares with last year's £5240, which itself was the first time we exceeded £5000. The main beneficiaries this year have been OPAL £1012, Norley Scouts £1001, the West Cheshire and Runcorn foodbanks sharing £1485 equally and St Luke's Hospice £702: the remaining £2200 is spread across eight other charities. The full list will be given next time.

The June Church Council agreed that we continue to share all financial donations to the foodbanks equally between West Cheshire and Runcorn – both very much appreciate what we give every month – though the provisions collected in the church porch will always go to West Cheshire. It was also agreed that the financial donations received at the Harvest Festival service on October 4th will go to the foodbanks.

A break-even budget for 2026-27 has been approved, as always reflecting expected movements in incomes and expenditures as far as possible. As I said last year in the equivalent report, we do rely on HMRC's gift-aid scheme for over £5000 income, and overall, Norley Methodist Church's financial position is certainly satisfactory. We have no financial worries. That is easy to say and write, but it comes about only because so many people continue to be so generous in their giving through regular offerings (by cash, cheque and Standing Order) and substantial donations on many other occasions. A very big thank you to you all!

John Bell, Church Treasurer, August 2026.

IN MEMORIAM



Jackie Howard

25th September 1948 – 1st May 2026

Jackie was full of fun and always ready with a joke. She didn't take herself, or anyone else, too seriously. She was a practicing Christian and committed church goer. A devoted wife to Colin, a wonderful mother to Martin and Nick, and a "Crazy Granny" to Bertie, Finlay and Oscar.

She lived for music, studying the oboe from 7 years old, then continuing to perform throughout her life. She has taught woodwind to countless pupils over the years. She also loved to sing in church, and had a large collection of hymn books, many that have been in the family for generations.

She was a confidant to many and offered help to anyone in need.

Jackie was the second child of Tom and Winn, and little sister to Vivien. She remained loyal to her parents' roots of Liverpool and Shropshire throughout her life. Viv and Jackie are utterly different but make a perfect pair – particularly when it comes to singing. Anyone who had the great privilege of hearing Viv and Jackie sing together will fully understand.

Whilst at Northway Primary School, in Liverpool, Jackie mastered the recorder and soon moved on to play the oboe, which, of course, became her life. She became a member of the Liverpool Junior Orchestra and the David Lewis Military Band. A music scholarship followed taking her back to North Wales and boarding school at Howells where she became a member of the North Wales Youth Orchestra.

Back at home in Liverpool she worked for a time at the Trusty Savings Bank. There she mastered adding up columns of figures and being able to read signatures upside down. Jackie was accepted to the Northern School of Music in Manchester. She initially took lodgings in Manchester but missed her friends and the social life in Liverpool, so she returned home and decided to commute daily: quite a journey by public transport every day!

On advice from her father, she gained her teaching certificate and then started her teaching career as a peripatetic woodwind teacher in Liverpool, and later on in St. Helens. Her plan was not to retire until she had taught everyone how to play a musical instrument.

The oboe was her main instrument, but she could play anything, including the guitar. Colin was the scout master at the church in Liverpool she attended. He asked Jackie if she could do a guitar sing-along for his scouts. They met to discuss the music and ended up chatting all evening about everything but the scout event. With their shared love of the outdoors and hiking, Colin and Jackie married and went on honeymoon around Scotland in Colin's home-made kit car.

In 1987 the family moved to Norley – it was never a long-term plan, but almost 40 years on they had become part of the friendly village. Jackie ran the Mold Male Voice Choir for a number of years and also the Highfield Male Voice Choir. She continued to teach over in St. Helens; enjoyed running the Summer Wind Band; ran Merseyside Youth Orchestra; and having private pupils at the house. She has passed her love and knowledge of music onto countless pupils, many of whom have become friends. She was a founder member of the St. Helens Sinfonietta, building strong friendships with many of the other members, often doing separate smaller recitals. More recently, she has found great pleasure playing as part of a quintet in Chester.

Colin and Jackie made an excellent team. Both working full time and raising a family and still finding time for DIY and camping holidays, gardening, walking the dogs and having fun. Granny J / Granny Jackie has been a huge part of her grandsons' lives.

Jackie's faith was also a big part of her life. She will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by the several Methodist church families that she worshipped with over the years in the village, including Oakmere, The Hurst, Blakelees and Norley.

Jackie brought laughter and joy wherever she went. She was a good listener and confidant to many. She was always willing to step in and help practically and emotionally. She was comfortable, and made people feel comfortable, from any background or circumstance. She will be delighted that she never stopped being a professional musician. Her life will continue in all the people she has taught, helped, inspired and made laugh.