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June 2016

Dear Friends,

The telephone is both a blessing and a bane but life without it would be unthinkable. I seem to spend more time on the phone these days and it can make me more aware of the 'invisible', even when I am expecting a call. When answering a call some people I know and can easily picture as I talk with them, others are unknown to me and I cannot help but try to 'picture' the person who embodies the 'voice'. I find it can be very difficult to do even after many years of talking to people over the phone.

Coping with the limitations of the telephone where we only have a disembodied voice to relate to, even though we know there is 'someone out there' talking to us, can help us to understand how we feel about the invisible God who is our Father. It is not always easy to relate to God the Father nor to his Son, the Risen and Ascended Christ who promises to be with us always but as an invisible presence. If only we lived in Palestine with the disciples and Jesus, walking and talking with him around Galilee and Samaria!

But we don't and we cannot go back in time to sit at the Master's feet. We are called by faith to 'look' to the invisible Jesus who 'speaks' to us through the Bible, prayer, hymns, fellowship, worship, silence, friends, the stranger, the poor, and the unexpected 'voices' of people who may not claim to have any special spiritual insights to offer but they can make us stop and think about God and the Kingdom.

How comfortable do we feel at talking to an 'invisible' person at the other end of a telephone line? And are we equally comfortable or uncomfortable at talking to our 'invisible' Heavenly Father in prayer? I'd be interested to hear your thoughts on the subject – please feel free to telephone me and let me know what you think!

May we all hear God speaking to us in love day by day.

Every Blessing

Sue

Pastoral Piece

As a child I can remember my mother saying to me “Never cast a clout till May is out”. Here we are in May – the daffodils have been beautiful, but now they have faded; we have bluebells and lots of daisies and dandelions, but I have not seen any buttercups yet.

We have had a glimpse of sunshine for a couple of days, but it’s now back to rain and cooler. Hopefully we will get more sunshine soon.

Come rain or shine, our Pastoral Team are always available, ready to assist when required. We all trust that you and yours will have a lovely summer.

For now I’ll say cheerio with these words:-

Love is not written on paper - for it can be erased

Nor is it etched in stone -for it can be broken

But it is inscribed on a heart - and there it shall remain forever

Take care until next time

Margaret Hogan 10/5/16

Craft Club News

Craft Club continues to hone our skills sewing, knitting, crocheting, flower arranging, beading, tatting and some of us are experts at undoing knots. Charities local and international benefit from our efforts.

Recently, we had a very informative talk about scams used to part us from our cash, I was most thankful for this when one of these ploys was used on me. Needless to say it was unsuccessful and reported immediately.

CRAFT CLUB 1-CRIMINALS 0.

There are plans afoot for the flower festival, more coffee and teacakes and perhaps more adventurous trips too. Tuesday mornings are a bright spot in the week. The Club brings us all together to share our talents, troubles and joys. There is fun and laughter in abundance. Remember giggles are good for you!

Eleanor Jones

Family Worker Report.

Cookery club.

In May our kitchen in church became a cookery centre for four weeks as six children from Norley Primary School made desserts and sweet temptations to take home. The Star Wars cakes looked fantastic and the afternoon tea selection and presentation was superb. Everyone went home happy.

Sponsored walk

At this time of year the countryside looks its best, which encourages us to get out more and enjoy it. So may I encourage you to join in a 10/11 mile sponsored walk in August.

This is in aid of The Boaz Trust - a Christian organisation based in Manchester which helps destitute and homeless asylum seekers and refugees. They offer initial food and shelter, followed by English and other lessons, legal advice, and eventually help with permanent accommodation. The date is Saturday 20th August. For further information please contact Andrea 01928 732612.

School work

My work in Norley Primary School continues and this term I am outside at lunch times either with a craft activity or organising games. We continue to have some fun in assemblies as we retell many stories from the Bible. In July Rev Sue, myself and Rob are organising a morning at Oakmere church to help the year six children in their transition to High School. I pray that they will settle quickly in their new schools and wish them every success in the future.

3 Generate.

Tickets for 3 Generate, the Methodist Church's children and youth event in Swindon is on the 25th-27th November. Tickets are £110. If you are interested in going let Andrea know.

Andrea Ellams.

Choirs at Norley at Easter

Pavarotti famously said," I don't sing for legend, I sing for Lira."

Both our choirs sing for the love of singing and above all for conveying to the congregation Christ's message in song.

Harmony Choir

The choristers contributed to the Good Friday service with the ever popular hymn "When I survey the wondrous cross". The choir expressed in singing the sentiment needed while the congregation focused on the picture given of the cross.

On Easter Sunday the choir sang an anthem entitled "Christ the Lord is risen again" by Rev. E Vine Hull. It started with a beautiful solo by Jean joined by the rest in harmony. They captured the appropriate dynamics when they sang "Christ's pain and loss and comfortless upon the cross". The choir were in fine voice and tackled it with aplomb and conviction.

Band of Hope and Joy.

The singers gave a brilliant, professional performance of the song entitled "For this purpose" by Graham Kendrick. The chorus had male and female voices singing responsive phrases which were impressively in perfect time.

The choir sang with great strength of voices in unison. It doesn't make their contribution any less in terms of artistic merit or in terms of enhancing worship. In fact John Wilson who conducts light music at the proms put it succinctly as follows. "the best songs of Gershwin are as fine as the best songs of Schubert".

As pointed out to me by some of the members, it may have been preferable to have had their item for the morning service. As one could appreciate for the evening service, the choir was the congregation, apart from five others. Perhaps we could give it some thought next time. *Saro Jesudason*

Cradle Roll

On March 13th we all enjoyed the baptism of Evelyn (6yrs) and Nancy (6mths) Maddock. What a privilege to share this very happy occasion with their parents Rebecca and Chris, as well as godparents, family members and many friends.

It has been a real delight for our church this year with the baptism of Wilfred, Evelyn and Nancy. We hope to see them all often and share in their growing as they come to learn about Jesus.

Joan Bell

Annual Church Meeting

More than 20 were in the Church for the Annual Church Meeting after the morning service on May 8th. Alison Twinn was thanked for her long service as a steward as she retired this year. The other 4 stewards and the 3 vestry stewards were re-elected for a further year, and Michael Gough was appointed a steward from September 1st. Margaret Harrington resigned as a representative from the meeting to the Church Council, and Hazel Dale was elected as a new representative.

The meeting voted to give away £600 to local charities - £400 to Sanctus, a charity in Stoke caring for Asylum seekers who had impressed several of those present with their presentation at synod, and £200 to Halton Haven. The meeting was followed by an excellent lunch made by Ruth and Hazel, and concluded with Sue leading a service of Holy Communion.

Bruce Lane

Worship and Celebration

The request to compose a piece for Outreach about the recent celebrations relating to Lent, Easter and the Church Anniversary came while we on holiday, and on that particular day, in Malta.

As we walked along Merchants Street in Valletta, Malta's stone-built fortress capital (in steady rain and more than a gentle breeze), we heard the choral strains of Saturday Mass being celebrated in one of the city's many Roman Catholic Churches. The grand crescendo of voices was resonant of the Ascension of Jesus, marked two days earlier, and in anticipation of the great Christian feast of Pentecost to come a week later.

Turn first right into South Street and go downhill to the corner of Old Bakery Street and you will find the British Methodist Church's most south-easterly outpost – a Local Ecumenical Partnership with the Church of Scotland – which belongs to the South-East District, as does the Methodist Church in Gibraltar. St Andrew's Church (betraying its Scottish heritage) is served alternately by Church of Scotland and Methodist ministers – at present the Revd Kim Hurst (a Methodist) who made the modest transition from Wigton in Cumbria to be stationed in Malta.

As we in Norley reflect on our passage through Lent to Good Friday and Easter Day, followed soon after by our Church Anniversary, we are reminded that the great Christian

Festivals are shared not only by the Methodist Church in Britain, but by Christian people of all denominations across the world.

So, back to Norley. Our Lent morning services began with a liturgy of a biblical verse, a reflection on it, the extinguishing of a candle and a prayer, using the lectionary each week. Then, on Good Friday, the seventh and last candle was extinguished, to symbolise the darkness of the world, and on Easter Day, all seven were lit as the Christ-light burst upon us once more.

Our minister, the Revd Sue Levitt, led a dignified act of worship on Good Friday morning, enabling us to move on from traditional interpretations of the atonement, which some people have found too dispiriting (and therefore Good Friday worship difficult), to a more helpful understanding of the reality and meaning of human suffering as epitomised by Jesus. We walked silently from church, not deflated or feeling guilty, but quietly holding fast to a positive faith underpinned above all by the expectation of Easter.

Easter Sunday morning worship, amidst the colour and brightness of the decorated church, led by Ruth Lane and John Bell, invited us to consider three dimensions of the Easter message – the joy we experience, the amazement of faith and the power of the risen Christ within us. Sue led the evening celebration of Holy Communion, after which we placed the flower-laden cross on the church drive-way – a visible symbol of the Christian faith we proclaim to all who would see it during Easter week.

We were delighted to welcome the Revd Keith Davies to lead our Church Anniversary morning worship, accompanied by his wife Sylvia. Keith served in the then Frodsham Circuit (at Helsby) as a probationer minister many years ago, was remembered by several members of our congregation, and was very pleased to come back amongst us. Having served for eleven years as Chair of the Manchester and Stockport District, Keith and Sylvia have retired to Congleton, and as it happened, ours was the first preaching invitation he received.

Sue led a service of Holy Communion in the evening, to *Photo James Dale* complete a memorable day as we renewed our commitment to be part of the body of Christ in this place. As with Easter Sunday, a modicum of forward planning by the preachers enabled us to sing ten different hymns on both Sundays and hear different bible readings and messages. The uplifting choral contributions to Good Friday and Easter Sunday are not forgotten, but are mentioned in Saro's report.

In every act of worship, members of the congregation draw what they wish from their participation – I leave one particular thought taken from Keith Davies's superb sermon. It is that we all may find ways of ministering to each other and to offer a ministry in the church. Keith spoke of Arthur, a member of his church in Bournemouth some years ago, who so wanted to help with Harvest Festival decorations but was surrounded by a congregation of extremely proficient, indeed ambitious, flower arrangers. Arthur knew he couldn't begin to compete (I can identify with that) but what he could do was polish apples to an incomparable and immaculate shine. Arthur's bowl of gleaming apples came to take pride of place, supported by the floral extravaganzas: it was a ministry beyond measure. As I listened to Arthur's story, I reflected on how many people at Norley minister to us in so many ways, each distinctive and all appreciated – I hesitate to enumerate them for fear of

missing anyone out. But further, as the writer to the Hebrews puts it (chapter 12, verse 1), we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses – the whole congregation – whose gracious presence as part of our worshipping community is always a joy and inspiration.

John Bell Chair of the Spiritual Committee

1st Wednesday Walks

The full menu of the British weather was experienced by the 11 intrepid (?) walkers during March's walk around Davenham, Gadbrook & Whatcroft. We left our cars in a snow storm, closely followed by rain & high winds but soon after out came the sunshine. Our present scout leader was about to award us with the Duke of Edinburgh award for perseverance(!). We did spot a very good selection of wild birds, particularly along the Trent & Mersey Canal. We had all dried out by the time we reached The Bulls Head in Davenham, where the motorised division joined us for a hearty meal.

Anthony Davies

The April walk started and finished at the Leigh Arms Public House next to the River Weaver. The weather was overcast with a warning of heavy showers but 11 brave walkers set out and made their way up to the Trent and Mersey Canal, turning left along the towpath in the direction of Preston Brook. Upon reaching the bridge beneath the A49 the heavens opened and we sheltered there until it cleared. The rest of the walk was dry. The leader accepted everybody's congratulations on planning the downpour at the only place of shelter on the walk!

We passed the position where the canal bank was breached in 2012 and emptied itself into the valley below. Turning off the towpath we passed Bluebell Nurseries and made our way down to the River Weaver and returned for lunch at the Leigh Arms via Dutton Locks.
Richard Ramsbottom

May's walk was attended by a select group of 9 on one of the best weather days this spring. It was a beautiful stroll through the Runcorn Hill Park on a 3½ mile circular walk from the Prospect where we enjoyed lunch.

The old quarries were impressive with their 50 foot high cliffs with great views across the Mersey from the top. The quarries are quite extensive having been worked since the 1720s until the end of the Victorian period.

The woods were filled with bluebells and other spring flowers, and the birdsong was deafening. Moreover it was warm, the sun shone and the excellent new café ¾ of the way round made very good coffee.

Bruce Lane

Future walks (after you receive this edition) are planned for

Wednesday July 6th

Wednesday August 3rd

Wednesday September 7th

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

Bruce Lane

Diary

Unless stated in the notices the following group meets weekly

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

June 2016

Wednesday	1 st	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
		7.30pm	Café Church led by Rev'd Christine Dutton
Thursday	2 nd	4.30pm	The Hurst Kingsley Messy Church
Sunday	5 th	10.45am	Mr Mark Smyth of Chester
		6.30pm	Mrs Elizabeth Holmes of Frodsham
Wednesday	8 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		7.30pm	Flower Festival Meeting Open Door Room
Thursday	9 th	10.00am	Regional Lay Worker Training Event at Norley until 3pm
Saturday	11 th	3.00pm	A Right Royal Do Village Fun Day at the Village Hall until 7pm
MHA Sunday	12 th	10.45am	Rev Claire Heald of Chester
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise Circuit Service at Frodsham for MHA & Launch of the Circuit Project
Monday	13 th	4.00pm	Kelsall Messy Church
Wednesday	15 th	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church Outdoors
		8.00pm	The Hurst Café Church
Thursday	16 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting
Saturday	18 th	6.30pm	Safari Supper
Sunday	19 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mr Matthew Barnard of Frodsham
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament

Monday	20 th	11.00am	Visit of Angela Crutchley & her father – Pickering Trowel holder
		2.00pm	Pastoral Committee meeting at Howell Croft
Tuesday	21 st	7.00pm	Norley Church Council
Thursday	23 rd	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Sunday	26 th	10.45am	Mrs Janet Batey of Kingsley
		6.30pm	Rev Neil Stacey of Chester

July 2016

Saturday 2 nd – Thursday 7 th			Methodist Conference Lay dates in London
Conference	3 rd	10.45am	Rev Graham Evans of Chester
Sunday		pm	Ordination of Rev'd Christine Dutton – Surbiton Hill MC London
		6.30pm	Mr Philip Garner of Norley
Monday	4 th	4.00pm	Kelsall Messy Church
Wednesday	6 th	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Thursday	7 th	4.30pm	The Hurst Messy Church

July 2016 continued

Sunday	10 th	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt – Sacrament
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Wednesday	13 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Thursday	14 th	7.30pm	Local Preachers' meeting at Hoole
Saturday	16 th	7.00pm	Church Leadership Team meeting at Rev Sue's Tarvin
Sunday	17 th	10.45am	Mr John Bell of Cuddington
		6.30pm	Rev Christine Dutton of Chester
Wednesday	20 th	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
		8.00pm	The Hurst Café Church
Saturday	23 rd	6.30pm	Helsby – Farewell service for Rev'd Steve & Lorna Santry
Sunday	24 th	10.45am	Rev Steve Santry of Helsby
		6.30pm	Prof Neville Ford of Kingsley
Thursday	28 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Sunday	31 st	10.45am	Mr Edward Gregory of Frodsham

6.30pm Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament

August 2016

Wednesday	3 rd	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Sunday	7 th	10.45am	Spiritual Committee
		6.30pm	Joint service at Blakelees
Wednesday	10 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
Sunday	14 th	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament
		6.00pm	Joint service at Frodsham
Wednesday	17 th	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
Sunday	21 st	10.45am	Dr Ruth Lane of Norley
		6.30pm	Joint service at Blakelees
Friday 26 th – Monday 29 th			Greenbelt at Boughton House
Sunday	28 th	10.45am	Mr Mike Ridley of Bunbury
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament
Tuesday	30 th	7.30pm	Induction Service for Rev'd Andrew Emison – Frodsham MC

September 2016

Wednesday	7 th	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
		7.30pm	Café Church
Wednesday	14 th	12 noon	Open Door Room Lunch
Sunday	18 th	9.00am	Norley@9
Friday 23 rd – Sunday 25 th			Norley Methodist Flower Festival
Thursday	29 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch (on the 5 th Thursday this month)
		1.15pm	Thursday Club

Easter Offering News

Easter offering envelopes across the Circuit raised £2,977.87 plus there was a further £272.10 added from the collection at the Circuit Easter Offering Service at Caldy Valley on 8th May.

A big **‘Thank You’** from

Morsheda and her family and friends
to everyone who donated and collected
for Christian Aid this year as now their homes in Bangladesh will no longer be threatened by floods, as with your money their houses will be raised above the annual flood level.

You will know the total once we have finished counting the money....

Many thanks

Ruth Lane & Rita Boon

SAFARI SUPPER

SATURDAY 18TH JUNE

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

OPEN DOOR LUNCHES.

We were so sorry to hear of the death of Denys Fay. June and Denys have been members of Open Door Lunches for a long time now and we have always enjoyed their company.

We shall miss Denys very much, but are very pleased to see June among us again.

Our Summer timetable is as follows.

Wednesday June 8th.	Thursday June 23rd.
Wednesday July 13th.	Thursday July 28th.
Wednesday August 10th.	Thursday August 25th.

Do tell your friends about our lunches and we will see you there.

Joan Bell

An invitation to you to come to the

THURSDAY CLUB

June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, September 29th (5th thursday)

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

Norley Methodist Church

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2016

September 23rd to 25th

Planning meeting for everyone interested on
Wednesday 8th June at 7.30pm
in the Open Door Room

CAFE CHURCH

Come and enjoy fellowship, worship and refreshments in a cafe atmosphere
in the church at 7.30pm on Wednesday June 1st

Led by Christine Dutton

Circuit Project

June 2016-December 2017

Cheshire Search And Rescue Team (CSART) are a team of unpaid volunteers who are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and are ready to deploy in any weather. They receive no government funding whatsoever. The team assists Cheshire and North Wales police and other statutory emergency services. They are proud members of the Association of Lowland Search and Rescue and train and work with local Mountain Rescue teams.

Cheshire Search and Rescue Team was formed following the disappearance of a teenage girl in 2004 and started as a group of community spirited individuals with little more than high visibility jackets and torches.

The team today is extremely well trained but is always in need of more equipment so that it can operate more efficiently and effectively. In particular it needs new especially kitted out motor vehicles that can carry all the rescue and medical equipment the team needs.

The team is mainly called out to assist in the search for missing or vulnerable people across Cheshire and North Wales, and so it needs to train to deal with situations in towns and cities, forest and mountainside, flat plains and waterways.

Recently the team has been called out to search for a missing 3 year old child at 6.30 in the morning, a man missing in Delamere Forest in the middle of the night and a vulnerable adult who was found 3 hours later.

The Circuit has chosen CSART as its project as the team is composed entirely of volunteers who, besides searching for and rescuing people, do fund raising to provide all the equipment and vehicles that they need to work professionally. The Circuit feels that someone we know may well be the next person that goes missing and the CSAR team go out to locate and rescue. Hence the Circuit wants to help the CSAR team have the equipment and vehicles it needs to work most effectively.

Each church is being asked to help raise as much money as possible to support this very worthwhile work.

Caldy Valley will be holding a Quiz Evening starting at 7pm on October 15th organised by their quizmaster extraordinaire, Graham Evans. We are invited to join them for a ploughman's supper and the quiz and would love it if Norley entered a team of six. I know we have able quizzers – so let's join in.

Ruth Lane

In Memoriam Denys Fay

Denys was born on August 7th 1932 to parents Joseph Patrick and Margaret Fay. Joseph, who was known mostly by his second name of Patrick, originated from County Galway and he was fiercely proud of his Irish lineage and heritage...as was Denys.

He began his school life at Simms Cross School which then was under the headship of Fred Turton, and being one of the clever boys in his year, he passed the 11+ and gained a scholarship to Wade Deacon Grammar School for Boys. June even remembers the day when the 'clever boys' were proudly paraded round the school...she didn't really approve at the time. Denys loved school. He especially enjoyed Maths but also excelled on the Rugby Field and it is said that whilst he represented his school at Rugby Union, they apparently never lost a match. He was also a talented athlete and ran the 400 metres at County level, so very much an all-round student academically and sports wise.

On leaving the Grammar School he went to College in Walton, Liverpool, where he trained to become a Dental Technician. His first job in Widnes was with Fred Proe...anyone of a certain age will know all about Fred Proe and his love of pulling teeth. He was the dentist who terrified a whole generation of Widnesian children - not that Denys had anything to do with that of course.

In the Coronation year of 1953, Denys met a certain young lady called June Dudley at the Conservative Club in Widnes and romance blossomed. Just 2 years later, in August of 1955, they married at St Paul's church, by which time Denys had already been called up to do his 2 year National Service. The previous February he had been called to RAF Bridgnorth in Shropshire to train to become a signaller. After that initial training he was immediately posted abroad, serving in Suez, the Yemen, Eden and other Middle Eastern countries... a very active couple of years.

On his discharge he went back to working with Fred Proe and to settle into married life with Junemoving into Dixon Street in a little two-up, two-down house that June had saved up for in his absence. It was, June said, their own little home and they absolutely loved it. From that home first Paul was born and then Denise, and apart from learning to adapt to becoming a dad Denys also started studying accountancy. Having gained his qualifications he went to work in the Everite offices in the Accounts department. That same year, 1960, the family moved up to Farnworth into a house in Pit Lane, from where Ian was born making the Fay family complete. Ten years later, another move just round the corner took them to Ganton Close.

Denys took his role as dad very seriously and June said that he was great at looking after the children...this allowed June, in her own words...'to do a bit of guiding'. When the family lived in Dixon Street they were in St Paul's Parish. They were both very active in that church and in the social groups. At St Paul's, Denys got involved in the Boys Brigade and when he moved up into St Luke's Parish, Eric Corbett, who was the vicar at that time, 'persuaded' him to help out with Scouts and Denys was instrumental in forming a Senior Scout troop. Little would Denys have realised then just how heavily involved he would become in the Scouting movement...he became troop leader at St Luke's and St John's, was later made Group Scout Leader and then granted the honour of becoming a King's Scout. Perhaps you would call that 'a bit of scouting' to match June's 'bit of guiding'. Denys was well-thought of and highly respected by all in the Scouting movement. It was a sad day when he retired. June told me that most of their social life revolved round Scouting

and Guiding with numerous camping trips in this country and abroad. There were very memorable camp holidays in Switzerland - work, leisure and pleasure all combined.

In those years St Luke's became their family church and Denys, as ever, worked quietly and unobtrusively in the background...never seeking reward or recognition for all his hard work. He was a member of the PCC, a sidesman and a Church Warden. He and John Westbury were pillars of this church in those years. They simply just got on with things. Denys along with John would stand at the back of church welcoming everyone that came through the door, whether friend or stranger, always with broad smile and cheery word for one and all. Denys, along with John, was one of the people who supported the role of women in this church. Up until that time St Luke's was very much male dominated, and he and John supported the nomination of women for places on the PCC, as sides people and ultimately Church Wardens.

It was a sad day for us when in 2002, Denys and June decided to make the move over to Hatchmere Park. But it wasn't long before they made new friends and threw themselves into work within their new church of Norley Methodist where they were both warmly welcomed by the Minister and congregation and made to feel at home. Although of a quiet disposition, they soon became part of the family of the church and joined the Door Steward rota and whenever they were on duty, Denys took a keen role in ensuring everyone knew they were welcome and had the appropriate books etc. to enable them to worship fully.

Denys was always appreciative of those who led worship at Norley. John Bell wrote "For my own part, I was deeply impressed with the way he had engaged with the sermon, and he always had something to add from his own experiences - which I think none of us ever knew about. He would relate, especially from his National Service time, to the most challenging issues - indeed, he could be a mine of illustrations on the most sensitive aspects of faith. I shall treasure his encouragement and gratitude, offered in great humility, and value the deep insights he shared with me. There was more to Denys than met the eye: Would that I had had opportunity to hear more of his life and faith story."

Denys always enjoyed the social life associated with the church in particular the weekends away, at which there were often quizzes, and everyone always wanted to be on his team. If Denys didn't know it, it wasn't worth knowing. Even this last Christmas he entered the village quiz and came 3rd with a much higher total than many others.

Sue Levitt said that Denys always cared about others more than himself. Whenever she went to visit him he dismissed any thought of talking about how he was with a casual.. 'Oh never mind about me', and then continued to earnestly ask about others in the church who he knew were unwell, wanting them to know he was thinking and praying for them and assuring them that if he could help in any practical way with advice or information he would.

Denys was a true gentle man; a man who knew God's love and care in his own life and wanted to share that love with all he met. A man whom many will miss but someone who will be remembered with love and affection for many years to come.

Denys will have left as much of a void in Norley as he did when he left Widnes. Very much a people person...he even designated himself the role of paperboy to the residents of Hatchmere Park...collecting and delivering the daily papers.....so typical of Denys' generosity of time and spirit.

Denys was a family man at heart, a great dad and he just loved being a Grandad, often helping out with his five grandchildren, Christopher, Asha, Nathan, Neil and Sophie. Interested in everything they did, so proud of their achievements, supporting them with their homework...especially the maths, and knowing they could call on Grandad to be

chauffeur whenever they needed taking somewhere...knowing that if he **could** help he **would**.....a Dad and Grandad in a million, loving and very much loved in return. Not that everyone in the family agreed with his choice of football team. He was a Manchester United supporter...the wrong city, though perhaps the right colour, for some.

The Denys I knew was a true gentleman, generous with his time, always polite and courteous but with a wicked sense of humour, which those twinkling eyes and a wide warm smile belied. I welcomed his care and concern.... then Denys had that unique gift of making everyone feel special...you are here because he touched your lives too.

But he and June had something **really special**. Their relationship was rooted in deep love, shared understanding and faith ...just last August they celebrated a wonderful milestone of 60 years together with a gathering of family and friends and a telegram from the Queenand, throughout those 60+ years Denys and June have made such wonderful memories together.

June has said that she considered herself blessed to have had Denys for the extra years following major surgery 3 and a half years ago when things looked quite bleak...but he bounced back and carried on. Since Christmas however he hadn't been feeling too well and gradually Denys lost his hold on life, he passed away peacefully, just two days after being admitted to Halton Haven surrounded by those he loved.

Denys' was a man of God principles, a man whose faith upheld and sustained him and made him who he was....the man we all knew and loved and now we need not be worried because his leaving us is not an end for him but a new beginning in Christ. Denys is now safe in the arms of the Lord whom he has worshipped throughout his lifetime...reunited with all those he has loved and lost...Denys has taken the place so richly deserved, the place promised for a true and faithful servant.

Susan Smither

(edited)