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Dear friends,

Happy New Year! And what a start to 2018 it has been!

In the Methodist Church in January we share in the Covenant service. It is something I have always valued and treasured. From the earliest days of Methodist societies John Wesley invited the Methodist people to renew their covenant relationship with God each year.

And so, as every year I, along with all in church that Sunday prayed,

"I am no longer my own but yours, Your will not mine be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all I do and in all that I may endure..... I willingly offer all I have and I am to serve you as and where you choose."

Two days later, I received a telephone call from Peter Barber, our Chair of District, asking me on behalf of the connexion to consider moving this summer to become the superintendent of the Kidderminster and Stourport Circuit. I came off the phone, and I admit I was stunned ... saying "God, I know I said I'd serve you as and where you choose but I'm not sure I meant it!"

However, as I reflected on it more rationally and prayerfully, as I read the profile of the appointment and met the people I realised it was a 'Sue-shaped' hole that needed to be filled. And so sad as I am to be leaving, I realise that God's hand is in this and that it is God who is moving us all on. I know that even as I move on God still has much to do here in Norley with you and through you.

The Circuit Leadership Team is prayerfully engaged in working out the pastoral oversight for all the churches in the circuit.

May we each continue to play our part in sharing God's love and care through our prayers, our deeds, our being as and where He chooses...

But just remember be careful what you pray for!

Every Blessing

Sue

Pastoral Piece

Hello Everyone.

I sincerely hope that you're all keeping well. And avoiding getting the viruses and 'flu that have been quite severe. It's uplifting to see the snowdrops and early spring flowers out now, and especially the evenings drawing out a little.

At times the weather has been quite horrible with rain, sleet, hailstones and sunshine all in the same day. Our Pastoral Team are still going strong and here to help if you need them.

As we now all look forward to lighter nights and a good summer, I leave you with these words :-

Each Day Brings a Chance to Do Better

*How often we wish for another chance to make a fresh beginning
A chance to blot out our mistakes and change failure into winning –
And it does not take a special time to make a brand new start,
It only takes the deep desire to try with all our heart
To live a little better and to always be forgiving
And to add a little 'sunshine' to the world in which we're living –
So never give up in deep despair and think that you are through,
For there's always tomorrow and a chance to start anew.*

(words by Helen Steiner Rice)

God bless you and yours

Margaret Hogan 15/2/18

Carol Singing

Carol singing was on Dec 21st and Dec 23rd this year, not on Christmas Eve which was the day of the Carol Service. Led by Joan Bell, we travelled by car to those associated with the Church on the two nights, with additions from our traditional Christmas Eve route on the second night. We were fortunate again to have fine weather on both nights.

Quite significant numbers turned out to sing, which was gratifying and the donations received were pretty good towards the church charitable giving and into church funds.

Well done everybody

Bruce Lane

Craft Club News

A big Hello from all the members of the Craft Club. As I write, it is starting to snow which appears to be sticking and the forecast is for the coldest week of the winter so far. Fortunately we escaped any major snowfalls and had a minimum of icy weather during the Christmas break (plenty of the wet stuff though) so attendance at Craft Club was good. Prior to Christmas the group was kept busy manufacturing various beautifully handmade decorations for our Craft Club Christmas tree in church. It is still a surprise to me how diverse the skills are amongst us and the finished tree looked splendid for the festival.

Our Christmas party this year was at The Plough at Whitegate where we took over a large part of the restaurant. We all enjoyed our meals in the 'olde worlde' surroundings with log fires and a welcoming ambiance which made for an extremely enjoyable social occasion with which to end the year - hopefully to be repeated next year. Thanks go to Liz Moore and Pearl for saving up the pennies for us and to Liz Lavin for organising the event.

The first week back after Christmas saw us playing 'hunt the draught excluder' to try to eliminate the arctic gale blowing under the door - thankfully Yvonne came to the rescue and located it. A majority decision was made that when the warmer weather finally arrives it will be housed along with our refreshment supplies in the storeroom.

Currently knitting needles are clacking to make Easter chicks and Easter bunnies to accommodate Cadburys Creme Eggs in aid of St Luke's Hospice - although I notice that the Cadburys hens are laying much smaller eggs than I ever remembered!! The Easter bunnies are not multiplying as one would think owing to the fact that a third knitting needle is required to make their ears and some of us have enough trouble with two!!! An Easter memory from my childhood is coloured boiled eggs using onion skin in the water for gold ones, cochineal or beetroot for pink or red ones and spinach for green ones. I don't remember it altering the taste but I do know that I my preference was always for the chocolate variety. I wonder if this tradition has now died out.

As chicks and baby bunnies represent new life, we look forward to welcoming the Spring. Already the snowdrops are heralding the new season with a few crocus brave enough to exhibit their pretty colours and the dawn chorus should soon be heard now that the mornings are becoming lighter. Hopefully it isn't too far away and the gardening conversations can resume at last.

Doreen Law

Candlelit Carol Service

The Church was packed at 4pm on Christmas Eve for our candlelit Carol Service. For the first time electric flickering candles were used amongst the congregation instead of real lighted candles with great effect – and with considerable reduction in the blood pressure of the property stewards. A successful experiment to be repeated next year.

Bruce Lane

Family Worker Report

Shrove Tuesday

How many pancakes did you eat? What are your favourite toppings? In assembly on Shrove Tuesday we had some fun tossing pancakes and choosing toppings to go on them. Many children had eaten pancakes for breakfast.

Our choices for toppings ranged from syrup and ice cream to toothpaste and onions. The children choose the sweet toppings and expressed distaste when I squirted toothpaste on top of the syrup. My point being that we can make good and bad choices. During this time of lent may we find time to reflect on the choices that we make, how our actions affect others and ask God to touch our hearts again with generosity and grace.

Vice President Gill Baker - visited our district recently and led a Lay Employees day about Pilgrimage and the place called Bethel found in the Old Testament. It was interesting to hear that Bethel over the years was a place where people found God's presence and went to seek wisdom but eventually became a place of pagan worship. This reminded me that places, people and situations change. Dare I suggest that staying the same isn't an option. Just as each day dawns and brings new opportunities and challenges, may we ask God to strengthen us, re energise and guide us for what lies ahead.

Gill has led many pilgrimage walks to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne off the Northumberland coast. She talked about pilgrimage which could be a physical journey of discovery or a mental one, about restlessness and journeying, attentiveness and courage, encountering God, finding the sense of the goodness of life and being transformed and finding the courage to go on. Every end is a new beginning.

Gill has discovered that spending some time in silence has helped her to stay connected to God and perhaps this lent time you may like to try and find 15 mins of silence in each day. Perhaps reading from the Bible, praying, listening or just resting in God's presence. May be this could be our pilgrimage during lent?

The president's theme for this year is exploring the rhythm of mission and discipleship and the booklet day by day contains prayer to help you explore prayer day by day.

One of the prayers is :-

'Creator God, whose word, at dawn of time gave light and life. Receive my praise. Jesus Christ , companion on the way, listening, healing , forgiving my self- centeredness. Holy spirit, giver of energy and love. Source of grace and courage. Fill me today. Amen.'

Andrea Ellams

Choir at Norley

The traditional candlelit carol service at Norley church was held on Christmas Eve. The members of the choir accommodated the rehearsals despite all the activities surrounding Christmas.

The Band of Hope and Joy sang a traditional German carol entitled " Still, Still, Still". It was arranged for two part harmony. Their contributions are usually in unison and as such they

enjoyed the challenge of singing in harmony. It was well received and our thanks to the members of the congregation who encourage and support us.

The rehearsals have started for the Palm Sunday and Easter services.

Harold, the most distinguished, best dressed, gentleman with the best voice in the choir celebrated his 90th birthday with the choir. We all wish him well.

Saro Jesudason

Church Weekend Away 2018

The dates for your diary are 5-7 October 2018 at Abbot Hall, Grange-over-Sands. Booking forms are available from the porch. Bruce would like your deposits and booking forms by the end of February if possible.

Bruce

First Wednesday Walks

The December Wednesday walk is always well attended and this one was no exception. Far be it from the author to suggest that it is not the exercise which encourages attendance but the thought of the Christmas cake, mince pies and coffee laid on by Sylvia and John which plays a part.

Although not long the recipient of an artificial hip, John, supported by Sylvia, led the walk. Parking in Kennel Lane we headed south between Kennel Wood and the reclaimed sandpit, past the kennels, to join the Whitegate Way walking in a south-easterly direction. Passing the interestingly named pond, the Reeking Hole, on the left, we circumvented the large flashes to reach.

Daleford farm. Bearing left around the mobile homes and along the fields we eventually re-entered Kennel Lane.

A very satisfying lunch was partaken at the Hanging Gate hostelry with everyone leaving just about enough room to do justice to the mince pies etc. at Sylvia and John's new home. Our thanks to both for going to so much effort.

Words Garry Wynne

It was decided that the January Wednesday walk would be an easy stroll around Blakemere to be gentle on participants after the inactivity over Christmas. However on the Tuesday night and still on Wednesday morning it was very windy and we were concerned that it might not be sensible to walk in the forest. The decision was made for us

Picture Ruth Lane

when we learned that the forest was officially closed. So when we met at the Chapel it was almost unanimously agreed to do a village walk, down Pychleys Hollow around School Bank to Cow Lane for tea and biscuits at the Wynne's. Then back along Fingerpost Lane/ High Street to pick up the cars for the drive to the White Lion for lunch. All very pleasant. We do plan to be back to be more active in February!!

Garry Wynne

The February walk was led by Vaughan and Garry and, in view of the wet and variable weather, was changed from Ashley to home ground on the premise that if we were going to get muddy, better nearer to home.

Once again Tony Knight came to the rescue with a walk from the Maypole in Acton Bridge. Veering left along Cliff Road we eventually descended to the Delamere Way. Following this alongside the railway we then took an alternative route (i.e. a mistake, for which we cannot blame Tony this time.....on the other hand, why not!!) which meant the group had to limbo dance underneath a wire fence. Dignities reinstated, we continued down to Acton Mill for a coffee break amongst snowdrops and cyclamen, and from there back to Acton Bridge and the Maypole for lunch. The weather proved to be perfect for walking, cold and clear, just a little slippery in parts.

Garry Wynne

Future walks are planned for

March 7th led by Garry & Vaughan

April 4th led by Heather & Anthony
and

May 2nd led by Ruth & Bruce

(inspecting the Norley Footpaths for the Parish Council}

Meet at Church at 9.45 for a 10.00am departure. Slips detailing next month's walk are available in the porch. Hope to see you there.

Bruce Lane

Cradle Roll

On Sunday January 14th we, as a church, were thrilled to join in celebrating the baptism of Thea Alice Hilditch. She had just celebrated her first birthday two days previously and seemed to love wandering around and finding so many people she knew.

It was so wonderful to have a full church of all ages from babies to Great-Grandma Kath Starkey. Parents Anna and Lee, godparents (Theresa Kelly, Kirsty Atherton, Gemma Hough, Lauren

Hough, Mark Smeeton, Robert Mc Dean), family and friends and members of Norley all made their promises and enjoyed being part of a very special occasion.

Joan Bell

Solar Panels Update

After almost 6 years from installation, our solar panels continue to operate well. So far we have generated 21,382 Kwh of electricity without adding a single gram of Carbon Dioxide to the atmosphere to contribute to global warming.

We have received in Feed in Tariff payments £10,630.16 in this period which exceeds the £7,500 invested in the panels by ourselves by some £3,130 and we look forward to another 19 years of income of around £1,800 per year. Pretty good I think.

Bruce

The Foodbank

The West Cheshire Food Bank says a big "thank you" to Norley Methodist Church for its donations during 2017. During the year Norley donated 285kg of food which translates into support for 23 people.

We did particularly well in December 2017 and January 2018 in which a total of 129kg of food was donated. This included the pre-Christmas collection and the 'reverse Advent Calendar' donations. This food goes to support individuals and families at extreme times of hardship and crisis. Whilst it is hard to take it in, one in five of the UK population live below the poverty line. Whilst we may not know or even see these people they, like us, are brothers and sisters in Christ. Our generosity here, near and far is the hallmark of our faith. Please give what you can during 2018.

Lesley & Mike.

Property Matters

In the last 6 months there has been considerable activity on the property front. The new LED lighting has been installed in the main worship area at a cost of £2000. This has proved very successful – enormously improving light levels to those recommended, without detracting from the aesthetics. The vestry has been decluttered and then redecorated – the minister choosing the colour! Materials have been purchased for the long awaited toilet refurbishment later in the year. In addition PAT testing was carried out for all appliances ahead of the Christmas Tree Festival, and electric flickering light candles were purchased (aided by a significant donation) and successfully replaced the lighted candles in the congregation area during the carol service (and were also used in the windows in the Christmas Tree festival). A new microwave was purchased on Black Friday, which happened to be the day after the old one died!

An unexpected ignition failure on the gas church heating shortly after the boiler service led to an expensive British Gas call out to repair it – and a Sunday morning service in the Open Door room. Attempts to claim against British Gas for failing to fix the fault on the service were unsuccessful but we tried!

Plans for the next 6 months include completion of the toilet refurbishment, repainting of the 2 external windows required so that general external painting can be deferred, and waterproofing the external end wall of the Open Door Room and removing the mould from the inside corners.

Bruce Lane

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 2018

Thursday	1 st	4.30pm	Kingsley Hurst Messy Church
Friday	2 nd	10.30am	Spiritual Committee Meeting at 2 The Old Orchard, Cuddington
		1.30pm	Kingsley Parish Church - Women's World Day of Prayer Service
		7.30pm	Kelsall Methodist Church -Women's World Day of Prayer Service led by Rev Sue Levitt
Sunday (Lent 3)	4 th	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament
		6.30pm	Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
Monday	5 th	4.00pm	Kelsall Messy Church
Wednesday	7 th	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
Thursday	8 th	7.00pm	Norley Church Council
Mothering	11 th	10.45am	Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
Sunday (Lent 4)		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Monday	12 th	12 noon	The Hurst Soup Lunch in aid of Marie Curie
Wednesday	14 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
Sunday (Lent 5)	18 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mr Malcolm Pearson of Chester
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Wednesday	21 st	9.00am	Norley School Prayer day at Norley Methodist Church
		5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
		7.30pm	Café Church led by Michael Gough
Thursday	22 nd	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Palm Sunday	25 th		Summer Time begins - CLOCKS GO FORWARD

10.45am Mr Ken Jackson of Caldly Valley

6.30pm Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament

Monday 26 Feb – Sunday 11 Mar Fairtrade Fortnight

Maundy 29th 6.30pm Tarvin Simple Meal & Sacrament – Rev Sue Levitt

Thursday 7.00pm Frodsham Meal & Sacrament - Rev Andrew Emison

7.30pm Blakelees Meal & Sacrament – Rev David Bintliff

Good Friday 30th 11.00am Rev Anne Gibson of Tarporley

April 2018

Easter Day 1st **9.30am** Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament

6.30pm Rev Sue Levitt

Wednesday 4th 9.45am 1st Wednesday Walk

Sunday 8th 10.45am Mrs Elizabeth Holmes of Frodsham

6.30pm No service at Norley

Monday 9th 12 noon The Hurst Soup Lunch in aid of the Brick Children's School, Nepal

April 2018 (continued)

Wednesday 11th 12 noon Open Door Room Lunch

Sunday 15th 10.45am Mr Andrew Ellams of Frodsham

6.30pm No service at Norley

Wednesday 18th 5.00pm Tarvin Messy Church

7.30pm Café Church led by Rev Neil Stacey

Thursday 19th 7.30pm Local Preachers' Meeting at The Hurst

Sunday 22nd 10.45am Rev Sue Levitt – St George's Day Parade Service

6.30pm Easter Offering Service at Christleton led by Rev Christine Dutton

Monday 23rd 4.00pm Kelsall Messy Church

Thursday 26th 12 noon Open Door Room Lunch

1.15pm Thursday Club

Sunday 29th Church Anniversary – Mr John Bell of Cuddington
10.45am

6.30pm Church Anniversary - Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament

May 2018

Wednesday	2 nd	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Thursday	3 rd	4.00pm	Kelsall Messy Church
Sunday	6 th	10.45am	Mr Edgar Gregory of Frodsham
		6.30pm	Rev Christine Dutton of Chester
Wednesday	9 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
Thursday	10 th		Ascension Day
Saturday	12 th	2.30pm	Oakmere – Summer Concert – Jackie Howard & friends
Sunday 13 th – Saturday 19 th			Christian Aid Week
Sunday	13 th	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament
		12 noon	Annual Church Meeting & Lunch
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Monday	14 th	12 noon	The Hurst Soup Lunch in aid of fighting modern slavery
Wednesday	16 th	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
		7.30pm	Café Church led by John Bell
Aldersgate	20 th	9.00am	Norley@9
Sunday		10.45am	Mr Philip Garner of Norley
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt
Thursday	24 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Sunday	27 th	10.45am	Rev David Copley of Frodsham
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament

June 2018

Wednesday	6 th	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
Wednesday	13 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
Sunday	17 th	9.00am	Norley@9
Wednesday	20 th	7.30pm	Café Church
Tuesday 26 th – Thursday 28 th			Kelsall Folk Festival
Thursday	28 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch

Annual Church Meeting – May 13th

Do come along – the morning service will be followed by a short meeting which will appoint stewards and amongst other things decide which charities to give money to. This will be followed by lunch and then holy communion.

Spiritual Committee

Lent

As you read this, we shall already be a couple of weeks into the period of Lent during which each Sunday morning service will begin with a short liturgy reflecting on a particular topic in a series and include the symbolic extinguishing of a candle. Starting on February 18th with seven candles lit, by Good Friday the sole lit candle will be extinguished as the darkness of the death of Jesus is signified. Then, on Easter Day, all seven candles will be lit again to represent that resurrection, life and light are ever with us. We will ask members of the congregation to lead the liturgies on each of the eight occasions.

Good Friday

We are delighted that the Revd Anne Gibson will lead worship at 11.00 am on Good Friday, when we are invariably joined by members of other local congregations who do not have their own service.

Easter Day

The morning service with Holy Communion on Easter Day will begin at 9.30 am.
The evening service will be at 6.30pm
Both led by Revd Sue Levitt

Saint George's Day

At the morning service on April 22nd we will welcome the village uniformed organisations who will renew their promises on the occasion of the St George's Day parade.

Church Anniversary

As is our custom, the Church Anniversary will be marked on the last Sunday in April, this year the 136th anniversary on the 29th: John Bell will lead morning worship at 10.45am and the Revd Sue Levitt will celebrate Holy Communion in the evening at 6.30pm.

We now know that this will be Sue's last Church Anniversary as Norley's minister.

Norley@9

Norley@9 will meet on the 3rd Sunday mornings at 9.00 am.
March 18th, April 15th, May 20th and June 17th.

Café Church

Café Church meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm and will be led on March 21st by Michael Gough, on April 18th by the Revd Neil Stacey and on May 16th by John Bell. All are welcome, as always, to these hours of invigorating discussion.

You are invited to peruse the Circuit Plan, as ever, to ascertain who is leading worship and when our services of Holy Communion are – from March to May there is some variation in the usual pattern to accommodate the timing of Easter and the Church Anniversary. Also, because of a shortage of available preachers, there are two more evenings, in addition to the 2nd Sundays, when there will be no service.

The next meeting of the Spiritual Committee will be on Friday 2nd March at 10.30 am at 2, The Old Orchard, Cuddington. If you have any matters relating to worship and the spiritual life of the church, do let John Bell know and we will give them attention.

John Bell, Chair of Spiritual Committee

SAFARI SUPPER

Saturday 14th JULY 2018

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW

Our minister is moving on.....

Not all Sunday morning services begin as on January 21st with an announcement that the minister will, unexpectedly, be moving on in a few months' time! We were advised that, as a result of consultations which had rapidly taken place in the few days preceding, the Revd Sue Levitt had been stationed as the superintendent minister of the Kidderminster and Stourport Circuit as from September 1st 2018. Nearer the time, we will properly express our gratitude to Sue for her ministry amongst us and wish her well in her new appointment.

Every year, the Methodist Church engages in formal processes, involving ministers who are moving and circuits with appointments to fill, which culminate in what is known as 'stationing matching', starting in November. This year, by early January, there were over 50 unfilled appointments, some of which were for superintendent ministers, and virtually no ministers left. So it came about, out of the blue, that Sue was asked whether she would consider a superintendent's appointment and she accepted the role in the Kidderminster and Stourport Circuit. We understand that her husband Peter (who was not expecting to leave his appointment in the Mid-Cheshire Circuit until August 2019) will retire a year earlier than planned, but no doubt his new superintendent will not leave him wholly idle.

The phrase 'being pulled out' is used colloquially in the Methodist Church to describe such an event and it is customary to approach those ministers first whose appointments would be due for review the next year, as Sue's was for 2019. That's not to say that either she, or indeed, we saw it coming but it is a tribute to Sue's ministry, competences and experience that it came.

In the very week when the promises of the Covenant Service were fresh and poignant in our minds and in Sue's, she has responded, not only to the whole Church's need, but to

the call of God upon her as an ordained minister. We hold Sue and Peter in our thoughts and prayers in the coming months as they prepare to move on to pastures new.

As to what happens in the Chester and Delamere Forest Circuit and the pastoral responsibility for Norley, that's for another day when the Circuit Leadership Team has reflected on ways forward for us and that is the subject of another article in Outreach.

John Bell

Christian Aid Week 13th – 19th May

Just a reminder that we are very lucky and should support Christian Aid whose aim is to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home and enough food to eat and safe water to drink.

Please give generously in Christian Aid Week

If you would consider joining the band of collectors in Norley, please contact either Ruth Lane (788071) or Rita Boon (788185)

Open Door Room Lunches

It was so wonderful to celebrate Harold's 90th birthday on February 14th with members of his and Margaret's families and so many of our regulars. It was such a joyous occasion enjoyed by everyone. We look forward now to Spring with brighter days and many lunches to enjoy together.

We look forward to seeing you there

Joan Bell

Open Door Lunches 2018

at Norley Methodist Church

Lunches will be served at noon on the following dates:-

Wednesdays	Thursdays
14 th March	22 nd March
11 th April	26 th April
9 th May	24 th May
13 th June	28 th June

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



In Memoriam Joyce Griesau

We have all come here today to give thanks for the life of Sylvia Joyce Griesau known to us all as Joyce and you will all have come with your own unique memories of her... 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 Joyce was full of love and of care, God's love and care... she knew and experienced God's love and care in her own life and was committed to sharing it with others....

The family would like to share with you a flavour of Joyce's interesting and happy life, and this is written by them:

Affectionately known as Joyce, she was born on 19th February 1934 to Alice and Cyril Tilley who lived in Cuddington. Joyce was one of four children: her brothers were Roy, Gerald and Tony. During her very early childhood her father died, Alice remarried Joseph Langley and the family moved to Norley Lane, Norley and from there they moved into The Cottage, Breech Moss.

Joyce went to Norley Primary school and onto the Secondary school at Kingsley. Twice every Sunday was Sunday School here at Norley Central Chapel. The highlight of the year was attending the Sunday School anniversary. Breech Moss was an idyllic spot for Joyce when growing up, with many adventures across the moss and a short walk to Nursery Wood and the forest. Joyce once told a story of the family hiding under the stairs in a cupboard during the war. As the German bombers were leaving Liverpool they would drop leftover bombs in the forest and the house shook violently, the

latch blew off the door never to be found again, a frightening experience for Joyce.

On leaving school Alice had arranged for Joyce to attend The Business College in Chester on a Secretarial course. She would ride her bicycle to Delamere station and get the train into Chester. Joyce disliked this type of work as her passion was to become a hairdresser. Alice agreed that it was unfair to continue if she disliked it and agreed that Joyce could start on a hairdressing apprenticeship with Mrs Morgan at her salon in Winsford. Her Uncle Fred would drop Joyce off sometimes if he travelled to Winsford, if not she would ride her bike there.

Life was soon to change for Joyce. She didn't like going up the lane to the farm for milk and eggs, but when Walter began working there after the war Joyce couldn't wait to go up the lane for milk and eggs and of course to see Walter. Walter would take her to Frodsham on the back of his motorbike to the cinema, love blossomed and they were married here at Norley chapel in September 1957. They moved into the cottage next door to her parents, and Liska, Breech Moss became the Family home. In December 1958 their first son Steven was born and in February 1961 Peter was born.

Joyce continued her hairdressing but set up a small salon at home. Before having a car, Joyce would walk through the forest with the boys and take the train to Chester or Northwich for shopping and days out. In the late sixties Joyce passed her driving test so there was no stopping them. They would go camping, visiting friends, days out to the seaside, regular trips to the wholesalers for hairdressing supplies. Joyce, Walter and the boys enjoyed holidays to Germany visiting Walter's family every couple of years.

Joyce's niece Susan contacted me regarding Joyce. Susan said that her Auntie Joyce had taught her so many things craft wise, all about nature and most of all how to use her manners and love and respect as did Joyce's Mother, Susan's Grandma. Susan went on to say that she has wonderful memories of staying at their houses. While staying in Norley as a child she considered herself to be an active member of this chapel being brought along by Auntie Joyce. Along with her cousins Steven and Peter and her siblings she enjoyed every minute of Sunday School and she remembered they always came into the service towards the end which she thought was "the best bit"!

Tragically in 1975 Peter was killed whilst on his way to Scouts; it was a difficult couple of years until May 1977 when Wayne was born. Life was even busier with a young child, hairdressing and a busy social life. Then the arrival of grandchildren, Joe born in May 1987 and Sam born in November 1989. Joyce said she couldn't wait to do Sam's hair being the only girl after having three brothers and three sons. Joyce always involved Joe and Sam in a lot of what she and Walter were doing, she always took them to chapel, shopping, Christmas bingos, car boot sales and carol singing. Joyce thoroughly enjoyed being a Nana. She loved shopping and always bought lots of things for them as well as everyone else.

Joyce was heavily involved with Chapel, helping with chapel cleaning, flowers, coffee, car rota and attended morning and evening services.

Joyce helped out in Sunday school too. Joyce was also involved in Meals on Wheels, she organised the Monday Bingo and the refreshments for the bank holiday car boot sales for the village hall fund. She sang in the WI and chapel choir, she enjoyed Norley Craft Club, Norley Wednesday club, she loved a game of bingo at various venues three to four times a week. She loved carol singing in December with the Chapel. She enjoyed camping, gardening especially growing fruit and making jam.

Joyce and Walter enjoyed holidays and always enjoyed the Merion Hotel in Llandudno and always went on the chapel weekend away in October. Joyce never stopped, if you ever caught her sitting down she would be knitting or sewing with a big bag of sweets or chocolate at her side. Joyce enjoyed holidays to Spain with friends and on one occasion ended up buying a very expensive bed mattress at a promotion. Walter wasn't happy on her return, but when the mattress arrived and he'd slept on it he said it was money well spent because it was the best night sleep he'd had.

Joyce was diagnosed with dementia in 2002 and she did really well coping with everyday activities. Walter tried to keep her doing as much as possible until at the age of 72 when she was encouraged to give up hairdressing against her will. Sadly Walter passed away in 2012 and she then needed care at home with 4 visits a day from carers, with Wayne, Steven, Sheila and Sam helping out. As the dementia progressed she went to Newton Hall residential home in May 2015 on respite and then went to live at St Luke's care home in June 2015.

Her great grandson Edward was born in October that year and made regular visits to see her. She was always pleased to see family members although not knowing names she recognised faces. Joyce was happy at St Luke's because there was plenty going on, lots of activities, music, parties and plenty of people popping in and out which Joyce loved. Following some refurbishment at St Luke's Granada reports featured the home on the TV and Joyce appeared on our television.

She was admitted to Hospital in September 2017, managed to fight through and returned to St Luke's in October. Joyce had many ups and downs until she passed away very peacefully on the 4th December.

For those of you who knew Joyce will know that she was a true Christian who helped anyone at anytime and always put others before herself. She cared about everyone and was full of love, energy, fun, laughter and lived life to the full. Above all she was a beautiful, loving, caring, Mum, Mum in Law, Nana, Great Nan and true dear friend to many.

So we give thanks for Joyce's life, a full life, a life well lived. We thank God for her life and all that she has meant to us and I know she will live on through our lives, in our hearts and minds and through memories shared. Joyce will

live on through all the things she has taught, in the way she has lived her life and through the love and care she gave.

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

Amen.

Circuit review – an update

Many of us have taken part in the consultation recently requested by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) as they continue to formulate ways forward for the circuit. This short article is just to summarise progress to date.

The CLT issued a paper entitled 'The Future of the Circuit' which included a request to all the churches to hold local discussions about their present situation, challenges faced and vision for the future, and to give feedback to the CLT in time for the Circuit Meeting on February 28th. Not least among the background factors is that the invitation period of four of the circuit ministers expires in August 2019, and to follow the due processes mentioned in another article, consultations need to begin in mid-2018: since then, of course, that number is now three! A summary of this paper was prepared and made available to all members of the congregation beforehand as background for the special general Church Meeting held at Norley on January 10th. We wondered who might come!

It turned out to be a very well attended meeting, thoughtfully led by our minister Sue, in which we shared, café style, our reflections on each of the suggested headings: worship and faith exploration, mission and outreach activities, human resources, finance, property and facilities, community presence and ecumenical partnership. There was a real buzz about the place for the whole evening – everyone had a chance to have their say, no holds were barred, we fulfilled what was expected of us and above all, we enjoyed the discussions. It said much about our congregation's determination, commitment and enthusiasm to sustain a place of worship and centre of mission in the community in and around Norley: as Brian Wren's hymn has it, 'there's a Spirit in the air!'

Ruth Lane very kindly gathered together all the input – from spoken comments and scribbled poster sheets – and prepared a summary under each of the headings below which was made available for all afterwards and forwarded to the CLT as our feedback to inform further discussions in the circuit:

- *Norley's present position as at January 2018.* We identified many positives and strengths and just a few concerns.
- *Where Norley wants to be (in the next five years or so).* We wish to build on current strengths; many people who come infrequently, as well as regular attenders, feel that this is their church and identify with it; we would like to see more families and children and will consider activities to encourage this; we seek deeper ecumenical partnership with St John's Church of England.

- *Essential and desirable help needed from the circuit (to achieve our vision)*. We look to the circuit for essential provision of ministerial oversight and Sunday service preachers; we may seek assistance to address the challenge of attracting more families and children into our church life and will appreciate the continued partial funding for Andrea Ellams' work.

If you haven't seen a copy of the summary and would like to read it, please contact Ruth Lane. We do know that our feedback to the CLT was much appreciated as a positive statement of our present situation and vision for the future.

This article has gone to press before the Circuit Meeting on February 28th: further updates on the circuit's ongoing review will be given in due course.

John Bell