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Dear Friends,

I am very fortunate that this summer I will be taking a three-month sabbatical from my life and work as a minister. The word “sabbatical” is derived from the word “sabbath”, the seventh day of the week set aside for retreat, reflection, worship and rest. Observing sabbath is not offered as a gentle piece of advice but makes it into the list of ten commandments and comes as just that – a command!

I have deferred it for two years believing that there were particular opportunities for ministry during the pandemic. In some ways I rebel against it even now for “there is work to be done”. Sabbath reminds me though that God’s work is not dependent on me! It’s a reminder to all of us that being called by God is not because God *needs* us but because God *wants* us. In John 21 when Jesus invites his disciples to share in breakfast on the beach, he tells them to bring some of the catch (that he provided) but actually doesn’t need their contribution for the text tells us that breakfast is already under way. Counter-intuitively, the command of Sabbath, like all of God’s commands comes to us as a gift. When religious folk around Jesus criticised him for healing on the Sabbath Jesus told them that they understood it all wrongly. “The sabbath was created for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath!” It’s a gift not just something else to oppress people.

I am grateful for this time. I’m going to use it to study. After ten years as a minister, sixteen years as a preacher and with 1005 Sunday services under my belt, I need to reconnect with study again and instead of leading worship I’m going to share in worship in lots of different places and traditions and see what I can learn from other preachers.

As I enjoy this incredible gift of sabbatical, so I think of many of you who could also do with a break. Our church leaders and officers, pastoral visitors and others have all worked incredibly hard during these last two years in particular as we have sought to encourage each other and care for one another. As I thank you for this gift of sabbatical, I ask that you will hold them and all of us, in your prayers as together we seek God’s guidance for the next chapter in our life and ministry together.

Andrew

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Congratulations to

- **Margaret Harrington** who got engaged on February 2 at her surprise birthday party to **Allan Green** and will be returning to live in Norley. We look forward to welcoming them.
- **Oliver Dimelow** on passing his driving test.
- **Margaret Hogan** who has had a successful cataract operation and is waiting for an appointment for her second one.
- **Riley O'Brien** (who was 5 on 26th December), **Thea Hilditch** (who was 5 on 12th January), **Clara Turnbull** (who was 3 on 17th January) and **Sam Dale** (who was 18 on 11th February).
- Our golden seniors who have celebrated birthdays in the last 3 months – **Alison Twinn, Jean Dunning, Brenda Oultram and Harold Berry**. Between them they have racked up over 350 years.

In Our Thoughts....

- The family of **Ruth Howarth** who passed away on February 17th at the Countess of Chester hospital which she was moved to from Hillcrest Nursing home recently.
- **John Salter** who has had another fall
- **Margaret Hogan** whose breathlessness continues.

Please remember them in your prayers.

Keeping (Covid) Safe in Church

The Church Leadership Team and the Church Council have spent many hours over the last two years deliberating the 'right things to do' or 'not do' in terms of 'covid -safe' measures at various stages of the pandemic.

We have moved on from many of the original measures that were in place: The main worship area looks more familiar now that the chairs are back in rows, we have removed the one way system, we are singing again (albeit with masks), and we have been able to close the external doors during services whilst still maintaining good air circulation, which in turn has meant we can enjoy the service and some time for fellowship indoors afterwards without getting freezing cold. We also now know more about coronavirus and

how it spreads – the main route being airborne rather than by touching contaminated surfaces – and this has a bearing on what we can safely do.

So where are we now on the ‘road to recovery’?

Over the last few weeks, the Government ‘Covid restrictions’ have been significantly relaxed.

At odds with this change, the number of Covid cases in the Cheshire West and Chester area are at the highest for almost 12 months with over 20,000 people affected at the time of writing – the highest number for almost twelve months. It is estimated that around 1 in 19 people in England are currently ‘Covid positive’. This is largely due to the Omicron variant. For many people this causes a relatively mild illness – and yet we all seem to know of people who have been very poorly with this variant of Covid 19.

On the one hand, we may want to return to normal and get on with our lives, ‘living with covid’, but on the other hand, infection rates are high and some people, for very valid reasons, wish to remain more cautious. What to do, in terms of ‘covid measures’, is a difficult balance to strike!

Despite relaxation of Government restrictions, there are still recommendations for measures to follow when mixing with other people, and the Church Council, as always, has a duty of care for the welfare of members of the congregation, and other visitors, when attending Church. And so, without throwing caution to the wind, below is a summary of the changes we plan to make in the coming weeks, and the measures which seem sensible to keep in place for now.

Changes in the building:

- The requirement to leave 48 hours between different people entering the building is being reduced to 24 hours. The Property Stewards will keep a record of who is entering the building on any day and time – so please check with Bruce Lane or John Dimelow before accessing the building at any time other than on Sunday morning.
- The wooden screens between the Main Worship Area and the Open-Door room will be closed again. This will enable us to prepare the Open-Door room and old Sunday school room for refreshments after the service, once it is agreed as being safe to do so (when local infection rates fall).
- The Vestry will be restored to normal use.

Covid measures:

- Please continue to sanitise hands on entering the building, wear a face covering and maintain at least a 1m distance with those from other households whilst in the Church.
- We will continue to keep a list of those attending Services, in case of someone testing positive afterwards.
- Please don’t attend if you are unwell and think you may have Covid symptoms.
- Ventilating the building before and after Services will continue. Air circulation in the building during Services will be monitored.
- Regular testing with Lateral Flow Tests is encouraged for everyone and can be helpful in identifying those who have Covid 19 without displaying symptoms.
- Holy Communion will continue in the same way as it has for the last 12 months.

All measures will be reviewed regularly and as always, your support in keeping everyone feeling as safe as possible in Church, is greatly appreciated.

Lesley Gough

Safeguarding

I am delighted to say that everyone who required Basic Safeguarding training has now completed it, but sad to say that the delivery of the face-to-face training was a disaster compared to the online Zoom training. Many apologies to those who went on the face-to-face training but great relief that no one caught covid from Yvonne who tested positive the following day.

In all other respects we are as up to date as we can be, but Procedures will need to be developed when have lettings or we have new volunteers taking up responsibilities in church.

So, **CONGRATULATIONS** to all and **MANY THANKS** to everyone for their co-operation in making our church a safe space for everyone to thrive in.

Ruth Lane

Pastoral Piece

I cannot believe where the days have gone! Already in the shops are Easter goodies!! Are you even ready for Lent? Are you ready to do something for Lent?

Have you noticed the spring flowers and evenings getting lighter? It's got to be a good sign and cheer us up from all the doom and gloom via the media.

At Norley we continue to support people as needed. The pandemic has been a very long journey for some. We have had our share of ups and downs. Thanks for all the pastoral care shown by all the team and our minister. Maybe now we can try and stay positive and hopeful that there is light at the end of the tunnel. May God bless you and yours Take care.

Meanwhile I leave you with these words.

May All Your Days Be Filled With...

An abundance of hope and joy,

Blessings that warm your world and make you smile.

Friends and loved ones by your side.

People who are going to treasure every memory they get to make with you.

Wonderful sunrises to greet you.

Nice surprises and sweet rewards.

Opportunities that come along.

Goals you've been striving to reach.

Changes you've wanted to make.

So many moments that are beautiful and bright.

And everything that will help you roll happily along through life!

(Words by Douglas Pagels).

*Margaret Hogan
Pastoral.*

Choir at Norley

Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances, the choir has not been able to meet to rehearse.

Let's hope that by September, things will improve, and it will be safe for us to meet as a group to sing.

Saro Jesudason.

First Wednesday Walks

December's 1st Wednesday walk was superbly organised by John and Sylvia Lynch.

14 of us met at Whitegate Station where we enjoyed coffee in the café before setting off along the Whitegate Way towards Winsford. Some of us walked further than others before turning round to walk back to the café.

We were under orders to be back by 12.15 in order to assemble at the White Barn by 12.30 for our Christmas lunch, which was much enjoyed in the refurbished surroundings.

What a great start to the Christmas season

Thanks John and Sylvia

Bruce Lane

The January First Wednesday Walk was led by Peter & Sheila and took place in Delamere Forest, with eleven members taking part, with Sheila on her tricycle. We parked at Barnes Bridge Gates and took the wheelchair path down to Blakemere Moss. We followed the northern and eastern shores of the moss before striking out past the Go Ape site to the Visitor centre. Here we had a welcome break for coffee and cake at the new café. After this we headed west before re-crossing the railway and heading back to Barnes Bridge Gates. A slight detour from the planned route was needed as some paths were closed while they dismantled the Christmas Lights show. *Words Peter Hills*

February First Wednesday Walk took place at Dunham Massey Park and gardens and 15 of us met up at the café and enjoyed coffee before we split into two groups, one doing a circular walk around the deer park (the deer were only seen in the distance as they had all gathered for their morning feed). The second group went straight to the gardens and were fortunately able to join a garden tour and were shown around by a knowledgeable guide. Both groups joined again for lunch and those who had missed the garden tour were able to visit the gardens for themselves. It was good to see the snowdrops and other early flowers.
Richard Ramsbottom

Why not join us on future walks – the start and time will be in the notices. The dates are

Wednesday 2nd March led by Bruce & Ruth at Tatton Park Gardens

Wednesday 6th April led by Heather & Anthony around “The Lymm Heritage Trail “

Wednesday 4th May led by Garry & Vaughan

Christmas at Norley

Christmas was celebrated well at Norley.

We had a well-attended candlelit carol service on 19th December at 4pm, an evening singing around the Christmas tree on 22nd December at 6pm, continuing the initiative of 2018, and a Christmas Day morning service on the 25th at 9am – we were not at all deterred by the pandemic.

The Church was lit up throughout the Christmas period by projecting continuously changing lights onto the windows and the effect was quite magical. Thanks to all involved.

The lights and decorations were taken down by 12th night as is traditional.

The New Year started with our annual Covenant Service on January 9th when we committed our year to God’s will.

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). The CLT met on 15th February and decided:-

1. To approach Canon Ron at St John’s to see we can work more ecumenically together
2. To relax further the Covid restrictions (see article on pages 4 and 5)
3. To respond from the Church to Neil’s letter by the end of February

4. To express the CLT's support for Andrew's sabbatical from May to August
5. To complete the preaching plan for the next quarter
6. To plan for the Annual Church meeting in May

Reports were received on the financial position and the property activities.

Bruce Lane

Financial update

Last time, in the first edition of Outreach since lockdown, I summarised the church's financial situation as it had unfolded since the previous report. It asked the question, 'are we still solvent?', and the answer was 'yes', and we still are.

We are midway through the year 2021-22 in which some unplanned but necessary significant expenditures were more than outweighed by generous sources of income, some of which will be enhanced by claiming gift-aid. As things stand, we shall at least break even in the year to the end of August.

Between September 2021 and February 2022, £1902 was donated to seven charities, comprising £602 to the West Cheshire foodbank, £350 to All We Can (the Methodist Relief and Development agency), £250 each to OPAL (Older People, Active Lives) in rural Cheshire West and the Christian Aid Afghanistan appeal, £200 to the Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum, £150 to Samaritan's Purse (for Operation Christmas Child) and £100 to Norley News.

A comprehensive half-year report will be presented to the Church Council in March and an outline budget for 2022-23 proposed. It is anticipated that the external painting of the church buildings will be accomplished in the summer of 2023, for which provision has been made in reserves held in our deposit account at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

John Bell, Treasurer

Property Matters

Since the last Outreach, the property team have been busy working on the 6 agreed projects for this connexional year.

Thanks to Michael and Boyd the sound system has been renewed with an excellent result much appreciated by the listeners with its new amplifier and new speakers.

The retiling of the disabled toilet has also been completed in the last couple of weeks to an agreed quote - but the toilet itself and the basin and the water heater had also to be replaced as part of the project. We now have a superloo! worthy of a 5-star hotel. This 'refreshing' of the toilets was called for at the last quinquennial inspection and has been completed just in time with the next one falling due at the end of the next connexional year.

The condemned heater in the vestry has been replaced with a fan heater on a 7-day timer, and the floodlight has been repaired on the High Street side of the church.

The completion of the new sockets for the AV system to an agreed quote has been delayed by the serious illness of the electrician who is expected to recover and complete the job shortly.

So, 4 of the 6 are complete and the 5th is well underway. As soon as more frequent access is approved by the church than the current 48-hour rule allows, then we can address the repairs to the Sunday School ceiling and redecorate it.

Two unexpected jobs have arisen – the corridor fluorescent light by the kitchen failed. An LED replacement has been bought to replace it, which will be done by the recovering electrician at an agreed price, and the purlin and rafter at the corner of the kitchen by Gambrell's garden have rotten away and need to be replaced.

The big job is next year – the exterior redecoration of the church, scheduled for August 2023. A detailed specification has been drawn up and is out with 3 companies to quote. We hope to be deciding on the company to do the work next month. *Bruce Lane*

Church Calendar

Date	Time	Activity
March		
Ash Wednesday, 2 nd		First Wednesday Walk
Ash Wednesday, 2 nd	10am – 4pm	'Your Kingdom Come – Prayers of Liberation' in church
Friday 4 th	1.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer service at St Laurence's Church, Frodsham
Saturday 5 th	10am – 4pm	'Your Kingdom Come – Prayers of Liberation' in church
Sunday 6 th	10.45am	Service led by John Bell
Sunday 13 th	10.45am	Service of Holy Communion led by the Revd Andrew Emison
Tuesday 15 th	7.00pm	'Food for Thought' led by Ruth and Bruce Lane
Wednesday 16 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Helsby
Sunday 20 th	10.45am	Service led by John Bell
Tuesday 22 nd	7.15pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 27 th	10.45am	Mothering Sunday Service led by Sean Davidson of Runcorn
April		
Sunday 3 rd	10.45am	Service led by members of the congregation
Wednesday 6 th		First Wednesday Walk
Sunday 10 th	10.45am	Service led by the Revd Andrew Emison
Wednesday 13 th	7.30pm	Church Leadership Team Meeting at Howell Croft
Friday 15 th	11.00am	Good Friday Service led by the Revd Andrew Emison

Sunday 17 th	10.45am	Easter Morning Celebration led by the Revd Anne Gibson of Tarporley with Holy Communion
Wednesday 20 th	7.00pm	'Food for Thought' led by John Bell
Thursday 21 st	7.30pm	Local Preachers' Meeting at Helsby with Holy Communion
Sunday 24 th	10.45am	Church Anniversary Service led by the Revd Helen Kirk, District Chair
Tuesday 29 th	2.00pm	Pastoral Committee at Howell Croft
May		
Sunday 1 st	10.45am	Service led by Deacon John Clarke of Frodsham
Saturday 7 th	10.00am	Synod
Sunday 8 th	10.45am	Service led by the Revd Andrew Emison followed by the Annual Church Meeting and Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	10.45am	Service led by Ruth Lane
Sunday 15 th	6.00pm	Easter Offering Service at Saughall
Sunday 15 th to Saturday 21 st		Christian Aid week
From 15 th to August		Revd Andrew Emison on Sabbatical
Sunday 22 nd	10.45am	Local Arrangements
May 29 th	10.45am	Service led by Philip Garner
June		
Wednesday 1 st		First Wednesday Walk

March Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council Meeting will take place at the Church on **Tuesday 22nd March at 7.15pm.**

Agenda and papers will be circulated nearer the time!

Spiritual Committee

The Spiritual Committee continues to meet approximately every quarter to consider arrangements for worship and other gatherings.

Lent

The start of Lent is on Wednesday 2nd March and this year we are embracing the theme of 'Liberation', which has wide-reaching connotations not least in respect of the easing of Covid-19 restrictions put upon our daily lives, fellowship, and worship. To help us reflect on this as a church and within our community the Spiritual Committee has agreed to open the church on 'Ash Wednesday' (2nd March) and Saturday (5th March) to host an event '**Your Kingdom Come – prayers for liberation**'.

The church will be open from 10am – 4pm on these days allowing people to attend for personal prayer and reflection. Please support this event and invite others as you feel appropriate.

Additional dates to note during Lent are as follows:

- Mothering Sunday is on 27th March (10.45am service)
- Palm Sunday is on 10th April (10.45am service)
- Good Friday is on 15th April (11am service)
- Easter Sunday 17th April (10.45am service)

Church Anniversary

The Spiritual Committee is delighted to report that Revd. Helen Kirk, District Chair – Chester and Stoke on Trent Methodist District will lead our celebrations and worship on 24th April 2022. We extend a very warm welcome to Revd. Helen and look forward to her visit.

Food for Thought

Our discussion group 'Food for Thought' meets monthly and goes from strength to strength. A lively time of worship and discussion is enjoyed by all who attend. If you've not been before then why not give it a try? Upcoming dates:

- 15th March 2022
– Ruth & Bruce Lane
- 20th April 2022
– John Bell

Weekly District Prayer Meetings

Revd. Helen Kirk is also hosting a weekly prayer meeting for 30 minutes each Thursday from 6:00 to 6:30pm on Zoom. This is an opportunity to pray for our church, our mission, and our society. All are welcome. If you are unable to join us, why not take a few moments to pray wherever you are.

For those online:

<https://zoom.us/j/9372433301?pwd=cStUYUxsMVFZSU1LNGIORVd5NkIpQT09>

Meeting ID: 937 2433 3301 Passcode: 841588

To join by telephone dial: 020 3695 0088

Meeting ID: 937 2433 3301 # Participant ID: # Meeting Passcode: 841588 #

Michael Gough

Annual Church Meeting

Everyone is invited to our Annual Church meeting which will be held after the morning service on **Sunday 8th May**

This is the meeting where we elect our representatives to the Church Council and our Stewards.

We will also agree which external charities we will support over the next 12 months

Further details will be posted in the weekly notices

Please come along, share your ideas and get involved!

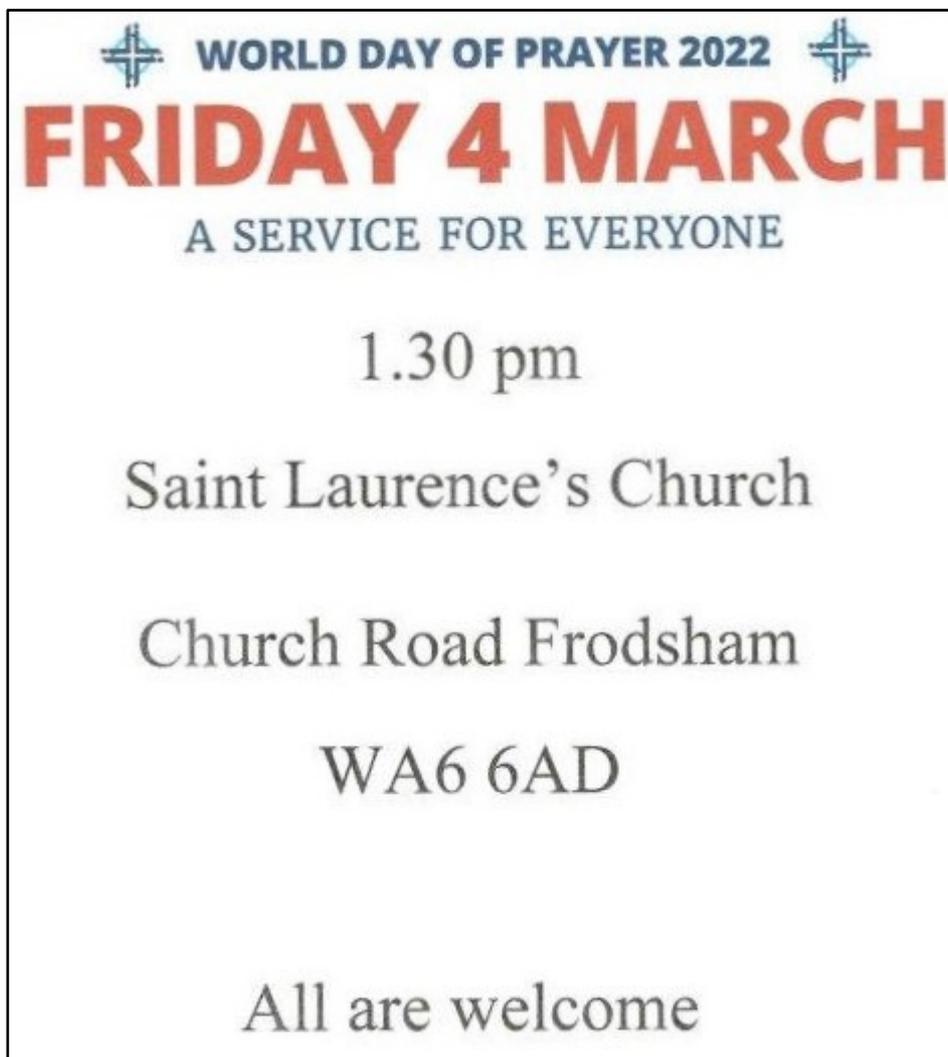
Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Last year (2021) - Norley village raised an amazing £1,900.75 including Gift Aid (including donations by cheque by Norley Methodist Church and St Johns and Crowton Anglicans). This is a remarkable figure given that there was no door-to-door collection last year. The money was used is for climate change projects in Kenya which has been experiencing the worst drought in living memory brought about by Climate Change.

Christian Aid Week in 2022 will be from 15-21st May. The focus this year is on drought in Zimbabwe and the planting of drought-tolerant crops – more details of how to contribute will be given in the notices.

Michael Gough
Coordinator, Norley Christian Aid



A Carbon neutral Church?

It must be our objective as a Church to not damage the environment and not to contribute to global warming.

So how did we shape up in 2021?

It was an unusual year to say the least – there were less meetings in Church than in a normal year and hence we did not heat the church as much as normal.

We release CO₂ into the atmosphere by burning natural gas to heat the church and by consuming electricity to light it.

So what did we contribute as our environmental burden?

In 2021 we consumed natural gas to generate 10,047 Kwh. According to government sources, a Kwh of natural gas puts 0.185Kg of CO₂ into the atmosphere, so we released **1,858Kg CO₂** from heating the Church

In 2021 we consumed 978Kwh of electricity. According to the UK government, electricity is produced by emitting on average 0.233Kg of CO₂ into the atmosphere from the fuel mix used by the power generators, so we released **228Kg CO₂** from lighting the Church.

So in total our environmental burden was **2,086Kg**

However, we also generated electricity from our solar panels and fed it into the grid without releasing any CO₂ to the atmosphere. In 2021 this amounted to 3,296Kwh.

How much CO₂ was saved by the power companies not having to make this electricity? The answer depends on which fuel was not used to generate the electricity. Typically, the UK has generated historically about 30% of its electricity from coal which releases 1.01Kg of CO₂ per Kwh generated. In 2020 the demand for power was much less due to lockdown and the electricity generation from coal which is dropping year on year, dropped dramatically to 3.4% in 2020. Figures are not yet available for 2021.

If we assume our electricity reduced the use of coal - coal releasing the highest amount of CO₂ per Kwh generated - then our electricity generation from the solar panels saved 3,300Kg CO₂.

Hence in 2021, we saved over 1000Kg of CO₂ and

Norley Methodist Church was Carbon Neutral.

Doesn't that feel good to know?

Bruce Lane



In May 2021 the Trussell Trust (the charity which runs most of the Foodbanks) published its report 'State of Hunger 2021'. This is a follow-up to the most authoritative piece of independent research into hunger in the UK, commissioned by the charity and conducted by Heriot-Watt University. The study sheds light on the groups of people across the UK disproportionately affected by hunger and the drivers behind foodbank use.

You can read the report at: www.trusselltrust.org/state-of-hunger and here are some of the main headlines.

More than six in ten (62%) of working-age people referred to a food bank in early 2020 were disabled – that's more than three times the rate in the UK working-age population. And single-parent families are more likely to be forced to a foodbank, with almost one in five (18%) of households referred to food banks during the pandemic being single parents – that's more than twice the rate in the general population (8%).

According to the report, people need support from foodbanks because of a fundamental lack of income; most people referred to foodbanks do not receive enough income to afford the essentials. The most immediate driver of these low levels of income is social security, often due to the design of the system. Social security issues are also compounded by other 'background' factors – namely difficult life experiences and ill health, and a lack of local support.

The Trussell Trust are calling for a plan to end the need for Foodbanks: Their plan, very briefly, requires action from Government at all levels to:

- Ensure our UK social security system provides everyone with enough to afford the essentials and that no one has to rely on the distribution of emergency food, by making sure benefit payments are sufficient, accessible, and responsive.

- Ensure local lifelines are available to get people the right support at the right time with immediate support to ensure a short-term crisis does not turn into long-term hardship, by investing in cash-based grants and coordinated local support services.
- Involve foodbanks and people with lived experience in shaping the plan to end the need for foodbanks, harnessing the expertise and commitment in communities across the country to end the need for food banks.

Your continued support for our local Foodbanks, via monetary and food donations is greatly appreciated and updates of donations made are included in the weekly notices.

Michael and Lesley Gough

Elizabeth Pickering's Trowel revisited



The trowel now mounted in the Church near the organ was presented to Elizabeth Pickering on 21 July 1881 on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stones of Norley Wesleyan Methodist Church, as reported in the Methodist Recorder, when she and her husband William donated £100 towards the cost of the new chapel. It was returned to the Church in 2016 by George Thornley who had found it in a cupboard following his wife's death earlier in 2016 and an article was published in Outlook in Autumn 2016.

With the publication last month of the 1921 census, Bruce's sister Beth has been able to complete the history and succession of events surrounding Elizabeth Pickering's trowel.

Elizabeth herself had died in 1891 and William Pickering remarried Sarah and they lived at the farm opposite the church, known as Smithy Bank farm. They had 3 children, Ernie, Winifred and Alice. William dies in 1899 Sarah and their 3 children living in Smithy Bank Farm opposite the Church according to the 1901 census (with the trowel amongst their possessions).

In the 1911 census, Sarah and the family (Ernest, Winifred and Alice) are no longer living at Smithy Bank Farm opposite the Church but have moved their farm tenancy to Bratt's Bank Farm, Norley whose access track is from the corner of Moss Lane, just down from my house. In the 1921 census Sarah (aged 63) is registered as a retired farmer living at 430 High Street, Over, Winsford with her three children Ernest (now 26) – a Tank Wagon Steam Driver for British petroleum Oil Co Ltd - Winifred (25) – 'on house duties'- and Alice (22) – also on house duties.

George Thornley who returned the trowel to the church in 2016 was then aged 98 and in a wheelchair, and was born therefore in 1918, and would have known Norley during the time that his father, the Reverend John Wesley Thornley, a Wesleyan Methodist minister was stationed in the Northwich circuit from September 1921 to September 1923, which would include the chapel at Norley at that time.



The Thornleys took Alice Pickering on to look after their children and Alice moved around with them until the boys went to war in 1940, when she was 'let go' and settled in Nottingham where the Thornley's had retired. Alice seems to have inherited the trowel on her mother's death. George looked after Alice after his return from the war, regarding her as his second mother and when Alice died in 1975, he and his wife inherited her possessions. George found the trowel whilst clearing out his wife's possessions following her death recently, and Angela, his daughter tracked us down. The trail of how George had the trowel to return it to us is now complete.

However, George said he remembered visiting Smithy Bank Farm with Alice, delivering milk with her brother Ernie who was the milkman, feeding the chickens and so on when he was 3 or 4 but the Pickerings had moved on from Smithy Bank Farm before he was born, and this would seem to be somewhat *George Thornley with son Derek and daughter Angela in 2016*

inaccurate. He may have been shown the farm later on a visit with his nanny Alice back to her family. Ernie in 1921 was not the Norley milkman if he ever was but a driver for BP living in Winsford.

Hence in summary Elizabeth Pickering's Trowel was inherited by her husband William on his wife's death, and then by his second wife Sarah following William's death. It was passed on to their daughter Alice following Sarah's death, possibly because of her connection with the Methodist Church. Following Alice's death in 1975, it came into the possession of George Thornley and his wife, along with other personal effects from Alice. and was rediscovered by George following his wife's death in February 2016, and kindly donated back to Norley Methodist Church in August 2016.

Bruce Lane (with thanks to Beth Bainbridge)