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Dear Friends,

I write this from my tent, pitched at the front of the worship area at Frodsham Methodist Church. It's the start of our *Life Together*, our annual event where the teenagers of our church live in Christian community. For five days beginning in the midst of a school week, church becomes our home. We've just finished evening prayers. It's 11pm. So far, all is quiet!

During prayers I was sharing my belief that we see God most clearly as God comes to us in Jesus Christ.

"Where was God when I prayed to God every day for my gran to be cured of cancer? She died!"

"Where was God during the genocide at Auschwitz?"

Great questions!

It's at times like these I remember 1 Peter 3:15:

"Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you;"

I like a bit of theology, but at times like this that I beat a hasty retreat. My retreat takes to the firm ground of that rocky hill of Golgotha; to the cross of Jesus Christ. At the centre of my faith I do not find some Greek god sitting on a cloud pulling levers. When I retreat to the core of my faith I find a young man, nailed to a cross who prays for me and for you.

Dietrich Bonhöffer, the 20th century martyr who inspired our *Life Together* wrote from his prison cell:

"Only a suffering God will do".

My answer was not complete. It was partial. Where is God?
Right in the middle of it!
Jesus – God with us, God for us.

Grace and peace.

Andrew

Pastoral Piece

As I write this at the end of January, ready for the spring issue of Outreach, I can't believe the new decade is over a month old.

Not so long ago we were sitting down to our turkeys and Christmas pudding!! I wonder how many have already broken their New Year resolutions.

As we look forward to spring and summer, people's thoughts will be turning to holidays!!! Whether home or abroad we wish you a safe and lovely time.

Spring is showing its face now, snowdrops are out, other bulbs are shooting up and the evenings are starting to get a bit lighter. We are fortunate that our climate has been kind. We remember all those people who have had to suffer floods and the terrible bush fires in Australia. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

Should you need any of our pastoral team, just give us a call.

We wish you and yours all the very best. May God bless you and keep you safe.

I leave you with these words

The golden rule of conduct is mutual toleration

seeing that we shall always see truth in fragments

and from different angles (Mahatma Gandhi 1869-1948)

Margaret Hogan 31.1.2020

Craft Club News

Because December is a busy time we decided not to go out for Christmas lunch but visited Winnington garden centre for coffee instead. Here we enjoyed a look round the garden section and the craft shop. However we did go out for lunch in January and had a good meal with excellent company at The Abbey Arms. Craft club is not all about coffee and lunches! We do some craft work as well.

Now its Easter egg time again. Two of our members have, between them, knitted over an astonishing 200 small chicks to be filled with Cadbury chocolate eggs. Other members of the group have also contributed and we hope to send at least 300 filled chicks to St. Luke's Hospice for their funds. The photo shows everyone joining in, finishing off with sewing up and putting on eyes, beaks and ribbons.

What will our next project be? More curtains are to be made for Petty Pool and I'm sure we will think of other things to do. We also have our own varied individual projects which continue. Happy crafting!

Alison Twinn

Choir at Norley

The choir was at full strength for the Carol service. They contributed two items. The first song was entitled "Wonderful Counsellor", based on the verses from Isaiah. Jean and Eileen sang the descant for the last two verses.

The second was a lively song entitled "Come and join the dance", the words and music for which were written by Graham Kendrick. The choir really got into the mood and spirit of the song as they sang "Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice, O lift your voice and sing, and welcome now your King, for Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem".

Later the choir met up for a buffet supper at the Lower Mill enjoying food and good fellowship.

The rehearsals have resumed to practise some of the new hymns in Singing the Faith, and to prepare a contribution for the Easter services.

As I conclude may we remember the words from Colossians chapter three

"You must clothe yourselves with compassion, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and above all love that binds all things in unity. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs. Sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts."

Saro Jesudason

First Wednesday Walks

The December walk, now a tradition, was led by Sylvia and John. Parking at the White Barn eleven of us made our way down Mill Lane veering left along the footpath by Cuddington Brook. Passing the fishing lake we eventually reached the Whitegate Way via Waste Lane. After a coffee break we resumed our walk along the Whitegate Way until we joined the path leading along Kennel Lane and from there back through Sandiway to the White Barn where lunch awaited. Almost replete we then journeyed to Sylvia and John's home for much appreciated mince pies, stollen and a cuppa.

Garry Wynne

Our post Christmas jaunt was a 3 mile stroll alongside the River Weaver. It was led by Anthony (Heather being laid low with a nasty cough), who was joined by eleven other walkers & all enjoyed the bright & warm weather. We left Kingsmead, proceeded along the river to the Vale Royal locks (coffee break), crossing over same into Vale Royal Woods, back to & crossing over the Blue bridge at Hartford to drop down back to the path along the river to return to our cars.

There was the usual selection of birdlife along the flat calm river, but the most unusual being a Little Grebe (Dabchick). The reputation of our walking group has achieved international recognition as we welcomed a relation of Jean's (Rigby) who lives in the arid area of South Africa and he was totally impressed by all the water, greenery & architecture seen along the walk. We all enjoyed a hearty meal at the Kingfisher afterwards.

Anthony Davies 9-1-20.

The February Wednesday Walk was led by Peter and Sheila, and was a gentle stroll round the northern end of the Tatton Park Estate. Eleven members of the group took part. We drove to Knutsford and entered the park at the Knutsford entrance, giving us a scenic drive past Tatton Mere to the main car-park by the Hall. From there we initially walked back beside the way we came in, before turning north towards the Rostherne entrance, and then curving round to the memorial stone which commemorates the members of the Parachute Regiment, who used Tatton as a practice dropping zone in WWII.

We spent some time admiring the large herds of Red and Fallow Deer. At this stage a small break-away group elected to shorten the walk by proceeding south east towards the

Old Hall and then followed the track down to the main road through the park, and back to the Hall. The remainder of the group went north east to the edge of the Park and followed round the east side and back to the Old Hall. When we reached the main road through the Park, a second break-away group opted to take the easier way back to the Hall, whilst the rest of us had a rather damp journey round the west side of Melchett Mere. We all met up at the Stable Restaurant for lunch. This was slightly spoiled by the fact that they were running out of hot food. The unseasonable fine weather had obviously brought out more people than they expected, but it had made our walk more enjoyable. *Words by Peter Hills*

Future walks are planned for:

March 4th led by Vaughan and Garry (a 2.5 mile walk alongside the river and canals in Chester)

April 1st led by Sheila & Peter

May 6th led by Heather and Anthony

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

Pamela's November Life Update

You will recall that the church generously supported Pamela Gates's project a few months ago. Pamela has sent us the report and pictures below

Hello from a snowy California. Winter suddenly arrived, the weekend was beautifully warm and sunny around 28 in the afternoons, Tuesday and Wednesday hit with snow, high winds, too much rain and temperature's barely above freezing. Flip flops to boots in a day.

Thank you. The financial donations I received through Norley Chapel were incredible and so far beyond anything I anticipated. It was a double gift because it covered costs that have increased here for car tax, MOT and insurance as well as sorting out a phone deal that works where I am living this year, costs I could not have planned for.

Short version (a longer version is available from John Bell): Living off grid continues full of challenges, beauty, amusement and occasionally scary, from bats inside my van to cougars outside. When an outside cold shower becomes a luxury 'ya gotta wonda where life is taking ya'! We now have solar panels, which means lights and phone charging, the well water still smells of eggs – sulfur- and can't get used to the taste, We've found out it also has a similar effect to senna!

Although I didn't make it to the Harrisburg conference - shocked to find out internal flights are crazily expensive to the East coast – I did make it Mexico, kept going south from where I am. That entailed delivering a pop-up shop, feast and 22 weddings on waste land at the bottom of the city rubbish 'mountain'. Such a privilege to see people whose lives are literally on a rubbish dump shine with beauty and dignity, to see families celebrate each other together, to get a chance to value & love people who are thought of as worthless, was incredible.

Prayer requests:

That I stay healthy over the winter

My team going to Bulgaria would continue to gel & enjoy the times we have together

That I would lead them well and draw out the unique abilities they have to contribute

Easy learning of new online skills
Safety at home
Home and car continue to work without the need for expense
Opportunities to raise finances and
That people with a heart for what I'm doing or who like me would be prompted to donate
Thank you for being interested in my life and a little bit of what God is doing
Love to you all

Pamela

A couple of months ago the Trussell Trust (the Charity that runs most Food Banks) reported that April to September 2019 was the busiest half-year period for food banks in their network since the charity opened. During that six months, 823,145 three-day emergency food parcels were given to people in crisis in the UK; more than a third of these (301,653) went to children.

This is a 23% increase on the same period in 2018 – the sharpest rate of increase the charity has seen for the past five years. The main reasons for people needing emergency food are low benefit income (36%), and delays (18%) or changes (16%) to benefits being paid.

In 2019 the Trussell Trust published a report, titled '*State of Hunger*', which is an in-depth study published into hunger and the drivers of food bank use in the UK. The research revealed:

- The average weekly income of households at food banks is only £50 after paying rent
- One in five had no money coming in at all in the month before being referred for emergency food
- 94% of people at food banks are destitute

State of Hunger reported three drivers hitting people simultaneously and leaving no protection from hunger and poverty. These drivers are problems with the benefits system particularly waits of around 5 weeks for payment; ill health or challenging life experiences; and a lack of local support.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to support the Food Bank – the figures below for the West Cheshire Food bank, show just how much your support is needed.

Information about food and other items which can be donated, as well as details of other types of help you may be able to offer via donations and volunteering, can be found on the websites for the West Cheshire and Runcorn Food Banks at: <https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/> and <https://runcorndistrict.foodbank.org.uk/>

Michael and Lesley Gough

God in Love Unites Us

In 2016 Conference set up a Marriage and Relationships Task Group to revisit and consider the definition of marriage.

In 2019 their report was presented and accepted at Conference in June for discussion by all Methodists leading to a decision at Conference this year. Bruce and I went to a discussion on the report at Frodsham recently, and this is an attempt to explain why the report was requested and what the feeling was of the people at the discussion.

As time passes many things change in society – for instance slavery is no longer acceptable and women now have equal rights with men.

The concept of marriage has changed as well. No longer it only for procreation and with equality of the sexes a woman no longer has to promise to obey her husband.

As a result of changes in thinking in 1999 the Methodist Worship Book defined the purposes of marriage as:-

‘experience life-long unity of heart, body and mind, comfort and companionship, enrichment and encouragement, tenderness and trust’ and to ‘enable people to grow towards maturity, so that children may be nurtured, family life strengthened and human society enriched’.

Alongside this understanding of marriage in 1993, the Methodist Conference stated that it recognises, affirms and celebrates the participation in ministry of lesbians and gay people in the church.

In 2010, the Methodist Conference responded to the Equality Act, which stated that it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of someone’s sexual orientation, with a commitment to becoming an inclusive church.

In 2013 the Conference resolved that both ordained and lay Methodists may form civil partnerships.

In 2014 the Conference agreed that Methodists may enter same-sex marriage without conflict to our discipleship or ministry. There is also a definition of the guidance around homophobia.

In 2016 Conference set up a Marriage and Relationships Task Group to revisit and consider the definition of marriage and their report was presented to Conference in 2019. Conference received the report and decided that all Methodists should have the chance to debate whether they approved amending the definition of marriage in Standing Orders to:-

The Methodist Church believes that marriage is given by God to be a particular channel of God’s grace, and that it is in accordance with God’s purposes when a marriage is a life-long union in body, mind and spirit of two people who freely enter it. Within the Methodist Church this is understood in two ways: that marriage can be between a man and a woman; and that marriage can be between any two people. The Methodist Church affirms both understandings.

The discussion in Frodsham as elsewhere focussed around Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience – called the Methodist Quadrilateral.

It was acknowledged that Jesus said that his followers must be in the world but not of the world. If Methodists accept the change in the definition of marriage are we being ‘of the world’ without remembering scripture? Scripture says that God is love, hence we should show love to all – so the feeling of the meeting was that we should accept all relationships where there is love and a long term commitment. Many people had examples of the

immense hurt and damage caused by Christians who rejected gay and lesbian couples from their congregations or communion or taking any roles in Church. Hence there was great sympathy for those who were brave enough to tell of their or others rejection and pain.

The consensus of that meeting was that the definition of marriage in Standing Orders should be amended as proposed.

The report recognized that there was a wide range of differing views in the Methodist Church, and a desire to try to encompass these views without driving people out of the church unless their position was clearly non-Christian. It was proposed then that If Conference accepted the proposed definition, then Conference also required each church to decide whether it will allow same sex marriages to take place in its church, and each presbyter to decide whether in conscience he or she could perform same sex marriages, rather than mandate all churches and presbyters to be bound by the Conference decision.

However the report also asks Conference to amend standing orders so that In the event that a church decided against same sex marriages, then there was an obligation on that church to make the those people applying aware of local alternative churches that would allow such marriages. Similarly if a presbyter decided he or she could not perform such marriages, then the presbyter needed to inform people of alternative presbyters who would perform the marriages.

Several people at Frodsham spoke against this ability to dissent from adopting the decision of Conference on marriage, feeling it was discriminatory against lesbians and gays, but the consensus of the meeting was that these proposals should also be accepted.

Copies of the report God in Love Unites Us were available at the meeting and will be placed in the church for those wishing to study the report further, which can also be found on the Methodist web site at. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/12606/3240-10-amended-marriage-and-relationships-report.pdf>

Lent course at the Hurst Methodist Church

Who is the Christ?

Every Wednesday morning for 5 weeks, beginning 4th March at 10am we will be taking time out to pause and reflect upon key aspects of Christ's character.

Through these studies, written by Anne Calver, discover fresh insights into the person of Jesus, and how He revealed the nature of God through His role as:

The Builder The Humble King The Holy King
The Harvester The Risen King The
Commissioner

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 2020

Sunday - Lent 1	1 st	10.45am	Mr John Bell of Norley
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Wednesday	4 th	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Sunday - Lent 2	8 th	10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison - Sacramento
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Tuesday	10 th	7.30pm	Church Safeguarding Officers meeting at Helsby
Wednesday	11 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
Sunday – Lent 3	15 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mrs Elizabeth Holmes of Frodsham
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Monday	16 th	7.30pm	Circuit meeting at Helsby
Wednesday	18 th	7.30pm	Café Church
Sunday – Lent 4	22 nd	10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Monday	23 rd	10.30am	Spiritual Committee meeting at Howell Croft
Wednesday	25 th	7.15pm	Church Council
Thursday	26 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Passion Sunday	29 th		SUMMER TIME BEGINS – CLOCKS GO FORWARD 1 hour
		10.45am	Mr Philip Garner

6.30pm Revd Andrew Emison - Sacrament

April 2020

Wednesday	1 st	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Palm Sunday	5 th	10.45am	Mr Andrew Herbert of Wesley
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Wednesday	8 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
Maundy Thursday	9 th	7.30pm	Service at Blakelees led by Revd David Bintliff
Good Friday	10 th	11.00am	Mr John Bell of Norley
Saturday	11 th	10.00am	Decorate the Church for Easter Day
Easter Sunday	12 th	10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison - Sacrament
		6.30pm	Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
Wednesday	15 th	7.30pm	Café Church
Friday	17 th	10.00am	Advanced Safeguarding Training at Helsby until 3pm
Sunday	19 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Wednesday	22 nd	7.30pm	Church Leadership Team Meeting at Howell Croft

April 2020 (continued)

Thursday	23 rd	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
		7.30pm	Local Preachers' meeting at Tarvin
Saturday	25 th	9.30am	District Synod at Market Drayton
Sunday	26 th	10.45am	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY – Revd Dr Tim Macquiban
		6.30pm	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY - Revd Andrew Emison – Sacrament

May 2020

Sunday	3 rd	10.45am	Local Arrangements – Spiritual Committee
		6.30pm	No service at Norley

Tuesday	5 th	2.00pm	Pastoral Committee
Wednesday	6 th	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Sunday	10 th		START OF CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
		10.45am	Annual Church Meeting -Revd Andrew Emison followed by Church Meeting then lunch then Sacrament
		6.30pm	Circuit Easter Offering Service at Kelsall
Wednesday	13 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
Sunday	17 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mr Peter Davidson of Runcorn
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Wednesday	20 th	7.30pm	Café Church
Sunday	24 th	10.45am	Revd Andrew Emison
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Thursday	28 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Pentecost	31 st	10.45am	Mrs Katy Rowe of Saltney
Sunday		6.30pm	Revd Andrew Emison - Sacrament

June 2020

Wednesday	3 rd	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Wednesday	10 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
Wednesday	17 th	7.30pm	Café Church
Sunday	21 st	9.00am	Norley@9
Thursday	25 th	12noon	Open Door Room Lunch

Please join us for this special church family occasion

Spiritual Committee

The new quarter begins with Lent: our minister, Andrew, is kindly preparing the liturgies to enable us to reflect on the meaning of Lent, Good Friday and Easter Day. As ever, having contemplated the crucified Christ, then empty cross, on Good Friday, we shall decorate it with bright flowers on Easter Sunday morning and place it on the church drive later in the day to remind passers-by and drivers-by of this, the most important Christian festival. But



Norley Methodist Church

Café Church

Come and enjoy



fellowship, worship and refreshments

in a café atmosphere in the church

at 7.30pm on the following Wednesdays:

18th March - led by Revd Neil Stacey

15th April - led by Michael Gough

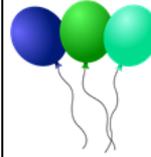
20th May - led by Bruce & Ruth Lane

Church Anniversary

April 26th

10.45am - Revd Tim Macquiban

**6.30pm - Revd Andrew Emison
(Sacrament)**



**Come and celebrate
with us**



for Easter, Jesus would have been
consigned to the fringes of Jewish

religious history, we would never have heard of him and many of us, who owe our very
lives to Methodist roots, would not be here at all.

We will welcome the Revd Tim Macquiban to lead our Church Anniversary morning service on April 26th. Tim retired last year from active ministry and came, with his wife Angela, to live in Saughall within the North Cheshire Circuit. His final appointment was as minister of the Ponte Sant' Angelo Methodist Church in Rome, where he also acted as the main liaison between the Methodist Church and the Vatican. The church is just across the river from St Peter's Square. The author of this brief report, as a member of the Connexional Candidates Committee, had the pleasure of interviewing Tim at Luther King House in Manchester when he candidated (successfully) for the Methodist ministry in 1984. There are occasions when one looks back on good decisions and this one was never in doubt!

But, there's more.... Tim lived in Norley as a boy when his father was vicar of St John's Church of England in the late 1950s/early 1960s. Long-standing Norley residents – whether Anglican or Methodist or neither – may remember those days: Tim certainly does and he is delighted to come to preach and renew his association with the village. All are invited to join us for a very special and poignant anniversary occasion.

As always, details of Sunday morning and evening worship and Holy Communions, Café Church and Norley@9 can be found on this page and elsewhere in Outreach, on the quarterly Circuit Plan and in the weekly notice-sheets.

John Bell

Annual Church Meeting - Sunday 10th May



- The Annual Church meeting will be held straight after the slightly shorter morning service. **Everyone is welcome** to attend the meeting which is followed by lunch in the Open Door Room and then Holy Communion.
- As usual the meeting will elect the team of Church Stewards, Vestry Stewards and Representatives to the Church Council.
- We also decide on the Charities we wish to support this year – so please bring your suggestions and ideas
- Look out for further information in the weekly notice sheet nearer to the time!

Open Door Lunches 2020

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

Easter Services



Good Friday

11.00am Mr John Bell

Easter Sunday

10.45am Revd Andrew Emison – Sacrament

6.30pm Songs of Praise led by Dr Ruth Lane



Everyone welcome

An invitation to you to come to the

Thursday Club

March 26th

April 23rd

May 28th

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



Norley @ 9

Join us for an informal time of
worship and praise on

March 15th

April 19th

May 17th



Church Weekend Away 2020

The dates at **Beth Eden** are now confirmed as

Friday 2 October – Sunday 4 October 2020

The initial deposit has been paid from Church funds. Booking forms will be distributed after Easter for return with a £50 per person deposit by the end of June.

Bruce

Christian Aid 2020 – Kenya's Drought Emergency

Apparently, some people don't think there's a climate crisis; that the weather is somehow, well, its own boss. That wildfires, rising sea levels, storms and even earthquakes and volcanoes are just our planet doing what its always done. What's that to do with human activity?

As the impacts of extreme weather conditions have become more frequent, whether you believe human activity to be a cause - there are certainly effects; and those effects are hitting some of the poorest in our global village very hard.

Yes, we know all about floods at home. We know about wildfires in Australia. We know about devastating hurricanes elsewhere. Who picks up the pieces? In the 'developed' world there are public services, utilities, welfare and healthcare systems, and for certain citizens – insurance, through which losses will be replaced; much of the devastation caused by 'natural' events gets fixed. Not so with the poorest of our global neighbours whose governments are saddled with crippling debt to the point that they can't fix these problems or care for their own citizens. This is where Christian Aid works – on the margins of our global society; in countries where people have no viable public/utility services, welfare and healthcare provision, never mind insurance. These are our global neighbours.

In the UK we can't imagine what it would be like to live without our water utilities. For most of us, not having water on-demand is unthinkable. In February 2019, the Kenyan Government declared a national drought emergency. With 2.7 million people without enough food, the drought is the worst in decades. Have we heard about this on the news? No.

Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Without a reliable source of water, many communities are struggling to survive. Drought forces people to walk further and further to collect water.

This daily burden robs them of the chance to farm and grow food for their families. Elderly women and children are especially vulnerable on these dangerous journeys and can face robbery or even conflict as people battle over scarce resources. Cows, sheep and goats are becoming weaker and weaker in the drought and can't produce milk or be sold. People are struggling to cope. Lives are at risk.

Christian Aid has been working in Kenya since 1997. Through its local partners it supports people living in poverty to respond and adapt to the climate crisis. The current focus is on empowering communities to build water dams and plant tree seedlings.

This year Christian Aid is fund-raising to help communities build earth and sand dams, and rock catchments, so they can harvest water near their homes. Dams are simple and cost-effective natural storage solutions which catch the rain when it falls. In doing so, they increase the amount of water available to communities, and free women, girls and boys from making long and dangerous journeys to collect water. Having a regular source of

water through a dam helps communities maintain a more stable income. Dams can also save people around 10 hours a day that they would otherwise spend collecting water during drought.

So, this year, **please support Christian Aid's work in Kenya**. This crisis, and response, is unlikely to make the news (there's no insurance claim involved). **If you're able to help during Christian Aid Week (10th-16th May), as a collector, or by making a donation, please contact Michael Gough; Co-ordinator, Christian Aid, Norley Village Group (07748 112214).**

NB: in 2019, Norley, raised over £2,100 for Christian Aid which is being spent on maternity care provision in Sierra Leone. The national total for this project was over £8m. Thank you.

Property Matters

There has been quite a lot of property activity since the last report 6 months ago.

- The Church heating pump failed. The fault was not with the pump itself but the control head electronics, which were £600 cheaper to replace than the whole pump, but there was a 2 week delay to get the parts from Germany whilst we suffered a cold church.
- The dishwasher following a further failure, as previously warned, was been replaced with a newer better model at a cost of £1800 but a gift aided donation of £1000 has softened the blow. The new dishwasher is working well
- The repairs above the flat roof outlined in the last report have been completed successfully (by John and Lewis)
- Following permission from the CWAC Tree officer (there is a tree preservation order on one of the trees), the dead branches have been removed from the Chilean pines (by Matt) and the side branch removed by James).
- The new AV system has been specified after extensive exploration of possible options, and installed. This huge amount of work has been organised by Michael Gough. Thanks Michael. The result is spectacular and has been used twice already by Andrew for his services.and at Norley@9.

Remaining property items are the completion of the tiling of the second toilet, painting the corridors, and a few new items - repairs to the Sunday School ceiling now the roof has been fixed, installing two new double sockets for the AV system, obtaining a suitable remote slide changer for the new AV system and the re-varnishing of the garden seats (the old church doors).

Bruce

Date for your diary!

Church Council Meeting

**Wednesday 25th March at
7.15pm in the Open Door
Room**

In addition to the regular reports and updates, the meeting will include a short presentation and discussion about the proposed Norley Community Hub project.



The Church Leadership Team

The Church stewards meet with the minister in between Church Council Meetings to take decisions needed for the running of the church and to prepare for the next Council Meeting. They are joined by the Church council secretary, the treasurer and the property steward, and are known collectively as the Church Leadership Team (CLT for short).

They met on January 29, and amongst other things decided:-

1. New stewards are required for consideration at the Annual Church meeting (who appoint them). Several potential stewards were identified for Andrew to approach ahead of the ACM.
2. Potential new members were identified for Andrew to progress for decision at the Church Council in March
3. The CLT endorsed a proposal from the treasurer to take to the Church Council for approval to increase the charitable giving at the ACM from £600 to £1000 per year, and that the ACM would be asked to nominate the charities for the next connexional year (rather than during the connexional year as has been past practice) so that designated social (as distinct from missional) events could be advertised as to which charity they were raising funds for. If accepted by the Church Council, then this year's ACM would be deciding on charities to donate £1000 for 2019/2020, and deciding on the charities for 2020/2021.
4. The CLT accepted the view that the Safari Supper would be abandoned again for this year, and would propose to the Church Council that we hold a Christmas Tree Festival in 2020 instead, potentially on December 4-6 and explore if the Castle Park

Collection would give a concert at the Church in October, last year's concert having been a sell out and raised over £500.

Bruce (CLT secretary)

The Norley Community Hub Consultation

The proposals from JNCOT (the Joint Norley Community Organisations Trust) to develop the Norley Village hall site will be presented at the next Church Council meeting in March.

The initial plan for a hub was first put out to consultation in 2011 and progressed in the light of the very positive response to the plans under consultation. In the summer of 2019 the fundamental pieces of the jigsaw came together with planning permission granted on both the Village Hall site and on the Scout hut site on Crabmill Lane.

So what are the plans? The community consultation was launched at the Norley Garden Show with the plans available for everyone to see. Since then, presentations have been given to many village organisations.

What is planned is:-

- A New extension of an additional hall built adjoining the original Village Hall using a link building as entrance and reception.
- New hall and original hall designed to allow independent usage for simultaneous functions, or together to accommodate up to 200 people.
- Safe and extended car-parking with access closer to Breech Moss.
- Access to outdoor activities space and playground for Scouts.
- Access from Bowling Club to use toilet and reception facilities.

The current Village Hall will also benefit from a well-deserved renovation programme; the plans include better kitchen/bar facilities and accessible toilets. It also proposes moving the vehicular entrance further up towards Breech Moss to provide safer access. The field itself would be overlain with ground protection grids to expand the parking area.

The cost of this exciting project will exceed £500,000. This is a lot of money, but when it is broken down it becomes much easier.

An integral part of the plan is the movement of the Scout hut from Crabmill Lane to the new Community Hub. The sale of the current Scout hut site will provide significant funds towards the building and act as match-funding for funding applications for major grants. The key to obtaining the major grants lies with demonstrating strong community support for the need for this project.

Without this support the project cannot go ahead. The current consultation closes on 8th April. Can you let JNCOT have your views by then?

The consultation questions can be answered on paper - copies of the questionnaire are in the vestibule at Church - or on line at the survey monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YYH2HY6>

Your views are urgently sought.

Even with these grants, we would need to raise locally £57,500, so just 11.4% of the overall amount, and plans are being made to raise this from

Community groups (25 groups x £500/yr for 2 years)

Events (£10,000/yr for 2 years)
Corporate fundraising (£10,000)
Scout alumni (£2,500)

Please support these plans if you can.

Further information can be found on the website on <https://www.norleycommunityhub.co.uk/>, which also gives contacts to the JNCOT fund raising committee.

In Memoriam **Winifred ('Wynne') May O'Neill**

(4/9/1920 – 7/12/2019)

A Eulogy by David and Judy Smith

Wynne was born in 1920; sixth in a line of ten siblings. Her father was a shoe repairer with his own business.

She left school at fourteen and, whereas her brothers and sisters, when they were old enough, went off to work, she was retained at home to help her mother. Even so, later on, she managed to fit in a Saturday job with stores such as Marks and Spencer and Debenhams in Birmingham. She looked after her two younger sisters and was often seen pushing a pram with them facing each other from opposite ends separated by a bag of potatoes.

In 1941, at almost 21 years of age, she married a Scotsman, Charles, and moved out of the family home but continued to help her mother. Her first child, Judy, was born thirteen months later.

After about fourteen months of their marriage, the army sent her husband off to do battle against Mussolini in Italy and she didn't see him again for four and a half years. In the meantime she continued to take on Hitler, having previously become an Air Raid Warden, a manufacturer of khaki trousers for the army and a machinist of artillery shell cases. During periods of inactivity, Air Raid Wardens would try to get some rest lying head to toe. One night, because her trouser leg had ridden up, Wynne asked the chap opposite if he would mind pulling her trousers down. There's no record of what happened next.

Her mother, in her last years, asked Wynne to keep the family together. This she did to the best of her ability and she became a prolific letter writer, keeping in touch with families as far away as New Zealand and Canada.

Fate dealt her a cruel blow when her second child, Stephen, died as a result of meningitis aged almost seven months. This was a blow from which she never fully recovered. When her third child, Martin, was born she showered on him the love and affection that would have gone to Stephen if he had survived.

Having been a Methodist from an early age, in adult life Wynne became very active in church life. She was involved in Pastoral Care, Women's Fellowship, amateur dramatics and fund raising operations. She looked upon the Bring-and-Buy sale as a means of de-cluttering the house but, unfortunately, more often than not, her son, who had been given pocket money, bought most of what she had taken to sell and carried it back home.

While her husband was alive she continued to manage the household but when he died in 2006 she needed help. At that point she held things together with the aid of care workers, neighbours and visits by the family, determined to maintain her independence. However, when her son died in 2015, it was impossible for her to live on her own and she moved to live with her family here in Cheshire.

After a few years her mobility became very poor and she needed more professional care. She moved into The Barns at Davenham Hall where she became a well-loved character. Although her short term memory was about two seconds, her long term memory was undiminished. Consequently, particular episodes of her life were constantly repeated and her entire history was known to everyone within earshot. This explains why the whole of the staff and the occasional visitor are word perfect singing 'On The Good Ship Lollypop', a song she taught Judy because she always wanted a curly haired little girl like Shirley Temple. They would also know that her claim to fame was that she once sat on the knee of Mrs Cadbury, (of chocolate fame). Everyone was aware that, at one time, she lived next to a bookmaker whose son, Alfie, was invariably summoned to meals by the pet parrot because, whenever she recited the story, she mimicked the parrot and shouted 'Alfie' at the top of her voice. She left the staff in no doubt that her favourite sandwich contained ham put on double. Double because she was accustomed to her son bringing in shaved ham when he went shopping.

Although her eyesight and hearing were poor, she was able to instruct fellow patients to, "Sit up straight", and "Take your Zimmer frame", oblivious of the fact that none of them took the slightest notice.

The staff at The Barns were wonderful and made her life as comfortable as possible, taking her out to such places as a garden centre and Rhos-on-Sea for the day.

She passed away peacefully in her sleep on the morning of 7th December aged 99 years. If she couldn't die at home surrounded by her family, she did the next best thing. She passed away surrounded by the staff who held her in genuine deep affection for which the family are eternally grateful.

Rotas Page Flowers Rota		Morning Door Stewards Rota The March to May rota is published below. Please ensure that you find a substitute if you're unable to fulfil your duty	
Mar 1	Mrs B Garner	Mar 1	Mike and Gay Wilson
Mar 8	Mrs J Barclay	Mar 8	Philip Garner & Yvonne Roughsedge
Mar 15	Mrs L Gough	Mar 15	Margaret Hogan and Joan Barclay
Mar 22	Mrs M Hogan	Mar 22	Alison Twinn & Rajan Jesudason
Mar 29	Mrs V Wynne	Mar 29	Oliver Dimelow and Bruce Lane
Apr 5	Mrs J Dunning	Apr 5	Ken Dunning and Ruth Lane
Apr 12	Easter Sunday	Apr 10	Good Friday Margaret Hogan and Joan Barclay
Apr 19	Mrs H Dale	Apr 12	Hazel & James Dale
April 26	Mrs S Salter	Apr 19	Philip Garner & Yvonne Roughsedge
May 3	Mrs S Grindley	Apr 26	Mike and Gay Wilson

May 10	Mrs R. Lane	May 3	Heather & Anthony Davies
May 17	Mrs A Twinn	May 10	Ken Dunning and Jean Dunning
May 24	Mrs H Davies	May 17	Alison Twinn & Rajan Jesudason
May 31	Mrs B Garner	May 24	Hazel & James Dale
Jun 7	Mrs J Barclay	May 31	Heather & Anthony Davies
Jun 14	Mrs L Gough	With thanks, as ever, to you all. Your welcomes are much appreciated <i>The Stewards</i>	
Jun 21	Mrs M Hogan		
Jun 28	Mrs V Wynne		
Coffee Rota		Car Rota	
Mar 1	Margaret & Joan	If you need a lift to or from Church on any Sunday please contact the senior steward, Ruth Lane, on 01928 788071 who will make arrangements.	
Mar 8	Alison T & Mary		
Mar 15	Mike and Gay Wilson		
Mar 22	Vaughan & Yvonn		
Mar 29	Heather & Anthony		
Apr 5	Hazel and James		
Apr 12	Richard & Di		
Apr 19	Hazel and James		
April 26	Heather & Anthony		
May 3	Richard & Di		
May 10	Margaret & Joan		
May 17	Vaughan & Yvonne		
May 24	Alison T & Mary		
May 31	Mike and Gay Wilson		
Café Church refreshment rota			
Mar 18	John & Mary Dimelow		
Apr 15	Richard & Di		
May 20	Alison T & Yvonne		

Contact numbers for the coffee rota are all 01928 followed by for Yvonne & Vaughan 787196; for Margaret & Joan 788960; for Hazel & James 787216; for Alison & Mary 788091; for Richard & Di 788969; mobile for Mike and Gay 07775613913 and for Heather & Anthony 01606 followed by 888896.