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Dear Friends,

As I sit and look back over the last few months and some of the exciting things that have happened in the scientific world, I'm drawn to several images of spacecraft being sent into the universe. The first was the Rosetta craft which landed Philae, a probe, on a comet 320 million miles from Earth. That's amazing in itself even if it didn't function quite as the scientists would have hoped. The second is the discovery of the lost Beagle 2 probe that was sent to Mars in 2003. It's now been found albeit by another satellite orbiting the planet but it's amazing to think that it did succeed in making the journey from Earth to Mars of some 49 million miles.

I remember growing up in the sixties and seventies when space travel was the most exciting thing happening. I remember watching the Apollo rockets being launched and of course their successful mission to land on the moon. Later the Space Shuttle came into service and it was remarkable to see it return to Earth landing just like an aircraft. Of course they are really a very small part of the discoveries that we as a race are finding as we start to explore the universe.

We really do live in an exciting time and place as new discoveries and new theories come to light both on the earth and in the universe that surrounds us. For me, Psalm 8 puts that in more eloquent words than I ever could, as it says:-

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory in the heavens.
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them?

As I gaze up at the stars and wonder at all their marvels I cannot help but ask the question, so what about me? Where do I fit in and what is the meaning of life? I can't really answer that as fully as I would like, but where scientists talk about the Big Bang theory, Chaos theory and the possibilities of things happening and evolving by chance, they don't really answer those questions either. As I wrestle with those thoughts I cannot help but be drawn into thinking about someone or something creating all that is around us. To me that makes sense, even if that then makes me ask more questions and search for the answers.

As a Christian I believe that those answers are found in the God who created the world, the universe, life, and everything within it. It makes me wonder and draws me into a space of wanting to explore more about God and what God means to me.

We are now quickly heading into Lent, a time where we remember Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, his spiritual journey of awareness and his unwavering reliance on God. It was a time for him to explore that relationship unperturbed by others and by events around him. For Jesus it was a way to discover and deepen his spiritual life.

So as we head into Lent, let us prepare ourselves to remember the sad news of Good Friday and wonder at the good news of Easter Sunday. Most of all let us allow ourselves to marvel at the world around us, be drawn into our own spiritual exploration of life and then simply discover the God who not only created all that we see but loves us as individuals, seeks a deeper personal relationship with each of us and will never let us go.

Love in Christ,

Sue

Pastoral Piece

Well this quarter it is Margaret Hogan herself that is in need of our pastoral care. Margaret at the time of going to print has just returned from hospital after a gall stone removal operation and is recuperating, ably assisted by Harold when he is not having radiotherapy, and Margaret Harrington. We all wish her and Harold a speedy recovery. Margaret and Harold are not the only ones in need of our care - Paul Barclay is in the early weeks of recovery from his knee replacement operation and Sue's father David Westwood has had a stent fitted.

I feel confident that the appearance of snowdrops and crocuses, shortly followed by the damson blossom then daffodils and tulips and azaleas will lift all of our spirits. As spring gets into her stride and the days get longer and longer we will all rapidly feel much more cheerful and invigorated.

Bruce Lane

Craft Club News

In December we went out for a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Horseshoe, Kingsley.

2015 has started fairly quietly. We are all re-charging our batteries after all the work and excitement of the Christmas tree festival, which was a huge success. What a wonderful array of trees - participants are to be congratulated for their hard work and such a variety of ideas.

In the meantime we are in the process of planning new projects for the year ahead. We have some very talented ladies in our group, so it is good to pool ideas and learn some new crafts. Whatever lies ahead for us we can always guarantee some fun and friendship.

We are pleased to welcome Belinda as a new member of the craft club making our total membership seventeen.

June Fay

Yorkshire Graveyard Humour

A Yorkshire man's wife died, and he asked the undertaker to put on the gravestone

"she was thine Lord"

The undertaker installed the headstone, but when the man went to inspect it, he realised it said "she was thin Lord". He rang the undertaker and told him he had left the 'e' off which needed to be corrected.

He returned later and was surprised to see that the gravestone now said

"E she was thin Lord"

(submitted by Hazel Dale)

Choirs at Norley

The worship committee organised a traditional candle lit carol service on the 21st of December to which the choirs contributed.

The Harmony Choir started the service with an introit entitled "Angels and Shepherds". They later sang a carol entitled "The Infant King". The Band of Hope and Joy sang "Glorious Light" by Getty and Hannah, beautifully accompanied on the guitar by Michael Gough. There were many appreciative comments from members and visitors to our church which I have passed on to the choirs.

We are fortunate at Norley to have many talented and gifted people in our congregation. One has only got to attend the Norley@9 services where the team come up with original and thought provoking ideas. I would like to challenge you all - young and old - to write a carol that we could include in the 2015 carol service. After Sue's wonderfully inspiring service on the 8th of February, you could soar like the eagle to respond to God's calling.

Please hand in your contributions to me with your names on the envelope. Ken Dunning, the father of the house in parliamentary terms, will select two of the best ones. Your contributions will be given to him with numbers and not your names to maintain the British sense of fairness. The entries have to be in by July 31st. It will give me time to set the chosen ones to music.

Please think of it like writing a poem with your sincere and original thoughts about what Christmas means to you and to the world. Please do not worry about flowery language. Rajan remembers when he was at school an example given to him for the misuse of flowery language. It is as follows:-

" Birds of a feather flock together" is simple and to the point.

It is not the case if it is expressed as

" Ornithological specimens of the same plumage congregate with the closest proximity" .!!!!

Saro Jesudason.

Norley Christmas Tree Festival December 2014

A wonderful occasion enjoyed by all and attended by hundreds of people from the village and further afield. The creativity shown in the decoration of the trees was incredible. Visitors very much appreciated the musicians, the excellent refreshments and the warm friendly atmosphere. Many thanks to Ruth and her team for organising such a successful event.

The festival was a financial success as well – though the trees themselves were provided at cost to the organisations, the donations received after deduction of costs amounted to £907. Gift aid when claimed will add a further £244.75 to the total.

Recording for posterity

At the morning service during the Christmas Tree Festival in early December, John Bell focussed on the appropriate subject of trees and wood, and pointed to the many artefacts in the Church made of wood. This stimulated many comments afterwards about their provenance - who made them and why, and where they originated.

John has agreed to gather these fascinating stories together sometime in 2015 and (admitting his own ignorance!) will be grateful to hear from anyone who knows about them. The intention is to compile a booklet so that their history is not lost. So, if you know about the origin of any of the artefacts in the Church, wooden and other, please begin to recollect what you know about them and then tell John.

Solar Panels Update

Three trouble free years of operation of our solar panels have now been achieved. The latest submission for the last quarter, though small, has brought our power generated up to 10,750Kwh – saving the emission of a lot of CO₂ to the atmosphere.

The cheque once received will bring the receipts to £5183, over 2/3 of the £7540 net cost to the Church after grants. This is a return of over 20% per year on our investment, which should continue for a further 22 years.

Bruce Lane

Church Weekend Away 2015

Invitations were issued in January for our weekend away from Oct 2 to Oct 4 at Beth Eden Christian Guest House. The forms were returned, deposits paid, and we have filled 24 of the 25 available rooms at the guest house, and have sufficient numbers for exclusive use of the premises.

We have 22 adults and 2 children attending.

If you would like the one remaining room and haven't booked, let me know. *Bruce Lane*

Youth Work with the School

Prayer day

All the children and staff from Norley Cof E Primary School came and visited the Prayer event at Norley Methodist church on February 10th. Each class had an hour in which they were introduced to the Theme of the Lord's Prayer, using the prayer stations and finishing with a game and a story. The children went home with a copy of the Lord's Prayer which we read altogether at the end. All enjoyed the experience and I would like to thank Joe for helping to plan and run the day, and the Reverend Sue and all the other helpers. Without you the day wouldn't have been so successful.

One of the questions put to the children was "What question would you like to ask God? " Here are a few of their answers How do you heal people? Why did you create the world? Why don't you answer my prayers? Can you give the world more peace and less violence? Why can't we have everything?

Wise up group

In January there was no wise up group and in February no children turned up, they had been at church for the prayer day. In March we are hoping to run two sessions one on the 10th March and an Easter theme event on the 31st March.

Assemblies

This last half term the school have focused on Judaism, in conjunction with this my assemblies have concentrated on the prophets of the Old Testament. We are looked at Abraham, Isaiah and Samuel. The last assembly was about co-operation and two children had to work out how to eat some food using spoons that were fastened onto long broom handles. It was very funny.

The lunch time sessions are full and as busy as ever.

3 Generate

3 Generate is the Methodist youth weekend which this year is on the 20-22nd November. You stay in an outdoor centre and there is lots to do. The tickets are on sale in May and if you are interested please speak to Andrea (07749877823) Funding towards this event may be available. Ages from 8-24 years attend.

Andrea Ellams

Foodbank Update

The following article was published in the Chester Chronicle a few weeks ago and highlights the vital role of the Food Bank – and the importance of the donations we make via the collection box in our Chapel:

“Generous residents donated more than 14 tonnes of food to help those living in poverty in just one month – as foodbanks faced their busiest Christmas yet.

Shock figures reveal that more people than ever fell into poverty last December, with West Cheshire Foodbank seeing a 17% increase in referrals for emergency food compared to 2013. But despite the charity experiencing its busiest Christmas ever, their stockrooms are far from empty. Volunteers said they were ‘overwhelmed by the generosity’ of people who handed in the tins, jars and packets at collection points across Chester and Ellesmere Port.

“This December alone, local people generously donated 14,195kgs of food to us, keeping our committed team of warehouse volunteers very busy indeed,” said Alec Spencer, Development Officer at West Cheshire Foodbank.

“The overwhelming generosity of our supporters is humbling and, thanks to them, we have not only met existing demand, but we also have strong reserves of stock going forwards into the new year. Thanks to all the individuals, churches, charities, businesses and schools who continue to faithfully support us - because of you we are able to support thousands of people through a difficult period in their lives.”

Last year, West Cheshire Foodbank provided emergency food to more than 5,000 people living in poverty in Chester, Neston and Ellesmere Port – a shocking 1,617 of these were children. Speaking during a recent interview with the Chester Chronicle Mr Spencer said the Foodbank was currently helping around 450 families every month as they faced the choice between eating and heating their homes. “People face multiple challenges including ill-health, relationship breakdown, mental health problems or substantial caring responsibilities and are usually struggling because benefits have been delayed, stopped or reduced,” he said. “Our social safety net is failing to catch thousands of people in Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston – who are forced to rely on emergency food to survive.”

The Food Bank relies on food donations to provide emergency food for people in crisis. In date non-perishable food items are welcomed – as are basic toiletries and laundry liquid (which can be used to wash clothes in a sink). At the present time our local Food Bank is particularly short of tinned meat products as well as packs of instant pasta and noodles – these can all be easily prepared by people with limited cooking facilities.

Thank you for your continued support!

Lesley Gough

First Wednesday Walks

John and Sylvia led our December walk, and 3 of their walking friends came with them. We walked the Whitegate Way to well past the A49 and the Scout camp site before circling back to Kennel Lane and the White Barn for lunch where we were joined by the motorised division. Ruth successfully tried out her new hips and walked from home to the White Barn to join us!

We then enjoyed a wonderful and welcome coffee and mince pies at John and Sylvias to round off the day. Opposite is the overspill picture – we could not all fit in the one room. Thanks John and Sylvia.

Anthony and Heather led our January walk, and Anthony provided the following report. *Firstly let me wish everyone a Happy New Year. There was no snow this year but very fine Cheshire rain as 13 of us ventured forth onto the newly created Oakmere Way to Delamere Golf Club & then past the fishing lakes to Farm Road, Oakmere. The rain had ceased by now & we were all blow dried before reaching the Abbey Arms. Congratulations to Ruth Lane on completing her target distance. We were joined by a further 7 members for lunch for our first meeting of 2015.*

February's walk was led by Peter and Sheila Hills. Peter had planned a 5 mile walk, but Ruth decided this was too much for her, and Peter kindly arranged for her to join at the mid-point – an option that was immediately taken up by 3 others. Transport became a little complicated, but soon cars were positioned and the walk could start. The walk from Eaton to Little Budworth was fascinating being on paths largely unknown to the group across the land visible below you on the left from the A49 between Tarporley and Cuddington. Ruth's group joined us at Utkinton Lane, Cotebrook and all 12 of us made it across the back of Little Budworth common to the Red Lion for lunch where we were joined by the motorised division. *picture Ruth, words Bruce*

Our next walk is on March 4. Bruce and Ruth will be leading a 4 mile walk around the Northwich Community Woodlands finishing at The Moorings by Anderton Marina for lunch. Meet as usual at church at 9.45am and then we will drive to The Moorings, leave the cars there and walk through Marbury Country Park to Budworth Mere where there may be good bird spotting. From there we go on through Big Wood, cross the Trent and Mersey Canal and walk round Neumann's Flash and on to Haydn's Pool where again we may have some good bird spotting opportunities. We will continue on, crossing the Trent and Mersey canal again and pass through Hopyards Wood before arriving at The Moorings for lunch. Why not join us?

Future walks are planned for

Wednesday 4th March – Northwich Community Woodlands Bruce & Ruth

Wednesday 1st April – led by Ken and Margaret Davies

Wednesday 6th May – led by Garry and Vaughan

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

Bruce

DIARY

Unless otherwise stated in the weekly notices the Craft Club meets on Tuesdays at 10.00am at Norley in the Open Door Room.

March 2015

Sunday (Lent 2)	1 st	10.45am	Dr Ruth Lane of Norley All Age Worship
		6.30pm	Rev Paul Braisdell of Saughall
Monday	2 nd	4.00pm	Kelsall Messy Church until 6pm
Wednesday	4 th	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk – Northwich Community Woodlands
		7.30pm	Café Church – Bruce Lane
Thursday	5 th	4.30pm	Kingsley Hurst Messy Church
Friday	6 th	2.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service at Helsby MC
Saturday	7 th	11.00am	Stitching Class Exhibition at Frodsham MC until 4pm
Sunday (Lent 3)	8 th	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament
		10.45am	Sunday School – Bruce & Yvonne
Monday	9 th	2.00pm	Spiritual Committee Meeting at Howell Croft
Tuesday	10 th	3.15pm	Wise Up after school club – Theme 'Saying Thank You'
		7.30pm	Frodsham MC – District Roadshow "From Abraham to Today"
Wednesday	11 th	12noon	Open Door Lunch
Mothering	15 th	9.00am	Norley@9
Sunday (Lent 4)		10.45am	Mr Ron Davies of Chester
		4.00pm	Circuit Service at Caldy Valley
		6.30pm	Rev Neil Stacey of Chester
Wednesday	18 th	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
Sunday (Lent 5)	22 nd	10.45am	Mrs Bronwen Braisdell of Saughall
		10.45am	Sunday School – Hazel & Mary
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament
Thursday	26 th	12noon	Open Door Lunch

		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Palm Sunday	29 th		Summer Time begins - CLOCKS GO FORWARD
		10.45am	Mr John Bell of Cuddington
		10.45am	Sunday School – Hazel & Mary
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt – Alternative Worship
Monday	30 th	9.30am	Frodsham MC Morning Prayer
Tuesday	31 st	3.15pm	Wise Up after school club - Theme ‘Easter’

April 2014

Wednesday	1 st	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
		7.30pm	Café Church – Rev Sue Levitt
Maundy	2 nd	4.30pm	Kingsley Hurst Messy Church
Thursday		6.30pm	Service at Tarvin
		7.00pm	Service and meal at Kelsall
		7.30pm	Service at Blakelees - Sacrament
Good Friday	3 rd	9.30am	Kelsall – Walk of Witness from St Philips to Kelsall MC followed by service.
		11.00am	Rev David Copley of Frodsham
Saturday	4 th	10.00am	Decorate the Church for Easter Day
Easter Sunday	5 th	9.00am	Rev Sue Levitt – All Age Worship - Sacrament
		6.30pm	Spiritual Committee – Songs of Praise

April 2014 (continued)

Wednesday	8 th	12noon	Open Door Lunch
Sunday	12 th	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt
		10.45am	Sunday School – Bruce & Yvonne
Tuesday	14 th	7.30pm	Local Preachers’ meeting at Saltney
Wednesday	15 th	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
Saturday	18 th	10.00am	John Bell of Iona at Kelsall MC until 4pm
Sunday	19 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Rev Christine Dutton of Wesley
		6.30pm	Rev Lily Twist of the Wirall – Circuit Easter Offering Service
Monday	20 th	2.00pm	Church Leadership Team meeting at Howell Croft
Thursday	23 rd	12noon	Open Door Lunch

1.15pm Thursday Club
 Vocations 26th 10.45am Church Anniversary - Rev Neil Stacey of Wesley
 Sunday 10.45am Sunday School – Hazel & Mary
 6.30pm Church Anniversary - Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament
 Monday 27th 4.00pm Kelsall Messy Church until 6pm

May 2014

Sunday 3rd 10.45am Rev Sue Levitt – All Age Worship
 6.30pm Prof. Neville Ford of The Hurst
 Wednesday 6th 9.45am 1st Wednesday Walk
 No Café Church
 Thursday 7th 4.30pm Kingsley Hurst Messy Church
 Sunday 10th – Saturday 16th Christian Aid Week
 Sunday 10th 10.45am Rev Claire Heald of Upton - Sacrament
 10.45am Sunday School – Bruce & Yvonne
 Tuesday 12th 3.15pm Wise Up after school club - Theme ‘David & Goliath’
 Wednesday 13th 12noon Open Door Lunch
 Thursday 14th Ascension Day
 Sunday 17th 9.00am Norley@9
 10.45am Mr Andrew Ellams of Frodsham
 6.30pm Joint service at Blakelees – Rev Stephen Santry - Sacrament
 Wednesday 20th 5.00pm Tarvin Messy Church
 Pentecost & 24th 10.45am Rev Stephen Santry of Helsby
 Aldersgate 10.45am Sunday School – Hazel & Mary
 Sunday 6.30pm Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament
 Thursday 28th 12noon Open Door Lunch
 1.15pm Thursday Club
 Trinity Sunday 31st 10.45am Mr Philip Garner of Norley
 6.30pm Rev David Goodwin of Caldby Valley

June 2014

Wednesday 3rd 9.45am 1st Wednesday Walk
 7.30pm Café Church

Tuesday	9 th	3.15pm	Wise Up after school club
Wednesday	10 th	12noon	Open Door Lunch
Sunday	14 th	10.45am	Annual Church Meeting, Lunch and Sacrament
Sunday	21 st	9.00am	Norley@9

Lent Liturgy

During Lent this year we are following a Liturgy which will culminate in there being a cross in church on Good Friday which will be decorated with flowers on Easter Day and then placed in the church drive to remind passers-by of our joy on Jesus' resurrection on Easter day.

Café Church in Lent

Bruce Lane and Sue Levitt will be leading Café Church in March and April – do come and join them.

Decorating the Church for Easter

We will decorate the church for Easter on Easter Saturday morning starting at 10am. All donations of flowers and greenery will be very gratefully received in church by that time.

Easter Sunday

We are delighted that Sue Levitt will lead our Easter morning service of celebration which will be an All Age Worship communion service starting at **9.00am**.

The 6.30pm service will be a Songs of Praise organised and led by members of the congregation. If you are interested in helping to plan and/or participate in this service please come to a meeting at 2pm on Monday March 9th at Howell Croft, Cow Lane.

Church Anniversary

This year we are celebrating our Church Anniversary on April 26th and Neil Stacey will leading our morning celebrations and Sue Levitt will lead a communion service in the evening.

Annual Church Meeting – June 14th

The Annual Church Meeting is for all who attend the church – everyone's ideas and opinions are very welcome.

As has become our custom on the day of the Annual Church Meeting (ACM) the morning service will be short and will be immediately followed by the ACM. After the ACM there will be lunch for everyone and at the end a service of Holy Communion. There will be **NO** evening service on June 14th.

At the ACM we decide on the church's charitable donations for the next year – so do bring your suggestions to help make these important decisions.

All Age Worship
at Norley Methodist Church on

1st March at 10:45am

5th April at 9:00am

3rd May at 10:45am

Everyone Welcome



Women's World Day of Prayer

**Service at Helsby Methodist Church
at 2pm on Friday 6th March**

**The service has been prepared by
Christian women of The Bahamas**

Everyone is very welcome to attend

Refreshments will be served following the service



Open Door Lunches 2015

at Norley Methodist Church

**Lunches will be served at
NOON on the following dates:**

Wednesdays

11th March 8th April 13th May 10th June

Thursdays

26th March 23rd April 28th May 25th June

**Please let Ruth (788071), Joan (01606 301198) or Di (788969) know by the
Sunday before if you will attend the lunch in the next week.**

Spring is just around the corner and we are looking forward to longer and brighter days at last. Our lunches are always happy occasions sharing with friends old and new, and these are our dates for the next quarter. Do come along even if you haven't tried it before. You will always get a very warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Joan Bell

Thursday Club

*1.15pm go 2.30pm
Open Door Room*

*March 26th
April 23rd
May 28th
June 25th*

SEE YOU THERE

EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday 11am

Easter Sunday

9:00am All Age Worship and Communion

6:30pm Songs of Praise

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

APRIL 26th

Celebration let at

10:45am *by the Revd Neil Stacey*

6:30pm *by the Revd Sue Levitt*

Come and celebrate our 133rd birthday with us

A personal recommendation

We have gone to Greenbelt for 30 years – this is a Christian worship, arts, music, discussion and lecture festival held on the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Every year one of the highlights is being with John Bell and the Wild Goose Worship group as they teach us new hymns, and involve us in new ways of worship.

So we strongly recommend that you spend April 18th with John Bell at Kelsall Methodist Church. You will be inspired.

Ruth and Bruce Lane

Creating Worship: a day with John L. Bell

of the Iona Community's
Wild Goose Resource Group

A day together looking at two topics;
the Imagination as a Resource for Faith
& Songs from the Iona Community

Saturday 18 April 2015 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
at Kelsall Methodist Church

This will be an excellent day – book early to avoid disappointment.
Booking forms are on the table in the church porch.

And an advanced notice of the Safari supper

NORLEY METHODIST CHURCH

SAFARI SUPPER

Saturday 11th July 2015
Start times between 6:30pm and 7:30pm

Donation requested of £12 - £15 per ticket for adults and £30 for a family ticket (for children under 11).

For more information and tickets contact Hazel Dale on 01928 787216

Christian Aid Week 2015 May 10th – 16th concentrates on Ethiopia

If Loko can't collect firewood, her children will starve. She walks for eight backbreaking hours each day to earn £1 – barely enough to feed her children. As she walks she prays to God asking for her life to change.

Loko refuses to give up hope. She dreams of owning a cow one day; its milk would help her children to grow strong, and she could also sell some so she could save enough money to set up a small business buying and selling tea and coffee.

So we are asked to give hope to Loko and others like her

Christian Aid can provide cows to vulnerable women in Ethiopia - just £150 is enough to buy a female cow and a promising future for someone like Loko.

Rita Boon and Ruth Lane are again organising the Christian Aid collection in Norley this year and hope that they can count on your continued support this year by collecting and/or donating.

Please contact Ruth if you are willing to start being a collector this year.

Ruth Lane

Church Glass Doors update

The response to the appeal made in the last Outreach was magnificent. Thank you for your generosity. We even had a donation from Plumley Methodist Church (whose plans for their glass doors we had borrowed)! The target has essentially been achieved.

The Church Leadership team approved proceeding with the order which was placed in January. Yoxalls of Northwich are expecting to install the new doors by Easter Sunday when a dedication service will be held (unless the installation is delayed).

Bruce Lane

Property Matters

It has been an exciting time on the property front.

Donations have been received that have enabled the new glass doors for the church to be ordered which should be installed by Easter – see the article elsewhere in this magazine.

The gutter lining and leaf guards have been purchased and are awaiting a gap in John Dimelow's busy schedule to allow them to be installed.

The design for the new notice board was completed, costed at £250, and the design approved by the Church Leadership Team to go ahead. The ordering and installation (by Bruce and James) will follow shortly.

James and Bruce have now cleared the growth from the High Street side along the side the Church, and put down a plastic membrane to stop weed growth and covered it with broken tile, completing the work on this section.

Lewis Dimelow produced a design for the garden refurbishment in the front of the Church, which was approved for costing by the Church Leadership Team. Lewis requested that he be allowed to implement the scheme on the left hand side as one looks at the Church from the High Street as a project for his course work portfolio – which was readily agreed by the Church Leadership Team. Bruce and James will implement the scheme on the right hand side once the costings have been approved.

Bruce Lane

Teacher Arrested at Sydney International Airport

A high school teacher was arrested today at Sydney's Kingsford-Smith International airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, a slide-rule and a calculator.

At the press conference, the Attorney General said he believes the man is a member of the notorious extremist Al-Gebra movement. He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the AFP with carrying weapons of maths instruction.

'Al-Gebra is a problem for us', the Attorney General said. 'They derive solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values.' They use secret code names like "X" and "Y" and refer to themselves as "unknowns;" but we have determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, "There are three sides to every triangle."

When asked to comment on the arrest, Prime Minister Tony Abbot said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of maths instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes."

Fellow Liberal colleagues told reporters they could not recall a more intelligent or profound statement by the Prime Minister.

IN MEMORIAM

GERALD TILLEY

We have all come here today to give thanks for the life of Gerald Tilley and you will all have come with your own unique memories of him... some will be of happy times and may well bring a smile to the lips in the remembering whilst others may be of more poignant times which may bring a tear to the eye ... and that is fine and as it should be.

But all these memories, happy or sad, unique to you alone or recalled by many ... all of them I am sure will be filled with love because Gerald was full of love and of care, God's love and care... He knew and experienced God's love and care in his own life and was committed to sharing it with others....

On behalf of Joyce I would like to say thank you for joining us to say farewell to Gerald, who was born on 12th August 1930; which made him 84 years old.

Steven has asked me to read the Eulogy based on his knowledge and memories of Gerald. As you will know Gerald was brother to Joyce, Roy and Tony and lived in Norley for many years with his parents Alice & Joe; next door to Joyce and Walter in Breech Moss. He worked for the Council on Maintenance and drove for Lewis's, he was also a driving instructor in the army.

Gerald was very keen on sport, a member of Norley Bowling Club for many years. He was keen on football and watched Northwich Vic's and Chester play regularly. He enjoyed snooker and won a signed snooker cue in a competition which was presented to him by John Parrott, but his biggest passion was horse racing. He would regularly get the Racing Post and enjoyed a trip to the bookies to place his bet on the horses. He had a wealth of knowledge about race horses & their bloodlines and regularly received a Christmas card from Vincent O'Brien for a number of years which was displayed all year round.

Steven recalls living next door to Gerald. He made regular visits and spent a lot of time with Gerald as he grew up. Gerald was a keen gardener and would show Steven around his greenhouse and plot of garden where he grew purple sprouting broccoli and tomatoes. He had a paraffin heater in the greenhouse to get an early start on his tomatoes. He had a garage where his purple Morris Minor was parked up and Steven would help Gerald wash and polish it. Gerald would then take Steven on road trips to visit Aunties and Uncles.

After his mother passed away Gerald found it difficult coping on his own and spent some time in and out of hospitals, eventually staying at Fern Lodge in Chester which was more like sheltered accommodation. These were good times for Gerald as he had the freedom to go and get his papers, cigarettes and sweets. His time was spent between the bookmakers, the café over the road and studying the racing form. Joyce, Walter & Wayne

would visit him every Sunday. Steven would visit every third week on his free day, taking him cigarettes and sweets and would walk to the bookies with him for his regular bet on the horses and then down to Morrison's supermarket for a drink. Brother Tony also made regular visits. Quite often Gerald would get the train from Chester to Delamere and walk through the forest to visit Joyce, and Steven would drive him back to Fern Lodge.

Gerald always stayed with Joyce for Boxing Day and the first thing he wanted to do was to ask Wayne for a trip to the bookies. Then he'd sit in the front room with Joe and Sam chatting, smoking his pipe or cigarettes and they would sit watching him mesmerized while he smoked. Joe and Sam would ask him to blow smoke down his nose or smoke rings and you could hear them all giggling.

As he got older and his mental state deteriorated he then moved to The Court Nursing Home in Rockferry in 2002, at the age of 72. Joyce and Walter continued visiting every Sunday and if for any reason they were unable to visit they would ensure that he had a visit from Steven and Sheila or Wayne. They visited until Walter and Joyce's health deteriorated at which time Steven or Wayne would take them to visit Gerald.

You will all have your memories of Gerald as a brother, brother-in-law, uncle or friend, but we will all remember Gerald as a quiet, jolly, thoughtful, and gentle man.

God bless you Gerald.

So we give thanks for Gerald's life. We thank God for his life and all that he has meant to you and I know he will live on through your lives, in your hearts and minds, through memories shared. Sheila and Steve invite you to their home, Station Farm, Oakmere after the burial for refreshments and the sharing of memories if you so wish...

But now for Gerald the trials and tribulations of this world are over and death is past and I know he has gone to be in God's house where there is no more hardship or distress, no more pain or suffering, and I know he will have been received into the arms of his heavenly loving Father with the words " Well done my good and faithful servant."

Amen.