

OUTREACH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM NORLEY METHODIST CHURCH

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Dear Friends,

*He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people.
And he sends rain for the ones who do right and for the ones who do wrong.
Matthew 5:45*

As we start the summer and people start talking of summer holidays the proverbial question arises, 'what will the weather be like?'

I find this Bible verse comforting; because it says that God doesn't choose good or bad people to get the sun or rain. Indeed, as Bruce found out in 'Bruce Almighty', God can't give everyone everything they ask for in prayer. Holiday makers want the sun, farmers need some rain and some sun, and water companies require a lot of precipitation! Behind the parable is Jesus saying that God doesn't give anyone either bad luck or good? We know from the furore that arises when an evil person wins the lottery or a good person is struck down with cancer it doesn't always seem fair.

But, rain or shine, in good times or bad, God is there for us. We are called the children of God because like a good father he watches out for us. Having given us life, he cares about what happens to us, and helps when life is hard and rejoices when life goes well.

The summer is often a chance to take stock, to take a break and have some time to stop and think about what is happening in life. It is often the time when life changes – for young people leaving school or university and moving into work; for a couple getting married, moving house or changing career or taking retirement.

Take time out this summer to think and pray about what God wants for you. Whether you feel your life is bathed in sunshine or you are fighting against the floods, God loves you and cares for you.

Whatever the summer brings, come rain or shine, know God's presence is always with you.

Every Blessing

Sue

Pastoral Piece

Greetings everyone,

It has been a while since I did my pastoral piece. Thanks to Bruce Lane for stepping in and doing the Spring Edition,

My sincere thanks to all concerned for their pastoral visits, cards and flowers which I received following my surgical operation. I am pleased to say that I am now back in good health and it is wonderful to be free from pain.

This year already appears to be passing us by, and so much is happening. For me it has been quite a year so far. Recently I celebrated my 80th birthday. I cannot believe I have reached the golden age!! – but my birth certificate confirms it is right. My sister kindly presented me with a trip to Tenerife for 10 days (wow) at a place called Golf Del Sur, St Andres. Beautiful peaceful location, blue skies every day with plenty of sunshine (am I making you jealous?). We could certainly do with it being warmer here. So now the holiday and birthday celebrations are over, it's back down to earth.

I sincerely hope you have all been keeping well. At present the flowers and blossoms are lovely, but the wind blows them away. Let's hope we get some summer soon. Our pastoral visitors continue to do visits etc. whenever required. My thanks to them all for their continued support and excellent work. If we can assist you at all you only have to contact us.

I trust that you all have a good summer, keep healthy, and take care. May God watch over you all. I leave you with this thought

*All good things in Life flow freely:
Love, laughter and happiness*

God Bless
(01928 788960)

Margaret Hogan

Craft Club News

Craft Club continues to flourish with seventeen members and provides a cheerful, friendly place for coffee, chat, occasional trips out for coffee or lunch, and of course, the main objective, craft. The crafts followed are, as always, varied and it is good to see and admire what other members are doing. We continue to support the Petty Pool Trust when we can and in June we are having a stall at their Open Day hoping to raise some funds for them. The Chief Executive, Peter Evans, who has reached retirement, has offered to give an informal talk about his experiences, both at Petty Pool, and before, including working with the fire service. He will be very interesting indeed. The date is yet to be fixed but please watch out for it as everyone will be very welcome to hear him.

Alison Twinn

Family Worker Report.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118 v 24

Often we can get weighed down with the 'what if's' and life in general. Perhaps we forget to stop and be grateful for the things we have got or have done. Thinking positive thoughts help us to cope with day to day living. The book of Hebrews has become a treasure source of encouragement and hope for Christians through the centuries. The writer reminds us that Jesus is always the same and always there as our friend.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Hebrews 13 v 8

May you be in a positive place, as the nights are lighter and summer approaches fast.

Positive updates.

The Chat and Chill lunchtime group at Norley school attracts good numbers, with a wide age range of children.

Joe and I are organising a Year 6 morning again at Oakmere Methodist church where we focus on the 'It's Your Move' booklets that all year 6 children get at this time of year to help them move on to High School.

I am still visiting Norley School to take assembly once a week.

There are two more dates for the Wise Up after school group:-

June 9th – theme Daniel and the Lions' Den.

July 14th - theme Journeys.

Looking ahead.

Discussions are taking place to organise a sleepover event at Frodsham for young people using material from 3 Generate. Young people from Norley will be invited to join in this event.

3 Generate – Youth weekend.

On November 20-22nd this year the Methodist church will be holding their annual Youth weekend. Tickets will be going on sale from June 2015. This weekend caters for children from age 8-23. You will be involved in outdoor activities, games, discussion, crafts, worship and lots more. Connecting you with many young people who go to Methodist churches around Britain. Watch their promotional video on You tube: 3Generate 2015 promo video. If you are interested in going this year speak to Andrea Ellams.

God bless
Andrea Ellams

Choirs at Norley.

The great Egyptian, Greek, Chinese and Indian civilisations loved music and have excellent traditions but the music was always unisonal. The European races evolved with their music from plainsong to parallel singing to madrigals to counterpoint and to harmony. During the first half of the eighteenth century music has come to a balance between these two interests of counterpoint and harmony. Any chorus from Bach's St. Matthew Passion or from Handel's Messiah exemplifies this balance.

The Harmony choir on Good Friday sang the Passion Chorale "O Sacred Head Sore wounded". I chose the arrangement that had the beautiful quaver bass passages sung by John. On Easter Sunday morning they sang "The Strife is o'er" set to an arrangement by Melchior Vulpus. They gave an uplifting performance befitting the joyous Easter morn.

During the evening service, The Band of Hope and Joy sang in unison the lively song entitled "Sing out an Easter Song". They sang it with good syncopation and diction.

My thanks to the members for making the time for rehearsals despite commitments of work, holidays, clubs and committees.

Saro Jesudason.

Easter at Norley

Jesus' crucifixion was remembered in a moving and well attended service on Good Friday led by Rev David Copley. We are so pleased that David, a supernumerary minister, has moved into our circuit and is able and willing to lead services in our Church.

The service was enhanced by a moving piece from the Harmony Choir (see earlier).

Your editor is usually away at Easter, so this was my first Good Friday service at Norley for many years and I was deeply moved by the experience.

The next day, Saturday saw many members hard at work decorating the church ready for Easter Sunday and the celebration of His resurrection. Many thanks everybody– the result was beautiful.

In a special early service starting at 9am on the Sunday, our own minister Sue led the resurrection celebrations with an all age worship, including a piece from the Harmony Choir, where the cross was decorated with flowers, and a communion service (There was also a dedication of the glass doors – see later).

The celebrations continued in the evening with a songs of praise organised by the spiritual committee including a well-received performance by the Band of Hope and Joy (see earlier).

Continuing our recent tradition, the decorated cross was then placed out in the church garden to announce Jesus' resurrection to the village.

Bruce Lane

The Church Glass Doors

As announced in the last Outreach, thanks to the magnificent response to the appeal, the money had been raised, and the order for the new doors was placed in January with Yoxalls of Northwich for installation by Easter Sunday.

A template was made of the existing opening, Yoxalls duly arrived on the Tuesday before Good Friday, and by Wednesday midday the doors were installed. This left just enough time to varnish and repaint the frame to complete the job before the planned dedication on Easter Sunday .

The result has been much admired. The visibility of the church to the village achieved by both the tree removal and by the glass doors is deeply symbolic of our mission to be more open to the village and to engage with it.

Many 'Norleyites' have commented very favourably on the changes – some even saying that they didn't know there was a church there previously.

Bruce Lane

The Dedication

We were able to dedicate the doors in the Easter Sunday morning service in recognition of Jean Dunning's outstanding service in leading the Christmas carol singing for many many years. Well done Jean!

1st Wednesday Walks

The March walk was led by Bruce and Ruth. This walk was especially memorable as Jim was able to join in with Ann for the first 1½ miles – wonderful. Pictures were of course taken of this momentous achievement and stored securely. So securely Ruth can't find them!

The full walk was 4 miles around the Northwich Community Woodlands starting at The Moorings by Anderton Marina, and went through Marbury Country Park to Budworth Mere. Here great crested grebes were present in large numbers, doing their spring courting dance. From there we went through Big Wood, crossed the Trent and Mersey Canal and walked down to Neumann's Flash and on to Haydn's Pool (more birds on view). We continued on crossing the Trent and Mersey canal again, and passing through Hopyards Wood, before arriving at The Moorings for lunch. *(words by Ruth Lane)*

Ken and Margaret Davies led our April walk which started at Cole Mere, one of nine meres formed in the last Ice Age, followed the Shropshire Union Canal then up & over The Plantation, an area of land used as allotments during the last war, now a woodland. We passed the site of Ellesmere castle, which was a Mott & Bailey design & walked down to the main Mere at Ellesmere where there is a heronry on the island in the mere, before re-tracing our route back along the canal & around the opposite side of Cole Mere. The weather again was kind to the group of 12 & we finished the walk off with a lovely lunch at The Sun Inn in Welshampton. *(words and pictures by Ken Davies)*

The May walk, led by Vaughan and Garry, centred on the fields and woodland of the Erddig Country Park. Eleven of us set out from the Felin Puleston car park and followed the paths alongside the Clywedog river and meadows of the Clywedog trail before turning up through the woodland towards the Hall itself. The banks in the wood were bedecked with white wild garlic flowers and bluebells, a lovely sight. Circumventing the Hall we eventually dropped down once again to the river and on to the car park, finishing our outing at the Holly Bush Inn at Cefn Y Bedd for a well deserved lunch. We were delighted to welcome Alison Penny on her first walk with the group. *(words and pictures by Garry Wynne)*

Future walks are planned for

Wednesday 3rd June – led by Heather and Anthony

Wednesday 1st July – led by Tony Knight

Wednesday 5th August – led by Di and Richard

Further information slips on each walk are available from the church porch in the month before the walk. We meet on the day at the church at 9.45 for a 10.00 am departure each month – we hope to see you there.

Bruce Lane

We are delighted to welcome back Katy Levitt after her time in China, and **were also delighted to have a visit from Judith & Alan Forest** in March after 5 years away.

Diary

Unless stated in the notices the following group meets weekly

Craft Club Tuesdays 10.00am – noon in the Open Door Room

June 2015

Wednesday	3 rd	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
		7.30pm	Café Church – Ken Jackson
Sunday	7 th	10.45am	Mrs Bronwen Braidell of Chester All Age Worship
		6.30pm	Mr Mark Smyth of Chester
Tuesday	9 th	3.15pm	Wise Up after school club
Wednesday	10 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Norley
MHA Sunday	14 th	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt followed by Annual Church Meeting
			followed by lunch, then Sacrament
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Monday	15 th	4.00pm	Spiritual Committee meeting at Howell Croft
Monday 15 th – Sunday 21 st			Refugee Week
Wednesday	17 th	7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday	21 st	9.00am	No Norley@9 – Jeremy Dare is preaching later.
		10.45am	Mr Jeremy Dare, Chair of Shetland District
		6.30pm	Mr John Bell of Cuddington / Mr Jeremy Dare, Chair of Shetland District - Alternative Worship
Thursday	25 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Saturday 27 th – Thursday 2 nd August			Dates of the Methodist Conference at Southport for Lay representatives

Conference	28 th	10.45am	Mr Philip Garner of Norley
Sunday		6.30pm	Mr Geoffrey Robinson of Helsby
		6.30pm	Ordination service at Blackburn Cathedral for Linda Watkin as a Deacon
		6.30pm	Ordination service at Chester Cathedral

July 2015

Wednesday	1 st	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
Sunday	5 th	10.45am	Mr Andrew Ellams of Frodsham - All Age Worship
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament
Wednesday	8 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		7.30pm	Local Preachers' Meeting at Oakmere
Saturday	11 th	6.30pm	Safari Supper
Action for Children	12 th	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament
Sunday		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Tuesday	14 th	3.15pm	Wise Up after school club
Friday	17 th	7.00pm	Church Leadership meeting at the Levitts'
Sunday	19 th	10.45am	Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
		4.00pm	Circuit Service of Farewell at Saughall to Rev'd Paul and Mrs Bronwen Braidell
Thursday	23 rd	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Sunday	26 th	10.45am	Mrs Elizabeth Holmes of Frodsham
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament

August 2015

Sunday	2 nd	10.45am	Mr Robert Swettenham of Chester
		6.30pm	Joint service at Blakelees
Wednesday	5 th	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
Sunday	9 th	10.45am	Rev David Goodwin of Hoole – Sacrament
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
		6.30pm	Caldy Valley – service to mark the end of the Circuit Project
Wednesday	12 th	12 noon	Open Door Room lunch

Sunday	16 th	10.45am	Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
		6.00pm	Joint service at Frodsham
Sunday	23 rd	10.45am	Mrs Janet Batey of The Hurst
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacramento
Thursday	27 th	12 noon	Open Door Room lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Sunday	30 th	10.45am	Mr Ken Jackson of Caldly Valley
		6.30pm	Joint service at Blakelees

September 2015

Wednesday	2 nd	4.00pm	Sunday School planning meeting at Howell Croft
Saturday	5 th	4.00pm	Saltney – Welcome service for Rev David Speed
Wednesday	10 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Saturday	12 th	10.00am	Autumn Synod North Staffs
Friday 20 th – Sunday 22 nd			Church Weekend Away – Grange-over-Sands
Thursday	25 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Saturday	26 th		Harvest surprise – book the date
Sunday	27 th	10.45am	Harvest Festival – Rev Peter Levitt
		6.30pm	Harvest Festival - Rev Sue Levitt

James Dale's thought for the quarter:-

The new notice board is now going up, and I hope that in the future this "sign" will show our faith to all.

**Summer is a-coming in. Loudly sing cuckoo.
Groweth seed and bloweth mead and springs the wood anew.**

Summer is coming and with gardens to tend, warmer weather, longer evenings and holidays a lot of regular activities are not taking place.

Here are some highlights of what is on the calendar in June, July and August-

Café Church on June 3rd at 7.30pm led by Ken Jackson

The Annual Church Meeting (ACM), followed by lunch and Holy Communion will be held on 14th June following a shortened morning service. One of the activities of the ACM is to decide on the church's charitable donations for the year, so do come with ideas on which charities should be supported.

21st June the Revd Jeremy Dare, Chair of the Shetland District, will be leading worship at 10.45am and the Revd Jeremy Dare and John Bell will be leading an alternative evening worship at 6.30pm.

Jeremy and his wife Sheila visited Norley a few years ago and we are delighted to welcome them back with us and hear of their very interesting and different life in the Shetland District.

A contingent from Norley representing our District (Rev Sue, Ruth and Bruce Lane) and former Vice President of the Methodist Conference (John Bell together with Joan) will be attending the Methodist Conference which takes place from Saturday 27th June to Thursday 2nd July. It is amazing that so many 'Norleyites' will be there and it is hoped that they will come back excited by what they have seen and heard. During

Conference Linda Watkin, who many will remember as she was a former youth worker at Norley, will be ordained into the diaconal order.

Saturday July 11th – the Safari Supper with start times from 6.30pm – 7.30pm. The first course will be at the home of Heather and Anthony Davies, Little Acre, Station Road, Delamere, followed by the main course at Ruth and Bruce Lane's, Howell Croft, Cow Lane, Norley, and finishing up at Norley Methodist Church for desserts, cheese and biscuits and coffee or tea.

All offers of help will be very gratefully accepted.

The Circuit Project 'Transforming Women's Lives in Afghanistan' was completed successfully in the spring. The Circuit raised £13,500, £10,000 of which will be match funded by the EU 3:1, so that a magnificent £43,500 is going to support this work by Christian Aid in Afghanistan. To celebrate this success there will be a Circuit Service at Caldy Valley on August 9th at 6.30pm.

Because of holidays there will be several combined evening services:-

July 19th at 4pm a Circuit Service at Saughall

August 2nd at 6.30pm at Blakelees

August 16th at 6.00pm at Frodsham

August 23rd at 6.30pm at Norley

August 30th at 6.30pm at Blakelees

Then, looking ahead to September, we will celebrate our Harvest Festival on Sunday 27th September. The morning service will be led by the Revd Peter Levitt and the evening service by the Revd Sue. Plans are afoot for some special activities on Saturday September 26th so keep this date free and wait for further announcements.

Ruth Lane

OPEN DOOR LUNCHES

At last the Summer is with us and we look forward to days out in the sunshine. We do hope you will be able to join us for lunch - you will be most welcome.

Our dates are as follows:

Wednesday June 10th

Thursday June 25th

Wednesday July 8th

Thursday July 23rd

Wednesday August 12th

Thursday August 27th

Joan Bell

An invitation to you to come to the

THURSDAY CLUB

June 25th

July 23rd

August 27th

September 25th

1.15pm to 2.30pm

in the Open Door Room, Norley Methodist Church

Christian Aid Week

Many thanks to all those who took out the envelopes and collected them. The total raised will be reported in the next issue of Outreach once we have been able to count all the money.

Ruth Lane and Rita Boone

NORLEY METHODIST CHURCH

SAFARI SUPPER

Saturday 11th July

Start times between 6.30pm and 7.30pm

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

For more information and tickets contact Hazel Dale on 01928 787216.

Church artefacts

It was a privilege to lead worship on the Sunday morning during the Christmas Tree Festival in December 2014, and to invite the congregation, appropriately, to reflect on the significance of trees and wood in Christian faith. Jesus, the carpenter, became the crucified Christ on a cross of wood. We looked at the tools of the carpenter's trade in the stained glass window high above the cross and communion table, and touched many of the wooden artefacts in the church, reminding ourselves of their provenance.

Afterwards, several people shared their further knowledge of how the things we see and touch every week came to be made and provided, as a result of which it has been agreed that I will seek to compile it all into a booklet, so that we may not lose these fascinating stories.

A request to provide information was made in the weekly notice-sheet in April, but I am taking the opportunity to publicise the project more widely and invite anyone who reads this and may know about the artefacts in the Church (not just the wooden ones) to let me know, preferably by email at johnabell@supanet.com. As I said in the notice-sheet, I would rather receive information a few times than not have it at all. Do get in touch.

It is intended to complete the booklet by the end of the summer.

John Bell

Norley Methodist Church – Open for Business

The changes to the garden have dramatically opened the Church up to the village.



Finance matters

It is all too easy for the Treasurer to comment that there is nothing remarkable to report on the financial front, as a combination of relatively small deviations from budgeted income and expenditure cancel each other out and having set a balanced budget, we are therefore 'doing ok', which is largely true.

Just two points need to be added. First, the achievement of a break-even position at the year-end (August 31st) does depend heavily on a successful Safari Supper in July: and, secondly, the Property Steward advises that the replacement of the church lighting may need to be brought forward – though this is a cash flow matter as the work is already fully budgeted for 2015-16.

However, there is a remarkable achievement to report and celebrate – the installation of the new front doors, with their glass panels beautifully framed. It is a proud achievement that a project mooted at the Church Council last October should lead to the raising of £2200 (including gift-aid) and the dedication of the doors on Easter Sunday morning, less than six months later.

The Church is immensely grateful to everyone who gave so generously to enable the funds to be raised, in addition to regular weekly giving. For the record, the final bill was exactly £2215.03 and the sum raised, including gift-aid, was £2211.25. We managed to find the remaining £3.78!

John Bell, Treasurer

Church web-site

Key in **norleymethodistchurch.org.uk** and you will find our Church web-site. Having been set up a few years ago, it has recently been refreshed and brought up to date. The front page is renewed as appropriate to advertise the main celebrations and events in the life of the church.

The work is done by Martin Bell at martin@marblewebsites.co.uk

Do look at it next time you are surfing the net.

John Bell