

Rev'd Sue Levitt
14 Tarporley Road, Tarvin CH3 8ER
Tel: 01829 741022
email: revsuelevwork@gmail.com

May, 2018

Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this my last letter for Outreach as minister of Norley and although I work with words each day it is so hard to find the right words on such an occasion as this. If you are expecting something profound then I'm sorry to disappoint you, for this is just a great big thank you!

Thank you to all those who have travelled with me over the past 9 years.

As I look back over the time I have shared with you we have enjoyed some special times together with Christmas tree festivals, Flower festivals, Craft Days, Cookery and Holiday clubs for children, Prayer Days with the school, Parade services with the Scouts, Café Church, Christingle Services, carol singing, fortnightly lunches, Safari Suppers and weekends away to name but a few. Some of these have been new initiatives and one off events whilst others have been a continuation and development of events that have been going for many years.

And on a more personal note the sharing in my ordination where so many travelled to Liverpool Cathedral to be with me in that moment is something I will always treasure.

There have also been times of huge sadness when we have held one another when one of our friends has gone to glory.

But above all it has been an immense privilege and joy to share with so many people in so many ways both in your personal lives and in the lives of our church and community: times of laughter and fun, times of reflection and prayer, times of sadness and pain, times of healing and rejoicing.

I will take all of these memories with me as I move on.

Change is never easy or comfortable and especially when it comes unexpectedly. However, I do believe God is in this move and will be with us all in the challenging days ahead. He continues to have work for us all to do but with different people in different ways and for me in a different place.

Thank you for your love and your friendship, your caring and your sharing.

I will continue to hold you all in my prayers as I hope you will hold me,

Every Blessing,

Sue

Pastoral Piece

As we approach the edition of our 'Summer Outreach', I and the Pastoral team will be losing our Minister Sue Levitt. We would like to take this opportunity to say 'thanks' for all your support. Not only are we losing our Mentor but a friend. We wish her 'Good Luck' in her new ministry post.

As we approach our 'Summer Season' we hope and trust all is well with you and yours. We certainly had lovely beautiful sunshine on the May Day holiday, which helped to lift everyone's spirits. Here's hoping we get some more sunshine!!

Our Pastoral Team are always on hand should you need them. Here's wishing you all a healthy summer time.

I leave you with this poem

NATURE'S WAY (words by Charlotte York)

*Have you ever watched a spider spin its web anew
With threads of silky gossamer bespangled with the dew?*

*Have you ever seen a rosebud gracefully unfold
Its fragrant petals of red or pink or gold?*

*Did you ever see a butterfly adorn a flower fair
With trembling wings and dainty legs to sip the nectar there?*

*Have you noticed how a song thrush when a summer eve draws nigh,
Will sit and sing his heart out to a sunset filled red sky?*

*Do you ever stop to wonder at nature's secret plan
To create such lovely things that can ne'er be made by man?*

Till the next time God Bless you all

Margaret Hogan (01928788960)

SAFARI SUPPER

**WE ARE SORRY TO ANNOUNCE THAT DUE TO ILLNESS
THE SAFARI SUPPER HAS BEEN CANCELLED THIS YEAR.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE SAFARI
SUPPER IN 2019.**

Craft Club News

We have been very busy recently knitting for St. Luke's Hospice. I am glad to say all the chicks have flown the nest and raised a substantial amount of money for the hospice.

North West Air Ambulance has asked us to assist in raising funds for this service. Air Ambulance are not government funded so our help is really appreciated.

Our next trip out will be to Aberkan to stock up for our latest projects.

This month we have welcomed Frances as a new member to our group and she is tackling knitting with gusto. Keep smiling and laugh a lot.

Eleanor Jones

STOP PRESS

Olwyn has finished the Wigan Wanderers scarf.

I believe her grandson is delighted.

Family worker

Songs - what is your favourite and why?

Songs are powerful. They connect people together, rekindle memories, make memories and help to lift your mood. (depending on the type of song of course)

If you search <https://overviewbible.com/bibl-songd/> Jeffrey Kranz writes there are at least 185 songs in the Bible. You can find songs in the Bible for all kinds of occasions- battles, coronations, funerals, cities being sacked, and seas splitting up ... Granted, 150 of these songs are in [the book of Psalms](#), which actually is a songbook— written by a lot more people than just David.

But you can find 35ish more songs, chants, dirges, and hymns scattered across the Old and New Testaments. I say 35ish because some of those songs are very similar to Psalms, and other pieces of poetry may or may not have been sung, so there may be more than this number.

Psalm 95 says **Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Each assembly time in school we start with a song and this year we have been learning new songs. Some have become our favourites, many have actions and the best ones create an atmosphere of togetherness and enjoyment. Often they are songs of praise to God or have a moral message within them.

Many people attend festivals over the summer months, enjoying all sorts of music. There are Christian festivals from 'The Big Church day out' weekend, 'New wine', 'Soul Survivor' and 'Greenbelt'. Check these out.

Whatever music you enjoy singing or listening to either in church or outside its walls, may I encourage you to continue to sing, I'm sure God doesn't mind if we all haven't got perfect voices. I like to think God knows the human benefits of song and encourages us to sing joyfully to him and with others.

So next time your favourite song comes on the radio, go on sing along.

Andrea Ellams

The Choir at Norley

The choir contributed to worship on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services. On Palm Sunday, they sang an introit entitled "Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest" by Carl Tuttle. They were delighted when asked for a further contribution by Mr. Ken Jackson. They sang a jazzy version of "Jesus rode a donkey into town" which well suited his beautifully inspiring service.

On Easter Sunday the choir sang "Christ was raised" by Sam Hargreaves, a member of Sherwood Methodist church in Nottingham (the church where Rajan and I got married). Though written for guitar accompaniment, the words and music were perfect for Easter Sunday. The choir dressed in white tops and holding candles, and sang lustily with perfect diction. Members of the congregation commented how they got every word. Well Done.

The author Muriel Bradbury in her book entitled "The elegance of the hedgehog" writes about choirs as follows:

"The choir is a beautiful thing. When the music stops, everyone applauds, their faces all lit up, the choir radiant, it is beautiful. I wonder if the true movement of the world might not be a voice raised in song"

Saro Jesudason

Easter Offering News

Easter offering envelopes across the Circuit raised £2,488.66 and the collection at the Easter Offering Service at Christleton on 22nd April was £211.80, making the total £2,700.46.

The Bread of Life will rise in the Yeast and set so we have no Waste.

Annual Church Meeting

All Methodist churches are required, according to what are called in Standing Orders (section 62, to be precise), to hold a General Church Meeting at least once a year. Such meetings, which may be attended by all members of the congregation, can discuss various matters and agree certain decisions, but what it must do is (1) elect Church Stewards and (2) elect representatives to the Church Council.

At Norley, we usually meet in April or May and in addition to the essential functions mentioned, agree on donations to organisations external to the Methodist Church and consider any matters of interest to the whole worshipping congregation.

On May 13th this year, we followed the now customary pattern of morning service at 10.45 am, followed by the Church Meeting (attended by 22 people), lunch and rounding off with the service of Holy Communion. The Revd Sue Levitt led worship and presided at Communion. We were grateful to Hazel Dale, Alison Penny, Alison Twinn and Joan Bell for arranging and providing lunch, not least following Ruth Lane's sudden illness a few days before.

Minutes of last year's meeting were summarised, approved and signed. Sue explained how her earlier than expected move from the circuit in September 2018 to Kidderminster and Stourport had come about: it was noted that the Revd Andrew Emison would have pastoral charge of Norley and he would be formally welcomed at his first morning appointment with us.

There were no new appointments of Church Stewards to be made this year and the Stewards will ensure that cover for Ruth's absence is provided. The three representatives to the Church Council – Yvonne Roughsedge, Hazel Dale and Lewis Dimelow – were re-elected.

Donations to external organisations were made – see the Financial Report in this magazine for details.

The service of Holy Communion concluded with words of Fred Kaan's hymn 'now let us from this table rise renewed in body, mind and soul.....and help us to accept with joy the challenge of tomorrow's day'. Sue's challenge in her earlier Ascension-theme sermon, based on the disciples' anxiety as Jesus left them, was to 'step up to the mark'. Cometh the hour, cometh the message!

John Bell – acting Church Council Secretary

1st Wednesday Walks

The March walk was led by Vaughan and Garry. Unpredictable weather meant that for the third month running a change of route might be called for. However, all was well on the morning and eleven of us started our walk in the Spring like weather in Little Ness on the Wirral. Parking at the Wheatsheaf pub, we walked down to the Dee estuary following the line of the original quay alongside the salt-marshes. The bird enthusiasts among us, binoculars at the ready, were rewarded with sights of many birds including a hen harrier. Following the required coffee break we then made our way to join the Wirral Way walking along the old railway track through an impressive deep sandstone cutting and along the lanes back to the cars and lunch. The following day the Wirral experienced the first snow for many years!

Garry Wynne

The words “tricky”, “invigorating” & “damp” were used by members to describe our April’s Wednesday walk. We were treated to coffee & a quick look round Little Morton Hall before setting off across the fields, which due to the amount of recent rain, resembled an obstacle course in several places. We eventually reached the Macclesfield Canal, without losing any members, to walk alongside some very ornate railings which were erected by the canal company in 1831 so as not to impede the view of the nearby Ramsden Hall whose land the canal crossed. The railings must have been over ½ mile long. We dined at the Rising Sun & afterwards took our third change of route back to our cars. We started with 11 & finished with 11 damp but not wet members. Result!

Anthony Davies

In May we walked the footpaths of Norley in response to a request from the Parish Council to repeat the survey of their condition which was carried out in 2013.

A 4½ mile circular walk started from the Church down to the path beside the Tiger’s Head, across to Town Farm Lane, and then on past the Oranges across James Dale’s land to Beech Lane. We returned across Brown Moss to Flaxmere Moss and by Low Farm to Breeches Moss. A very pleasant walk was enjoyed by all. Lunch was taken at the Church at the end of the wail, though in the Open Door room rather than in the church garden – it was a cool day

We had covered a fair number of the Norley footpaths and bridleways and Garry and Bruce will survey the remaining ones not covered, and submit a report to the Parish Council in due course.

Words Bruce Lane

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

Wednesday July 4th

Wednesday August 1st

Wednesday September 5th

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

Diary

Unless stated in the notices the following group meets weekly

Craft Club Tuesdays 10.00am – noon in the Open Door Room
(All activities at Norley Methodist unless otherwise stated)

June 2018

Monday	4 th	4.00pm	Kelsall Messy Church
Sunday	3 rd	10.45a m	Rev Sue Levitt
		6.30pm	Mr Matthew Barnard of Frodsham
Wednesday	6 th	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
Thursday	7 th	4.30pm	The Hurst Messy Church
MHA	10 th		Rev Sue Levitt / Mrs Sian Williams - Sacrament
Sunday		10.45a m	
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Monday	11 th	12 noon	The Hurst soup lunch in aid of MAG Landmines Advisory Group
Tuesday	12 th	7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	13 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Sunday	17 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45a m	Mr Robert Swettenham of Chester
		6.30pm	Rev Christine Dutton of Chester
Wednesday	20 th	5.00pm	Tarvin Messy Church
		7.30pm	Café Church led by Peter & Sue Levitt
		8.00pm	The Hurst Café Church
Thursday	21 st	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Helsby
Sunday	24 th	10.45a m	Dr Judy Ford of The Hurst
		6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt - Sacrament

Sunday 29th 10.45a Rev Neil Stacey of Chester
m
6.30pm No Service at Norley

August 2018

Wednesday 1st 9.45am First Wednesday Walk

Sunday 5th 10.45a Mr Ian Johnson of Kelsall
m
6.30pm Joint service at Blakelees

Sunday 12th 10.45a Rev Claire Heald of Chester - Sacrament
m
6.30pm Joint service at Frodsham

Wednesday 15th 5.00pm Tarvin Messy Church

Sunday 19th 10.45a Hill
m
6.30pm Joint service at Blakelees

Sunday 26th 10.45a Mr John Bell of Cuddington
m
6.30pm Rev David Bintliff of Helsby - Sacrament

September 2018 (more details in the next Outreach)

Wednesday 5th 9.45am First Wednesday Walk

Monday 10th 2.00pm Pastoral Committee meeting

Wednesday 12th 12 Open Door Lunch
noon

Thursday 13th 7.30pm Circuit Meeting at Norley

Sunday 16th 9.00am Norley@9

Thursday 27th 12 Open Door Lunch
noon

Christian Aid Week 13th – 19th May

Marcelin's story

Marcelin lost his home, livestock and possessions when Hurricane Matthew struck. Now his family live in a disused shower block.

Your generosity this Christian Aid week means disaster-proof homes will be built for vulnerable people like Marcelin in Haiti.

We are so lucky not to live in an earthquake and hurricane area.

The total collected will be given in the next Outreach.

Ruth Lane

Spiritual Committee

As you read this (I often seem to begin these pieces with such words), it will be June, and we shall have marked the end of the major formal occasions of the worldwide Christian calendar. March began during Lent, in which we reflected on appropriate themes each Sunday morning which continued through Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day. As the candles were diminished through Lent and finally extinguished on Good Friday, we awaited the sign of the glorious resurrection of Jesus, celebrated in light and flowers. The Easter Cross, with its bright and colourful floral abundance, bore witness to our faith as it stood for a few days in the church driveway entrance for all who passed by to see.

Since then, we have moved on through Ascension and Pentecost to Trinity Sunday, when we are encouraged to reflect on – if never wholly comprehend – the triune God who is always Father and Mother, Son and Holy Spirit. For Methodists we also had Aldersgate Sunday thrown in on May 20th, the day of Pentecost this year: Wesley Day itself was of course on May 24th, commemorating the heart-warming, life-changing experience of the Revd John Wesley in Aldersgate Street, London in 1738 and without whose ministry many of us would not be here at all.

During April, we welcomed the Norley Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and their leaders to our morning service on the Sunday nearest to St George's Day, when they renewed their promises. It was good to see a full church, not least including a few dozen young people many of whom willingly took an active part in the service. And, the following Sunday, we celebrated our 136th Church Anniversary.

In June and July, again with a Methodist focus, there will be Methodist Homes Sunday (we have two located within our circuit – Callin Court in Chester and Chapelfields in Frodsham), Conference Sunday (the Methodist Conference is being held this year in a new facility at Nottingham University) on which the great Ordination Services will be held and Action for Children Sunday (formerly known as the National Children's Home).

The Circuit Plan for the June to August quarter is now available, and you are encouraged to look carefully, especially to check when there are evening services. The March Church Council agreed to a recommendation from the Spiritual Committee that from September

onwards we will have just one evening service per month – which will always include Holy Communion – except on special occasions such as the Carol Service, Harvest Festival and Church Anniversary. However, in view of other events over the summer, there will be no evening services at Norley during July and August except for the monthly Communion on August 26th when we shall welcome the Revd David Bintliff who came to the circuit last September. David will just manage to preach at Norley in his first year and he will be most welcome.

The Revd Sue Levitt leaves the circuit at the end of July for her new appointment as superintendent minister of the Kidderminster and Stourport Circuit in September. Sue's last service at Norley will be a Holy Communion on the morning of July 8th. **However, most importantly, her Farewell Service from the whole circuit will be at Kelsall at 4.00 pm on Sunday July 22nd** – please do make every effort to come along and share in celebrating Sue's ministry amongst us and wishing her well in her new appointment.

CAFE CHURCH

Café Church will be led on Wednesday June 20th at 7.30 pm by the Revds Sue and Peter Levitt, will take a break in July and August and resume on Wednesday September 19th for the new season.

Norley @ 9

Norley@9 will meet on Sunday June 17th at 9.00 am and also take a break in July and August, resuming on September 16th.

From September 1st, we shall welcome the Revd Andrew Emison as our minister with pastoral responsibility for Norley. He has served in the circuit for two years and is no stranger to us, having preached on a few occasions and led Café Church. The next meeting of the Spiritual Committee, to plan the September to November quarter, will be fixed when Andrew is able to be with us.

As the old hymn says, “we will praise God for what is past and trust God for what is to come”.

John Bell, Chair of Spiritual Committee

The Church Weekend Away at Abbot Hall (October 5th – 7th)

Thanks for your deposits and bookings.

The second deposit has been made, and I am delighted to report there will be 17 attending this year, including our new minister Andrew Emison and his wife Naomi and their 2 children Sophie and Matthew. The balance will not be required until early September.

If you want to join us, there may well be spare rooms still available – so let me know and I can enquire. *Bruce Lane*

Open Door Lunches 2018

Lunches will be served at noon on the following dates:

Wednesdays 13th June, 11th July, 12th September

Thursdays 28th June, 26th July, 27th September

At the time of writing and in view of Ruth's illness, plans have been made to ensure lunches will take place as normal during June and July. At the kind suggestion of some of our regular diners we are taking a break in August this year and resuming in September.

Please let Joan (01606 301198) know by the Sunday before if you will attend the lunch in the next week.

THURSDAY CLUB

An invitation to you to come to the thursday club

June 28th, July 26th, September 27th

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

Church Council in March

(appearing here as overlooked until the last minute)

The March Church Council agreed to reduce the evening services to 1 per month from September (which would include celebration of holy communion, plus additional services on special occasions. It approved the proposed budget for the 18/19 church year; deferred until June when our new minister could be present any discussion on new youth or outreach activities; and agreed to provisionally book a 2019 weekend away at Beth Eden to facilitate a discussion in June. Donations to Methodist funds were made of £100 to Englesea Brook, £100 to the Connexional Property Fund and £100 to the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons

CHESTER & DELAMERE FOREST METHODIST CIRCUIT PROJECT JUNE 2016 - DECEMBER 2017

When the Circuit Charity Fundraising Project began, the target of £10,000 for the Cheshire Search and Rescue Team seemed a very long way away. However, that target was indeed surpassed.

At the recent Circuit Meeting at Wesley Methodist Church, Circuit Superintendent Minister the Reverend Neil Stacey presented the Cheshire Search & Rescue Team with a cheque for £10,589. The money will be used to buy new radios for the team helping to make them more efficient and find missing people quicker.

Every church in the Circuit made a contribution to help reach the target. Some of the smaller churches having raised amounts much greater than their size would suggest. The number of events held to raise money varied enormously. Collections were taken at Circuit Services and individual churches from Easter, through the Summer and Harvest to Christmas. Events involving food, as you might expect in any Methodist Church, were considerable. There were several soup lunches, a safari supper, and special meals. There were quizzes, bring & buy sales, and a large number of coffee mornings, musical events, choirs and concerts, a treasure hunt, and an Auction of Promises at Hoole which beat all expectations.

Superintendent Minister, the Reverend Neil Stacey said, "A huge 'well done' must be extended to everybody who has had anything to do with the raising of money for 'Cheshire Search & Rescue' whether a big or small amount. We extend our grateful thanks. It is all the more remarkable as most churches continue to raise money for many other charities as a matter of course throughout the year."

Alan Johnson

On behalf of the Methodist Circuit Project Advisory Team

Wesley Methodist Church Centre, St John Street, Chester CH1 1DA

Financial Report

The finances of the Church continue to be in good order – income and expenditure within the overall budgets agreed by the Church Council, with some property expenditure carried forward from the previous year (2016-17) and nothing alarming to report at the moment.

We retain reserves in a deposit account with the Methodist Central Finance Board of about 6 months' expenditure, in line with the recommended policy of the Church. It is noted that a significant amount of income does depend on the proceeds of special events which are becoming increasingly challenging to organise (*Since this was written the Safari Supper was cancelled due to illness this year - Editor*).

The Annual Church Meeting on May 13th agreed to make donations of £100 to the 'Norley News' magazine, £200 to Tarn Taran a children's project in India (which the Revd Sue Levitt visited on her recent trip and Ruth and Bruce Lane had seen some years ago), and £150 each to the Marie Curie Foundation and a Manchester-based charity (to be identified) which supports homeless people.

The donations at coffee time after morning services, introduced in March 2017, have resulted in £438 being given in the first twelve months, before adding gift-aid of 25% - a further £110. It is noteworthy that 20% of our annual income – some £5000 or so – now comes from the gift-aid refund from HMRC: long may it continue!

The second and final loan repayment of £1250 to the Chester and Stoke District was made in March, so the Church has no debts or outstanding loans. The loan was to enable the solar panels to be installed and which have generated an average income of around £1800 for each of the five years since installation.

Thanks to you all for your continued generosity.

John Bell, Church Treasurer

Rotas Page		Morning Door Stewards Rota	
Flowers Rota		The June to August rota is published below. Please ensure that you find a substitute if you're unable to fulfil your duty	
Jun 3	Mrs H Dale	Jun 3	Heather & Anthony Davies
Jun 10	Mrs R Lane	Jun 10	Pauline Gates & Lewis Dimelow
Jun 17	Mrs P Gates	Jun 17	Margaret Hogan and June Fay
Jun 24	Mrs S Grindley	Jun 24	Ken & Jean Dunning

Jul 1	Mrs A Twinn	Jul 1	Oliver Dimelow & Alison Penny
Jul 8	Mrs H Davies	Jul 8	Hazel & James Dale
Jul 15	Mrs B Garner	Jul 15	Alison Twinn & Rajan Jesudason
Jul 22	Mrs J Barclay	Jul 22	Pauline Gates & Lewis Dimelow
Jul 29	Mrs L Gough	Jul 29	Margaret Hogan & John Dimelow
Aug 5	Mrs M Hogan	Aug 5	Heather & Anthony Davies
Aug 12	Mrs V Wynne	Aug 12	Ken & Jean Dunning
Aug 19	Mrs J Dunning	Aug 21	Philip Garner & Yvonne Roughsedge
Aug 26	Mrs H Dale	Aug 26	Margaret Hogan and June Fay
Sep 2	Mrs R Lane		
Sep 9	Mrs P Gates	<p>With thanks, as ever, to you all. Your welcomes are much appreciated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The</i></p> <p><i>Stewards</i></p>	
Sep 16	Mrs S Grindley		
Sep 23	Mrs A Twinn		

Coffee Rota

Jun 3	Hazel & James
Jun 10	Vaughan & Yvonne
Jun 17	Heather & Anthony
Jun 24	Mary & Alison P
Jul 1	Margaret & June
Jul 8	Alison T & Yvonne
Jul 15	Mary & Alison P
Jul 22	Hazel & James
Jul 29	Vaughan & Yvonne
Aug 5	Margaret & June
Aug 12	Richard & Di
Aug 19	Heather & Anthony
Aug 26	Alison T & Yvonne

**Café Church
refreshment rota**
Jun 20 Mary Dimelow

Car Rota
If you need a lift to or from Church on any Sunday please
contact the senior steward on 01928 788071.

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