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Dear Friends,

The period from Easter to Pentecost should be a time of great activity for Christian folk, not only in the church but also in the world. This is because the good news of the resurrection and new life is meant to give a real boost to the whole outlook on life in God's world for those who have been gripped by the Good News of God's love revealed in Jesus.

Is that what happens to us? As you look back over the years, is this your experience of life post Easter?

Sadly, I think we can often find that the opposite has happened, even though the Easter message has been one we have rejoiced in hearing, post- Easter has become a time to take a breather from all the activity of striving to serve God and our neighbours.

I wonder if this happens because the Methodist year starts in September and we work hard up to the high point of Christmas, then after possibly a short break we gird our loins to work through Lent to Holy Week and Easter, battling through Winter at the same time. So not surprising when Easter arrives along with the Spring sunshine we are ready to relax and take a break, resting from our labours. We can be so thankful for fewer meetings in the diary!

In a sense it is good to be able to 'change gear' in this way after Easter, not least because it reminds us that we are 'saved by faith and not works'. And yet if we see the energy being given to Christians at Easter and a further injection of spiritual energy being provided at Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit then shouldn't the period after Easter be the most productive time of the year for us?

Now there's a challenge!

Every Blessing

Sue

## ***Pastoral Piece***

Greetings to you all.

Here we are once again pondering on how the months are already speeding by. It has been really lovely enjoying all the bright colours of spring and the joy of new born lambs in the fields. Nature has been exceptionally busy.

I expect many of you are planning summer holidays, so wherever you go have a safe and lovely time. At church we are preparing for a busy year, with special events coming up (so keep watching the notices).

Likewise our Pastoral team are always available, should they be required.

Meanwhile I will leave you with these words.

*NO TOMORROW*

*When rainbows follow April showers; And fragrance drifts from perfumed flowers;  
When nightingales at dusk will sing; And as sure as summer follows spring;*

*Be thankful that you have a friend; When a happy day comes to an end;  
To have shared a day of love and laughter; Never minding what comes after.*

*Time is a thing we cannot borrow; Live for today – forget tomorrow;  
The hour glass sand so swiftly runs; And we know tomorrow never comes!*

(Words by Charlotte York)

I wish you all a healthy, happy summer. May God bless you and yours.

*Margaret Hogan 15/5/17*

## **Craft Club News**

This is our 20<sup>th</sup> year and we are still having fun and laughter on Tuesday mornings. Secondary to this we seem to produce a goodly quantity of well-crafted items.

This session we have welcomed Olwyn as a new member and introduced her to the joys of knitting. Keep it up Olwyn we are all rooting for you.

At the end of May we are off to The Vintage Tea Shop for coffee and shopping at Lady Hayes.

In June we are planning a trip to Abakhan. I'm sure we will come back loaded with provisions for lots more craft projects.

July and August our fingers will need to be very busy getting prepared for September, when we are hoping to have a stall at the village show and put on a display of our work during the harvest festival celebrations.

If you hear us enjoying ourselves on Tuesday mornings and could do with a giggle, pop in and say hello. We are proof positive that time flies when you are having fun,

**TWENTY YEARS!**

*Eleanor Jones*

## Family Worker Report.

Over the last few weeks in my school work, our thoughts have been focused on our reactions to others and where life takes us.

After Easter, we learnt about Jesus appearing on the Emmaus Road, how the friends didn't recognize Jesus until he broke the bread at the table when they shared a meal together. This led to us thinking about Jesus saying he is the bread of life and what he meant by this.

In Christian Aid week, we thought about people who are having to leave their home quickly and travel, not knowing where they will end up. The Bible reading below is used in the publications from Christian Aid this year:-

*I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me (Matthew 25 v 35-36).*

For me this connects our thoughts together. The friends invited this stranger on the Emmaus road to stay and share tea with them. The friends were extremely happy and excited when they realized it was Jesus. By Jesus saying he is the bread of life, he is reminding us that his spirit lives in us, and sustains us, in good times and in difficult times. The Bible reminds us that God's world is a place where everyone is welcomed, valued and feels safe. Aren't we God's hands and feet today here on earth and therefore just as the friends invited someone to share their food, Christian Aid week reminds us to share and care for people who are less fortunate than ourselves. In doing this we are spreading God's love and compassion in our world.

Moses led the Israelites from Egypt and they didn't know where they would end up. People today and over the aeons have left their homes not knowing where they would end up. The Psalms ask God for protection and acknowledge that God is a refuge. Let's pray together for people's safety when they travel, and for ourselves and others to be God's hand and feet in our world, to help and care for others.

### **A Prayer of Trust in God**

I come to you, LORD, for protection;  
never let me be defeated.

You are a righteous God;  
save me, I pray!

Hear me! Save me now!

Be my refuge to protect me;  
my defence to save me.

You are my refuge and defence;  
guide me and lead me as you have promised.

Keep me safe from the trap that has been set for me;  
shelter me from danger.

I place myself in your care.

You will save me, LORD;  
you are a faithful God.

*Andrea Ellams*

## ***The Band of Hope and Joy at Norley at Easter***

The choir contributed to the inspiring Easter morning service led by John Bell. They sang with gusto the anthem "Sing, Sing Allelujah". They also sang an introit for the evening service entitled "Christ is Risen".

The verse was a beautiful solo sung by Lewis Dimelow followed by the choir singing "Christ is Risen". It is wonderful to see how Lewis has blossomed. I remember accompanying him for his solo on Christmas Day when he was five years old. He sang from memory all the verses of the song "Are you going to Bethlehem to see God's son?" He is a credit to Mary and John who have brought Lewis and Oliver to church regularly and nurtured their faith.

Lewis is now a vestry assistant, a Scout young leader, a member of the church council and a leader at café church.

We are delighted to welcome the sweet couple John and Shelagh Salter to our choir. They make a valuable contribution.

The choir will contribute further this year to special services such as Harvest.

*Saro Jesudason.*

## **Norley Church Council Highlights from March 2**

The 15 members who attended the regular church council on March 2 decided that

- 1) the Craft Club 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be celebrated with an exhibition of craft culminating in a special Sunday service, possibly at our Harvest in the autumn if the Craft Club agreed.
- 2) the small tables experiment at Sunday morning coffee would be continued
- 3) the proposed arrangements for the Lent Liturgy and Easter would be adopted
- 4) there would be combined evening services with Blakelees and Frodsham in August.
- 5) the Scouts request to parade and renew promises on St George's Day was accepted.
- 6) there would be a Christmas Tree festival from Dec 1-3 2017.
- 7) £100 would be donated to Englesea Brook, the fund for Presbyters and Deacons and the circuit project, in addition to the £100 to Norley News donated last October.
- 8) the property, finance, youth work and pastoral reports were received and debated and accepted.

*Bruce Lane*

## **Norley Annual Church Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May**

As usual the ACM was held at the end of a shortened morning service and before lunch and Holy Communion.

The meeting as usual was brief but very productive.

Alison Penny was warmly welcomed as a Church Steward, augmenting the Church Leadership Team (CLT) of the five current Stewards: Ruth and Bruce Lane, Mary Dimelow, Philip Garner and Michael Gough and the Church Treasurer, John Bell. The CLT is ably assisted by the Vestry Stewards, Yvonne Roughsedge and Lewis Dimelow. Sue thanked everyone for their support and hard work.

The following charitable donations were agreed:

£200 to the Parkinson's Chester & District Branch in memory of Ken Harrington.

£200 to Northwich Samaritans.

£200 to Cheshire Search and Rescue Team (CSART).

CSART is the circuit project for this year and we have previously contributed £100 which was the surplus from the Christmas wreath making evening. Hence now the total we have donated to the project will be £300. The Cheshire Search and Rescue Team are all volunteers and the Circuit's aim is to help them to keep their transport, medical, mountaineering and water-based equipment functional and up to date.

*Ruth Lane*

## Church Anniversary – 135 years and going strong

It was a delight to welcome back our former minister Rev'd Ian Rigby to lead our morning anniversary celebrations on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Although Ian has been sat down for many years and living in Runcorn, he sees himself as Mr Polyfilla, always being asked to fill in the cracks. He is currently involved in providing pastoral care in the Circuit since the Rev'd Steve Santry moved on in August, ministering to The Hurst and Blakelees. Ian delivered a fine sermon, inviting us to be Polyfilla for the cracks in society. The sermon was delivered to a packed church (well more than usual anyway). It was great to have Dorothy back with us, and to see the return of some of Ian's former congregation on this special occasion.

The evening anniversary service was led by our own minister, Rev'd Sue, and it was fitting that the silver trowel used to lay the foundation stone, now on display in the church, was dedicated and thanks given to John and Lewis Dimelow for the completion of the garden benches. Overall a very good day

Bruce Lane

### An update

I hope you will find the following extract from the West Cheshire Foodbank of interest: *'New statistics just released show a further increase in the number of three-day emergency food parcels provided by foodbanks within The Trussell Trust's national network. West Cheshire Foodbank is a local charity that focuses on responding to local need and being a catalyst for community action. As part of a wider network, we also share headline data because we want the conversation about food poverty to be rooted in the evidence and to reflect the experiences of local people who are struggling with poverty. Since we opened our doors in 2012, the demands on us as a charity have grown rapidly and we have still not come close to meeting the local demand for emergency food. The evidence is so overwhelming that people in our communities can no longer be in any doubt that their neighbours in West Cheshire are going hungry. Most people now agree that food poverty is a scandal and must be eliminated.*

*But in 2017 your local foodbank is likely to receive and distribute more food than ever before. A new study shows that foodbanks in areas of full Universal Credit rollout to single people, couples and families, have seen a 16.85% average increase in referrals for emergency food, more than double the national average of 6.64%. With work becoming increasingly insecure, and without a welfare system that works for everyone, we have to plan to meet greater need than ever before.*

*With so much more to do, it is critical that we collaborate with other people who share our passion. Through our work with other local organisations, universities and the Poverty Truth Commission, we are continuing to learn more about how we can continue to respond most effectively, and now we want to know who else is willing to work alongside us to help local people build sustainable livelihoods.*

*We need your help to write a good news story. We want to be able to tell you that foodbank use is declining, not rising again. Whether you could help us to establish a Meeting Place, make us your "charity of the year", or give your time and expertise, we want to hear from you.*

*To achieve our vision, we need local supporters to raise £80k every year until 2020. We'll be launching both a 'Churches Friendship Network' and a 'Business Network' soon to make sure that we can establish 'Meeting Places' across our area. Our work will contribute to a wider pilot project co-ordinated by a new umbrella organisation called the Welcome Network that we have worked to establish, and which is expected to become a member of the national organisation "Feeding Britain".*

*Nothing can mask the sad reality that we're only here because people are going hungry. But we hope you will support us as we seek solutions that give people dignity and work for food justice.'*

For those of you who would like to know more about the future plans, the West Cheshire Foodbank website has some really excellent and worthwhile ideas for future partnership working and moving on from just giving out food parcels to tackling the underlying causes of food poverty. This includes how we as individuals, a Church community and a Circuit may respond. The website link is <https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/>

### **Food Donations**

The Foodbank always welcome donations and promise to use them to provide help to people in crisis. As well as the usual supplies of dried, tinned foods and toiletries, at the present time they are particularly short of supplies of fruit juice and tinned tomatoes – so these would be particularly welcome.

**And finally**.....for the garden lovers, a date for your diary:

### **Eaton Hall Gardens Charity Open Day: Sunday 27th August 2017**

West Cheshire Foodbank is one of four charities chosen by the Duchess of Westminster to host a "garden open day" in 2017. We are honoured, and hope the event will be a major fund-raising event for the Foodbank in 2017. The event date is Sunday 27th August 2017, and runs from 10:30am to 5 pm. For full details of the event see [www.eatonestate.co.uk](http://www.eatonestate.co.uk)

*Lesley Gough*

### **Elizabeth Pickering's Trowel**

The dedication of Elizabeth Pickering's silver trowel, now on permanent display in the Church, took place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

The gift of the trowel by George Thornley and some of the circumstances whereby it came into his possession were described in the Autumn Outreach of 2106. Since then a lot of research has traced the history of the trowel in more detail.

It was presented as we knew to Elizabeth Pickering on the occasion of laying the W. & E. P foundation stone for the current Chapel on July 21<sup>st</sup> 1881 (the foundation stone is at the bottom of the ramp).

Elizabeth was a widow when she married William Pickering on 21 February 1870 when she was 49 and he was 29. They lived at Smithy Bank Farm (then known as Pickering's Farm) just across the road from the Church by the time the foundation stones were laid and were still there in the 1891 census. They had moved there from the Wob, where they were in the 1881 census (which was usually taken in April, some months prior to the laying of the foundation stones). Both farms were part of the Norley Hall estates, and William was a tenant farmer. They had no children themselves.

When Elizabeth died on 22 September 1891, the trowel was inherited by her husband William, who married Sarah Hitchin from Town Farm Norley on 17 December 1892. They had 3 children, all of whom were baptised in our church and appear in the current baptismal record book – Ernest (born 16 March 1895), Winifred (born 20 July 1896) and Alice (born 17 January 1899).

William died 12 September 1899, and Sarah Pickering (nee Hitchin) inherited the trowel and was still living at the farm with the 3 children according to the 1901 census which shows Ernest (aged 6). Winifred (aged 4) and Alice (age 2).

Alice Pickering became the domestic servant to the Rev'd and Mrs John Wesley Thornley some 20 years later, when he was stationed in the Northwich Circuit from 1921 to 1923, the circuit to which we then belonged, though he was not our minister. Alice becomes George Thornley's "second mother". George remembers visiting the Pickering's farm in Norley with Alice, delivering milk with her brother Ernie, feeding the chickens and so on when he would have been between 2 and 4 years old.

Alice moved around the country with the Thornleys as John was stationed around the connexion. At some stage, possibly on Sarah's death she inherited the trowel from her mother, as she was the one with Methodist Connections.

Rev'd John Thornley retired in 1936, and moved to Nottingham. The 1939 register, taken nationwide as Britain prepared for war, shows Rev'd John Thornley living in Nottingham, with his wife Frances, and Alice Pickering as their domestic servant.

With George and two of his brothers gone to war by 1940, Alice's services were no longer required by the Thornleys, so she moved out and took other jobs waitressing in Nottingham and lived with her sister Winifred. After the war, George continued to maintain his "second mother's" home and its large garden until Alice died on 21 Dec 1975, and George and his wife inherited the trowel along with other personal effects from Alice.

The trowel was rediscovered by George at the back of a cupboard whilst clearing following his wife's death in February 2016, and kindly donated back to Norley Methodist Church in August 2016 when he visited the Church, accompanied by his daughter Angela and son Derek. George returned the trowel to back to where it started life in 1881.



# Christian Aid 2017

A big **‘Thank You’** to friends of our church who were involved in collecting from residents of Norley and Delamere Park. Your gift of time is much appreciated.

Joan Barclay

Anthony Davies

Mary and Oliver Dimelow

Philip Garner

Michael Gough

Eric and Diane Hodgson

Ruth and Bruce Lane

Alison Penny

Margaret Harrington

Margaret Hogan

Pat Keen

Yvonne Roughsedge

Vaughan Wynne

A big **‘Thank You’** to everyone who donated to Christian Aid this year. Over 65 million people are displaced from their homes due to war, persecution or natural disasters. Your gifts of money help Christian Aid shelter, feed and nurture these desperate people who are searching for a new and better life for their families.

*Ruth Lane*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Walks

The March walk was led by Bruce and Ruth, along the canal towpaths of Middlewich covering about 3 miles in benign sunshine. The salt industry in Middlewich from the earliest times, the historic centre of Middlewich, the remains of the Roman fort and the Wardle canal, the country's shortest canal at 154 feet long, joining the Shropshire Union canal to the Cheshire ring, were all explored by the 8 of us before lunch at the Big Lock pub where the walk started and ended. Nobody took up the offer of a little postprandial exercise down to the aqueduct and back!

*Bruce Lane*

The April walk was led by Peter and Sheila. Those who came enjoyed a lovely day and an enjoyable walk with varied scenery. The walk started at the car park by the Llangollen Canal at Chirk Bank. From there we descended to Chirk Bridge and proceeded across fields up the true left bank of the Afon Ceiriog to Pont Faen, where we crossed the river. After a short length of lane we again entered fields, where we were rewarded with banks of primroses and young lambs gambolling in the fields. A climb up through Pentre Wood, drier than we had known it in the past because of the dry spring, brought us to the small hamlet of Pentre Newydd. After another short road walk we descended back through Pentre Wood by a different path to the Afon Ceiriog and then retraced our steps to Pont

Faen. At this point some of the party chose to follow our outward route back to the car park. The rest of us crossed the B4500 and shortly afterwards took a footpath which climbed above the road and led to the outskirts of Chirk. From here we crossed the Chirk Aqueduct before following the canal towpath to the cars. A short drive brought us to the Poachers Inn for a good lunch before returning to Norley. *Peter Hills*

The May walk, led by Vaughan and Garry, was originally devised by Tony Knight to whom all credit, and any blame, no matter how small, should be directed.

A magnificent turnout of fifteen participants parked at the Red Lion pub in Little Budworth and set off back through the village to Little Budworth Country Park. There are a number of marked paths through this delightful wood, and according to Peter, to our left there still exist a series of trenches, from one of the World wars, excavated as practice exercises by troops billeted at Oulton Park.

We followed the Woodpecker trail ultimately emerging onto Beech Lane and from there across the fields and green lanes to make our way finally to Budworth pool, a lovely walk at this time of year.

It was here that Richard identified the chiffchaff by sound alone and his rendition of this little bird's song was apparently very accurate. (I am sure Richard would be only too pleased to give renditions to interested groups, WI meetings, Bar Mitzvahs etc. for a small fee..... or packet of canary seed).

The walk itself was just over three miles and we arrived back at the Red Lion for our lunch, an excellent meal.

Thanks Tony.

*Garry Wynne*

Future walks are planned for

**Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The June walk will be along the Trent and Mersey Canal and the River Weaver and up through Warburton's wood starting near Bartington and ending at Ball Lane Kingsley

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 2017

Pentecost	4 <sup>t</sup> h	10.45a m	Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacramento
Sunday		6.30pm	Rev'd David Speed of Chester
Monday	5 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Kelsall Messy Church
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00a m	'All We Can' day at Wesley until 3pm
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
		7.30pm	Café Church led by Eve Sherlock
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm	Kingsley Hurst Messy Church
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Norley Safari Supper
Trinity	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.45a m	Mr Andrew Ellams of Frodsham
Sunday		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Monday	12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Church Council
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Saughall
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup>	7.45pm	Caldy Valley – Talk by Cheshire Search & Rescue
Saturday	17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Concert by the Bostock Singers at St Laurence's Frodsham featuring solos by Vim Jesudason
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.00a m	The Hurst Anniversary service – Rev'd Ian Rigby
		10.30a m	Wesley re-opening service Rev'd Neil Stacey & Rev'd Christine Dutton (12.15pm Plaque Unveiling by Lord Mayor of Chester)
		10.45a m	Mrs Janet Batey of Kingsley
		6.30pm	Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacramento
Monday	19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Spiritual Committee at 2, The Old Orchard, Cuddington

Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
		8.00pm	Kingsley Hurst Café Church
Thursday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>			Methodist Conference in Birmingham
Conference	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.45a m	Mr Mike Ridley of Bunbury
Sunday		6.30pm	Pastor Nick Willis of Tarporley

### **July 2017**

Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45a m	Mr Philip Garner of Runcorn
		6.30pm	Rev'd Andrew Emison of Frodsham

### **July 2017 continued**

Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4.00pm	Kelsall Messy Church
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm	Kingsley Hurst Messy Church
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Callin Court Summer Fete (until 4pm)
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.45a m	Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacrament
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45a m	Mrs Ann Wright of Oakmere
		6.30pm	Rev'd Christine Dutton of Chester
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Local Preachers' meeting at Christleton
Wednesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
		8.00pm	Kingsley Hurst Café Church
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.45a m	Mrs Liz Holmes of Frodsham
		6.30pm	Rev'd Sue Levitt
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Church Leadership Team meeting at the Levitt's

Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.45a m	Mr John Bell of Cuddington
		6.30pm	Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacramento

## August 2017

Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00pm	Circuit Project Meeting at Caldy Valley
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.45a m	Rev'd Anne Gibson of Tarporley - Sacramento
		6.30pm	Joint service at Blakelees – Professor Neville Ford of Kingsley
Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.45a m	Mr Alan Carter of Helsby
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Joint service at Frodsham – Mrs Bev Carter of Helsby
Wednesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.45a m	Mr Ken Jackson of Caldy Valley
		6.30pm	Joint service at Blakelees – Rev'd Ian Rigby of Runcorn
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>			Greenbelt at Boughton House
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a m	West Cheshire Foodbank open day at Eaton Hall (until 5pm)
		10.45a m	Spiritual Committee
		6.30pm	Rev'd Sue Levitt - Sacramento

## September 2016

Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	First Wednesday Walk
		7.30pm	Café Church
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Open Door Lunch

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Norley@9  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 12 Open Door Lunch  
noon  
1.15pm Thursday Club

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# SAFARI SUPPER

Saturday 10th June 2017

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

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# THURSDAY CLUB

**1.15pm to 2.30pm**

*in the Open Door Room*

June 22nd

July 27th

August 24th

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# Celebration of the Craft Club's

20th Anniversary

and Harvest Festival

23rd - 24th September

Look our for more information

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## NORLEY @ 9

Join us for an informal time of worship and praise on

**June 18th**

**July 16th**

a time of praise lasting about 45 minutes followed by refreshments

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## CAFE CHURCH

**Come and enjoy fellowship, worship and refreshments in a cafe atmosphere in the church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th June**

**led by Eve Sherlock**

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# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

December 1st - 3rd

Conact Ruth Lane (788071) if you want to decorate a tree and  
join in the fun

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## Spiritual Committee Report

The report in the Spring edition of Outreach spoke of the forthcoming period of Lent and the Easter and Church Anniversary celebrations (when we were delighted to welcome the Revd Ian Rigby to preach in the morning and renew our friendship with him and Dorothy), rounding off with the Annual Church Meeting. We now move on into the quieter months of the year, albeit starting with Pentecost June 4<sup>th</sup> and Trinity Sunday on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Although the annual lectionary runs from Advent onwards, in a sense, the great festivals of the Church and Christian Year culminate on Trinity Sunday, when we gather up all we know of God, Father/Mother, Son and Holy Spirit and give thanks and praise for all that God was, is and will be.

Our June morning service with Holy Communion will be led by the Revd Sue Levitt on Pentecost Sunday, often celebrated as the birthday of the whole Church, and Mr Andrew Ellams will lead worship on Trinity Sunday morning, thus giving lie to the old adage that local preachers always 'block' (i.e. find themselves, sadly, unavailable to preach on) Trinity Sunday! In a further departure from the normal pattern of Holy Communion services, the morning Communion in August will be on the 6<sup>th</sup>, led by the Revd Anne Gibson. Anne, who lives at Tarporley, is a supernumerary minister in the circuit and this year is offering part of the ministerial cover for the gap at Helsby and Kingsley.

Evening services during the month of August will be shared with Blakelees and Frodsham – we will host August 27<sup>th</sup> when Sue will celebrate Holy Communion.

As always, do look at the Circuit Plan for details of services and preachers. (Another old adage ran 'Have a careful look at the Plan, then decide when to have that odd weekend away'!)

Norley@9 will happen on June 18<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup> but will have a break in August.

Café Church will meet on June 7<sup>th</sup> and take both July and August off. We are delighted that Eve Sherlock, a regular participant at Café Church, will lead the discussion on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Spiritual Committee will meet next on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 2, The Old Orchard, Cuddington, mainly to plan the worship for the September to November quarter. Meanwhile, there is an important date to note: our Harvest Festival will be on September 24<sup>th</sup> and share the weekend with the Craft Club celebrating the occasion of their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The upcoming quarter may be quiet locally, but for some it is a momentous time, for it contains the Methodist Conference when probationer ministers (usually 2 or 3 years into active ministry) are 'Received into Full Connexion' at the end of Conference Sunday worship which this year will be at the NEC Hilton, Birmingham on June 25<sup>th</sup> and are ordained later in the day at various churches and cathedrals in the West Midlands. Our minister Sue is a representative to the Conference and, apart from presenting the report of the Connexional Allowances Committee to the Conference on Monday June 26<sup>th</sup>, I will have the privilege of fulfilling the Vice-President's role at the Ordination Service at the Methodist Central Hall, Coventry. Methodist Ordination Services are the greatest occasions, as many of us know very well.

Finally, a word of thanks to the many people who enabled Lent to be marked and Easter to be celebrated: to the 16 people who led the Lent liturgy at morning worship, to the many who provided and prepared the splendid floral decorations for Easter Day and distributed flowers afterwards, to the Revd Christine Dutton who led our Easter evening Communion (following the untimely death of Dr David Westwood, our minister Sue's father, on Good Friday) and to others who willingly undertook all those small tasks behind the scenes. We are immensely grateful.

On the Sunday morning after Easter I was preaching at Christleton. Some members there had passed through Norley during the week and commented on how effective an Easter witness the yellow and white flower-clad cross was on the church drive (and could they steal the idea and do it at Christleton next year?) How many more passers-by noticed it and thought something like 'It is Easter, let us be glad in it!'

*John Bell, Chair of the Spiritual Committee*

## **Financial Report**

The finances of the Church continue to be in good order – income and expenditure within the budgets agreed by the Church Council and nothing alarming to report.

The Annual Church Meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> agreed to make donations of £200 each to the Parkinson's Chester and District Branch (remembering Ken Harrington), Northwich Samaritans and the Chester Search and Rescue Service (this year's Circuit Project).

We hope for a fine evening on June 10<sup>th</sup> for the Safari Supper which will sustain our expected income for the year.

The increase in the limit from £5000 to £8000 in 2016-17 on the HMRC gift-aid small cash donations scheme has proved most beneficial, as we have been able to claim on over £6700. This element of gift-aid alone will raise nearly £1700.

Provision is being made in a nominal reserve for the future external redecoration of the church buildings so that we don't need a sudden fundraising effort when the time comes.

Thanks to you all for your continued generosity.

*John Bell, Church Treasurer*

# Church Weekend Away 2017

Some 16 people have booked for Beth Eden for this year's weekend away from Friday October 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> and paid their deposit.

We still have room for 3 or 4 more – if you would like to come please see Bruce Lane and make your reservation. We do not need to firm up on the numbers until the beginning of July.

If you need transport to or from Llandudno please contact Sue. The programme will be issued nearer the time – as will the request for the balance payments!

*Bruce Lane*

## St George's Day

On Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> the 1<sup>st</sup> Norley Beavers, Cubs and Scouts paraded to the Church to renew their promises in the service (traditionally all Scouts renew their promises on St George's day).

We were delighted to welcome them.

The Scouts were told the story of St George, an early Christian Martyr from the Diocletion persecutions, who was killed for his faith on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 303.

St George was a Turk in the Roman army, and is now the patron saint of many nations.

# In Memoriam Ken Harrington

We have all come here today to give thanks for the life of Ken Harrington and you will all have come with your own unique memories of him... some will be of happy times and may well bring a smile to the lips in the remembering whilst others may be of more poignant times which may bring a tear to the eye ... and that is fine and as it should be.

But all these memories, happy or sad, unique to you alone or recalled by many ... all of them I am sure will be filled with love because Ken was full of love and of care, God's love and care. He knew and experienced God's love and care in his own life and was committed to sharing it with others... with his friends, with those he worked with and most especially with his family. One only had to see that twinkle in his eye, and his wonderful smile that never left him... and the banter he gave....

When I was young one of my parents friends used to wind me up no end with his banter, until one day he said, "You know Sue it takes time and effort to banter with someone so I only do it with those I care about. I don't waste my time and effort on those I don't!" Well Ken wasted his time and effort on each one of us every time we met him! He showed us his love for us! Which is why I read the reading from Corinthians 13 earlier, a reading more often associated with weddings rather than funerals, which was so appropriate for today.

Ken was born and brought up in Liverpool - one of 5 children, having one sister (the eldest) and three brothers - I bet they all ribbed Muriel! I'm told the four boys were always getting up to mischief!

Ken trained as an engineer getting an apprenticeship shortly after finishing school and worked for many years with Westinghouse Engineering Company. Ken married Sylvia and had 2 daughters Shirley and Paula who have always been the apple of their fathers eye. Life moved on and Ken moved down to Wiltshire having married Margaret and he loved Mark and Amanda as his own children, and when the family became extended further with sons and daughter-in-law Ken treated them all the same, sharing his love and his care.

When Ken and Margaret moved to Wiltshire Ken continued to work for the same engineering company as a service engineer, servicing the ticket machines and turntables for British Rail all over the South East. Sadly at the age of 50 he was made redundant but not one to sit back and do nothing, he got himself a job at a brand new Sainsbury's store, and within a very short time became manager of the fish department (in spite of not knowing one end of a fish from the other!). But undeterred he was determined to be the best he could be - in fact his counter became renowned so much so that other managers came to be trained by him. His claim to fame was that he appeared in Good Housekeeping magazine - for having the best display of fish!

At home he excelled in DIY. Nothing phased him - be it decorating, or fitting a new bathroom or kitchen whatever needed doing Ken would turn his hand to it. But above all he was a loving caring gentle man loved by all who knew him - even the neighbourhood children were known to come and knock on the door to see if Ken was allowed out to play!

When Margaret and Ken came to live in Delamere they were introduced to Norley Methodist Church and soon settled down here and became part of our church family, enjoying not only the services on a Sunday but the social life of the church too, going on the weekends away, enjoying the bimonthly lunches and other social occasions... always with the same banter, and twinkle in the eye.

Sadly in the latter days, he suffered with Parkinsons and dementia and yet even then always had a smile and a quip. He became a member of Opal and Margaret speaks of how much both she and Ken valued the time, support and friendship they found there.

So today we give thanks for the life of Ken for all that he has meant to us in so many different ways. We thank God for all those special memories of him which mean he will live on in our lives and in our hearts through our memories of Ken that we will share... through all the things he has taught us in the way he has lived his life. He will live on through the love and care he gave to us as we share that love with others.

So we thank God for Ken's life, for all Ken has meant to us and for all Ken will always mean to us. But now for Ken the trials and tribulations of this world are over and death is past and I know that he has gone to a place where there is no more pain, and no more suffering and no more memory loss.

And I know he will have been received into the arms of his loving heavenly Father with the words 'Well done my good and faithful servant'.

Amen.