

# Summer 2025

## OUTREACH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM NORLEY METHODIST CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP  
HOLY COMMUNION  
BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS  
WEBSITE

10.45am  
ONCE A MONTH  
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE MINISTER  
<http://www.norleymethodistchurch.org.uk>

MINISTERS

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May, 2025

Dear Friends,

Please don't take this the wrong way but this is, hopefully, the last time we will write this letter as ministers of Norley!

When I officially, in Methodist Parlance, "sat down" and Peter and I came to Norley that first Sunday back in the area, we were told, "You are no longer our minister, you are now one of us!" which was so special to us both and for a short while that is definitely how we felt.....

That was until the Superintendent came to call! He explained that, sadly, the Circuit had not, that year, been matched with anyone for this section and he wanted Peter and myself to help out at Norley, and Peter to work with Oakmere..... How could we say "No!" ?

And that is how it has been until September 1<sup>st</sup>, when a new minister, Rev Claire Rawlinson, will take up the appointment and Peter and I will be able to "sit down" once again!

We do hope that what you said previously --- "You are no longer our minister, you are now one of us!" will stand once again and we can look forward to sharing with you in all we will do together as members of Norley Methodist Church.

Thank you for your continued encouragement, prayer, and love, shown not just to Peter and myself but also to Katy and George. We all really appreciate being part of this church family.

Long may it continue,

Love and Prayers

***Sue & Peter***

## ***Congratulations .....***

- *To **Margaret Hogan** on her reaching her **90<sup>th</sup>** birthday on 7 April*
- *To **Bruce Lane** who passed 80 years of age on March 12*
- *To **Philippa**, Kevin and Shelley's daughter, on her progress since her coach crash before Christmas. Shelley reports she is now walking and even jogging after all her operations.*
- *To **Ruth Lane** who reached 80 years of age on April 17*
- *To **Sue Levitt** who has been appointed a governor of Norley Primary school, joining Michael Gough who is already a governor.*

## ***Thank You.....***

- *From **Kevin** and **Shelley** for all the wishes and cards for Philippa over the last few months.*

## ***In Our Thoughts....***

- ***Lyndsay** and her family following the death on 2 April of **Judith Forrest**, former church member at Norley.*
- *The family and friends of **Brian Moores** from The Hust Kingsley who sadly passed away last month and his funeral was held on 29 April*

## Church Council Meeting –

The Church Council met on 1st April. Updates for finance and property are covered elsewhere in Outreach, as is a report about the Prayer Day held with Norley Primary School.

Other items discussed:

- That Rev'd Sue is now a Governor at Norley Primary School and so with Sue and Michael Gough now both Governors, we have been able to establish good links with the school. As well as Sue leading regular assemblies, we have enjoyed some additional activities recently, - the Prayer Day before Easter, and the school involvement in our 'Remembering VE Day' celebration.
- The Dale Family Memorial was almost ready at the time of the Church Council meeting (and has since been installed in the entrance vestibule).
- A successful charity fundraising concert was held in February and Michael was thanked for his work in organising the event which raised over £1300, shared between the Northwest Air Ambulance and 'Lifted' charities.
- The Open Door café was busy during the early months of the year, and the drinks, cakes and chat are appreciated by all who come along. Alongside the café we have several regular 'Add Ons' including Gillian Edwards' drop in Councillor 'surgery, visits from the OPAL 'Go-Online team' and a craft table.
- Within the Circuit, we received confirmation that Rev'd Claire Rawlinson will take up the post of Minister for the Rural Churches (including Norley), from September this year.

Our Treasurer, John, has been actively engaging with others over the calculation of assessments for the individual Churches and we are grateful to John for this work.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th June.

*Lesley Gough , Church Council Secretary*

## Solar Panels Update

This last quarter we generated a further 927Kwh, and were paid £694.8 for doing so. In 13¼ years we have generated 44684Kwh and have received £24,132 in total.

*Bruce Lane*

Judith Forrest started the First Wednesday Walks at Norley chapel. The article from Central Scene, the predecessor to Outreach has the article above from the Autumn 2001 edition.

Betty Knight has kindly lent the editor Tony's photograph records from the walks. Those below of Judith and Alan from 2002 and 2003 have been selected to record their achievement in starting an enduring church social activity.



I hope you can recognise the other walkers in the photos.

*Bruce*

# First Wednesday Walks

First Wednesday Walk March 5th 2025

We set off from the small parking area in Waterloo Lane on the north side of Delamere Forest which, with some difficulty and help from two exiting dog walkers, we had managed to squeeze our cars in. We then had to negotiate the drying up mud before making our way into the forest and strolling through the holiday lodge complex, you may remember was built a few years ago with much local controversy. Our attention was brought to one lodge which was being repaired after being severely damaged by falling trees. We couldn't help thinking that, however nice the lodges were, they were perhaps not the best place to be during a gale.

The on-site café was taken advantage of and we had coffee or hot chocolate before making our way back to the cars by a different route. We drove on to The Goshawk in Mouldsworth where we all partook of their "Cosy Lunch" before travelling home.

Too late we remembered that nobody had taken any photographs. Sorry Bruce, but the silver lining is that all our lovely readers will be spared yet another picture of the same grinning oldies.

*Words by Richard*

Fourteen souls participated in the April walk which, led by Vaughan and Garry, was an easy stroll of just over one mile around Shakerly Mere. Although the first part is accompanied by traffic noise from the M6 this disadvantage was outweighed by the fever pitch excitement of watching Canada and Greylag geese on the lake!

A fine meal was partaken at the nearby Three Greyhounds pub.



*Words and Photo by Garry*



Twelve of us enjoyed the May First Wednesday Walk on a sunny 7<sup>th</sup> May, led by Peter and Sheila. We started from the Coach Road car park in Little Bdworth and followed a circular route, initially going northwards on the eastern side of the road. We then crossed over the Coach Road. Here most of the party initially carried on northwards along the horse ride before doubling back.



As this part of the walk was known to be rough and narrow in some places, those who found walking more of a challenge followed a short cut, led by Sheila on her tricycle, meeting up later with the rest of the group. We enjoyed the sounds of birdsong all the way. After the walk, we retired to the Red Lion in Little Budworth for lunch.

*Words by Peter, Photo by Garry*

Future walks are planned for

Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup>

Meet at the church by 10am to drive to the walk start. These days the walks are 1-3 miles maximum followed by a lunch in a local hostelry. You would be most welcome to join this leisurely activity,

*Bruce*

## Remembering VE Day 80 years on....

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May we held a special event to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. The Open Door Café opened for the morning and had a very patriotic theme with bunting, flags and even a special VE Day cake!



A rolling slide show of some old photographs, some 'local' and some from the Imperial War Museum collection, proved interesting. Several of those who attended brought along medals, photographs and other family memorabilia and it was fascinating to hear some of the stories of relatives who saw active service during the war.

We were delighted to welcome around twenty pupils from Norley Primary School who came along... many in

1940s inspired outfits. They thoroughly enjoyed chatting to everyone and looking at the memorabilia and the photos, as well as a 'Horrible Histories' VE day quiz, and of course lots of cake!



At 12 noon, Rev'd Sue led a short reflective service of Remembrance. During the service wreaths

were presented and our thoughts turned to the sacrifices made by so many, and recognition that although for many VE Day was a day of celebration, for others it was a time of sadness and reflection, as well as continued uncertainty for those with family members still engaged in the war in the Far East.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the day and helping us mark the occasion with a good balance of celebration and reflection.



## **Prayer Day**

Our ties with Norley CE Primary School were strengthened again this year with a Prayer Day that was held on 31<sup>st</sup> March in Norley Methodist Church. The school is a Church of England school operating within the Chester Diocesan Academies Trust. We've assisted in the running of a whole school Prayer Day in previous years, and this event is becoming something of a 'fixture'.

The Prayer Day features prayer stations each of which has a creative activity, a picture to consider and discuss, and a prayer. The chapel is reconfigured to allow movement between the prayer stations, which were designed by the 'BiG Group' (a group of children who 'believe in God'). The school children (104 in total) attended the chapel in their year-groups and engaged with each of the prayer stations in turn. The theme(s) this year were 'acceptance' and 'forgiveness'.

What a brilliant day!

In our recent VE Day coffee morning at the Open Door Café (8<sup>th</sup> May), the BiG Group attended and shared in the activities, and the Head (Mrs Kelly) proudly confirmed that the group had grown in size since the Prayer Day; "lots of the children now want to join in". Thanks be to God!

Michael Gough is a Foundation Governor at the school, and we are pleased to report that Rev'd Sue Levitt has also joined its Board of Governors.

## **Lent and Good Friday**

The Lent Liturgy from the last edition of Outreach was followed for the 6 weeks of Lent remembering the activities leading up to the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. By this time the cross in church had been decorated with a crown of thorns, a royal robe, a whip, a chalice, a bag of coins and 6 inch nails.

On Good Friday morning, Peter Levitt led the well-attended service when Peter delivered a powerful and emotional service about the Crucifixion after which we all exited the church in sombre silence

## **Easter Sunday**

The congregation returned 2 days later on Easter Sunday to find the church had been decorated the day before. The windowsills had been decorated with flowers which after the service were given out to celebrate Easter.

The congregation celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead in a service ably led by Sue Levitt, during which we decorated the cross with yellow chrysanthemums and placed it during the last hymn in the church drive as a witness to the village.



Margaret Hogan received the following in a birthday card received from Australia.

Margaret has no relatives in Australia and the card was from Judy Smith who was visiting her relatives at the time.

TODAY DEAR LORD I'M 90,  
THERE'S MUCH I HAVE NOT DONE,  
I HOPE DEAR LORD YOU'LL LET ME LIVE,  
UNTIL I'M 91.

THEN IF I HAVEN'T FINISHED  
ALL I WANT TO DO,  
WOULD YOU LET ME KINDLY STAY  
UNTIL I'M 92?

SO MANY PLACES STILL TO GO  
SO MUCH I WANT TO SEE,  
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD LET ME BE  
UNTIL I'M 93?

THE WORLD IS CHANGING VERY FAST,  
THERE IS SO MUCH STILL IN STORE,  
I THINK DEAR LORD I'D LIKE TO LIVE  
UNTIL I'M 94.

AND IF BY THEN I'M STILL ALIVE  
COULD YOU MAKE IT 95?  
MORE TRAVEL AND MORE THINGS TO FIX,  
I'D BETTER LAST 'TIL 96.

I KNOW DEAR LORD IT'S MUCH TO ASK  
(IT MUST BE NICE IN HEAVEN)  
BUT REALLY I WOULD LIKE TO STAY  
UNTIL I'M 97.

I KNOW BY THEN I WON'T BE FAST,  
AND SOMETIMES I'LL BE LATE.  
BUT IT WOULD BE SO PLEASANT  
TO BE HERE AT 98.

I WILL HAVE SEEN SO MANY THINGS  
AND HAD A LOVELY TIME,  
I'M SURE I WILL BE WILLING  
TO LEAVE AT 99.

JUST ONE THING I'D LIKE TO SAY,  
I KNOW YOU ARE THE DEITY,  
SO IF IT'S ALL OK WITH YOU  
I'D LIKE TO LIVE PAST A CENTURY!

# Church Calendar

June – August 2025

Date	Time	Preacher	Activity
<b>June</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	10.45am	Rev'd Peter Levitt	Morning Worship, Annual Church Meeting, Holy Communion
4 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk
4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm		Local Preachers' Meeting
5 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm		Pastoral Committee Meeting
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Dr Ruth Lane	Morning Worship
8 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Mr John Bell	Circuit Farewell Service at Oakmere
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Community Café
10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm		Circuit Meeting at The Hurst
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Revd David Copley	Morning Worship
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Community Café
21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am		Coffee Plus
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45am	Mr Peter Davidson	Morning Worship
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Community Café
24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm		Church Council
25 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm		Soup 'n' Pud Lunch
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr John Bell	Morning Worship
<b>July</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm		Local Preachers' Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Revd Sue Levitt	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Community Café
13 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Dr Judy Ford	Morning Worship
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Community Café



<b>July (continued)</b>			
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Coffee Plus
20 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr Matthew Barnard	Morning Worship
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am		Community Café
23 <sup>rd</sup>	12.15pm		Soup 'n' Pud Lunch
27 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Ms Michaela Doherty	Morning Worship
<b>August</b>			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.45am	Revd Peter Levitt	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Community Café
6 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Professor Neville Ford	Morning Worship
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Community Café
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Coffee Plus
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr Mike Ridley	Morning Worship
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Community Café
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.54am	Revd Rosemary Wass	Morning Worship
26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am		Community Café
31 <sup>st</sup>	10.45am	Revd Sue Levitt	Ecumenical Service with The Hurst and Anglicans from NCK Benefice

## Ecumenical Matters

Discussions continue with the United Benefice of Norley, Crowton and Kinglsey and Norley Methodist Church. We have agreed a trial united service which will also include The Hurst, Kingsley to be held at Norley Methodist Church on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August (one of the 'fifth Sundays' in the year) and Rev'd Sue Levitt and Rev'd Hilary Merrington will jointly our devotions. This is a great opportunity for Methodists and Anglicans to show a united Christian presence in the area, centred on Norley!

**Michael Gough**

Convener, Spiritual Committee, Norley Methodist Church

# Christian Aid

## We believe in life before death

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

This year, Christian Aid is actively working in Guatemala to support communities facing the challenges of climate change and poverty. In the Alta Verapaz region, where 90% of people live in poverty, Christian Aid is partnering with local organizations like Congcoop to help indigenous Q'eqchi' communities. They are providing agricultural training and resources to make farming more climate resilient.

This includes teaching innovative techniques like making organic fertilizers, constructing rainwater collection systems, and growing diverse crops.

**Norley** has a tremendous history of supporting Christian Aid, so please donate what you can again this year. You can **make your donations** during the week **at any of our churches: The United Benefice of Norley, Crowton and Kinglsey or Norley Methodist Church**, or in our official collecting tins located in our local pubs, and at The Stores, Norley. Alternatively, you can make your donations securely on-line at:

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/fundraiser-2025/norley-ca-week-2025>

The e-envelope will stay 'open' to donations until end of June.

**Michael Gough**

Co-ordinator, Norley CA Group

Michael Gough's new music CD is now available to purchase; cost £10/disc of which £5 goes to Christian Aid. As of 18<sup>th</sup> May (the nominal end of Christian Aid Week) the CD had raised over £350. The music has contributions from the violist Daniel Axworthy who accompanied Michael at the charity concert earlier in the year. If you like a copy of the disc then send an email to Michael at: [info@michaelgoughmusic.co.uk](mailto:info@michaelgoughmusic.co.uk)



## Soup and pudding lunch

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> June and  
Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> July at  
12.15pm**

**Everyone welcome!**

(Please contact [Lesley.gough@mail.com](mailto:Lesley.gough@mail.com) to  
reserve your place)



**We are open and you are  
welcome!**

**The Open Door Café  
at  
Norley Methodist Church  
Maddocks Hill, Norley  
Cheshire, WA6 8JT.  
Every Tuesday 10am – 12 noon**

*(A member of the Places of Welcome network)*

### **Come along for...**

A hot drink, cake and biscuits (No  
charge – donations only if wished)

Regular 'drop ins' with local  
Councillor, Gillian Edwards; local  
advice and support; occasional craft  
activities, school holiday fun, and  
more...

Come on your own or come with  
friends – there is a warm welcome for  
everyone!

Check our Facebook page (Norley  
Open Door Café), and the local  
noticeboards for details.

Disabled parking available at the  
front of the Church. For the i-travel  
service, request stop at Norley  
Methodist Church.



## **COFFEE +**

**10am – 12 noon**

- 24<sup>th</sup> May
- 21<sup>st</sup> June
- 19<sup>th</sup> July
- 16<sup>th</sup> August

***Come and join us for  
Coffee, Cakes, Cheese  
Scones, quizzes and great  
conversation in the Open  
Door Room....or outside  
weather permitting.***



## Finance Report

Admiring my neighbour's shiny new 25 reg car, I noticed that the three random letters after the numbers were LSD. Now what does that evoke for you? Two very contrasting associations: a hallucinatory drug that Outreach readers haven't experienced (or so I assume) and British currency pre-February 15th 1971, which some (dare I suggest, many) readers do recall. Be honest, do you remember doing long division sums at Junior School involving pounds, shillings and pence, and wondering whether there would be a remainder? If there was not supposed to be, but you got one, then, sadly, you'd got it wrong. Then there was stones, pounds (weight) and ounces. How much easier is decimal currency and metric measurement!

My predecessors as Church Treasurer, in their pre-1971 days, not only wrestled with LSD but did it all by hand and fountain pen, in big hard-backed account books or ledgers (now in the church safe) with rows and columns, and they didn't even have simple calculators. They would skim up a column of figures, adding them as they went, and unerringly reach the correct total – a competence they learned at primary school. Ah, happy days!

Now, the church accounts are kept on Excel spreadsheets, with the same unerring accuracy, so long as the treasurer enters the correct figures in the correct boxes, and all without the complexities of LSD (that's of the monetary variety).

As the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter draws to a close at the end of May, we have no financial concerns. Offerings – the main source of regular income – continue to be sustained as are donations from individuals, coffee mornings and lunches, and the refunds from the solar panels are always welcome.

Property expenses have been rather higher than expected, for various reasons (outlined elsewhere in Outreach), but it is imperative that we maintain the church buildings in good order and bee-free. Since September 2024, donations have been made to external charities, including £1360 shared between Lifted (the Wythenshawe charity) and North-West Air Ambulance following the February concert, £1687 to the West Cheshire and Runcorn foodbanks (partly raised at carol-singing evenings in December) and £320 to the Christian Aid Middle East appeal. A full list of donations will be given in the Winter Outreach edition at the end of the Methodist financial year.

The Church Council and Church Leadership Team continue to receive more detailed financial reports at their periodic meetings to scrutinise incomes and expenditures, and the treasurer ensures that there is always a sufficient balance in the NatWest current account by making occasional transfers from the deposit account held at the Methodist Central Finance Board in London. This is replenished when the gift-aid refund is received from HMRC, usually in June or July. In addition, a monthly summary of offerings and regular donations is given in weekend notice-sheets.

All things considered, we are in a sound financial position and express thanks to everyone for their ongoing commitment and generosity.

*John Bell Treasurer, May 2025*





- Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public. Your food donations help us to provide a balanced and nutritious food parcel to those who need it.
- Items currently in very low stock are: UHT Milk, Smash , Curry cooking sauce, Jam, Shampoo
- The West Cheshire Foodbank supported 14,500 people in the 12 months to March 2025, including 4800 children
- The equivalent of 135,000 individual meals were provided in this time.
- Your continued support is greatly appreciated whether this is by donating food or via monetary donations.

## Property Matters

Since the last Outreach, Karl, a local beekeeper, has removed the bees nest in the ceiling above the store room, preserving the colony and housing it in a new hive. The rear of the church is now a bee free zone.

The trench reported last time has successfully dried out the rear wall, and now that the bees have been removed the rear wall can be waterproof painted to complete the work.

During the quarter Wi-Fi was installed after 3 Open Reach engineering failures. It was used by Lewis in a church service to show a U tube video to the congregation, and now the Hive controllers have been installed to enable the property stewards to control the church heating by mobile phones.

A baby changer was installed in the larger toilet after a suggestion by the senior steward.

In addition the exterior floodlights which had failed due to old age were replaced with new LED units, which are successfully lighting the building in the evening.

*Bruce, John and Lewis*

## Charity Ultra Hike sponsorship request

Below is a request received from Chris James and his daughter Catherine – who have long been associated with the church. Please support them if you can.

Chris write “I had given up hope of any of my daughters being married in Norley Church, something I had always hoped for, so to see the note on page 3 of the Spring edition was confirmation indeed that this was Jo’s preference. We had discussed it, of course, but you don’t tell a 50 year old daughter (how can that of happened) what to do.

I and my middle daughter, Catherine Taylor, and will be doing a 50 km (31 miles) Ultra Hike on the Gower Peninsula on the 19 Jul.25, in support of our preferred charities.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/catherine-taylor-1>

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/chris-james-1>

The distance is 50 km but to this is added 1200 m of height rise up and down the coastal paths which I just know from experience of similar coastal paths will be both heart pumping and lung busting. I really don't know why I do it especially as I have to undertake the challenge in less than 12 hrs. I think I might just make it.

I registered and started training in February but decided that I wouldn't start fund raising until I had successfully lifted my current weekly training sessions to 23 km, and I did that for the first time yesterday morning. It was a pretty warm day and boy am I feeling it today.

So here I am with my begging bowl out. Any small sum would be more than welcome by two very worthwhile charities.

This is not the sort of activity you would normally consider comfortable in mid-summer at 78 and 48 years resp. A challenge has to be something in the genes.

We have history: I completed the Great North Run with Catherine, and her youngest sister Carol, when I was 65, and since then, 2021, undertook one of the 3 x marathon hikes (42 km) I have completed, with both Catherine and her youngest sister, Carol. At that time we were raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. This year we have increased the bar to 50 km, a somewhat harder challenge especially as we get older, and because this one includes 1,200 m of collective height gain in the process.

I know that Catherine has a concern that too few people are aware of Meniere's disease hence considers that she is unlikely to gain adequate support to complete her financial commitment to the Meniere's Society. I don't agree with her of course, taking the view that people will be supporting her and not necessarily her chosen charity. However, this got me to thinking that Catherine probably still has friends in Norley from way back, when she and her sisters were members of Norley Church. It therefore occurred to me to ask if you would kindly add a note of her activities in the Summer edition of Outreach, and generally pass-on the word of what she is doing.

*Best regards, Chris James “*

# In Memorium

## Judith Elizabeth Forrest

Died 2 April 2025

Aged 79 years

Whenever someone you are very close to dies, you come across lots of items that bring back many memories, and you hear from many people who knew them in different circumstances. However, it is news items about the upcoming 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day and seeing Judith's childhood photographs, that have shown me what an amazing job our parents did, rebuilding their life after the war, and creating such a happy home to welcome Judith into. Our parents had married during the war, and mum was living with her father (our grandfather) when Judith was born late 1945. The house was a 2up 2down on a street in Runcorn, Cheshire. When our dad, and our mum's 2 younger brothers returned from the war, mum dad and Judith had the front bedroom and Grandad, Uncle Roy and Uncle Arthur had the back bedroom. The toilet was down the back yard, and obviously no bathroom, so a tin bath in front of the sitting room fire in winter, or out in the yard in summer. I hope you will all join us at the wake this afternoon, where you will see some very nostalgic photographs of Judith's life, and can share memories.

It may sound very bleak and basic, but people were so happy to be back together with their families. Without the distractions of today's modern life, they spent all their time together enjoying life. Few people had TV's, or home phones, and there were no mobiles, the internet or computers, so that left just a simple basic radio. So, there was time to have picnics, go for walks, read books, trips to visit relatives in Southport and play on the beach. We had several aunts and uncles on mums' side of the family, and ended up with 8 cousins to get together with over the years. I know my parents were very proud of Judith. She was well behaved, happy, friendly, clever, and surrounded with love. And then-----

Seven and a half years later I was born, which (not surprisingly) was initially it very difficult for Judith. She got so fed up with people admiring her lovely little sister, that she desperately tried to persuade one of the few people she knew who had a TV, that she could swop me for the TV! Fortunately, as I grew up, I turned out to be very inquisitive, impulsive, and adventurous, which constantly got me into trouble. It was always pointed out to me how well-behaved Judith was and that she had never been naughty. This helped Judith's ego no end, and started a lifetime of "naughty little sister stories".

By the time I was born our family had moved from Grandad's to Runcorn Hill, near the park lake and swings and a putting green. Sunday was Sunday school day and there were loads of activities



to do with the church. Judith and I shared a bedroom all the time we lived at home, and got on incredibly well. Mum was incredibly proud when Judith was the first girl in the family to pass the 11plus (at a time when it was considered that there was no point in educating girls) and moved onto Grammar School. I followed her to Victoria Road primary school, where Judith would end up teaching a decade later!

I have many good memories about this period, when I was at Primary school and Judith at Grammar school. We didn't have family holidays, and instead had many, many, day trips on Yate's buses. Often into Wales, or the Lake District. Also, our godmother Auntie Clara, and mum would take us for day trips by train to Liverpool. These had to follow the same enjoyable timetable – Firstly, pocket money to spend on sweets in Woollies, then across the road to a very posh clothes shop, to see the mannequins showing off the ladies clothes. This was the point Judith always corrected me for insisting on calling them marshmallows. The day ended at Blacklers Department Store, built next to a boarded-up bomb site. Blacklers was a fantastic place to end our Liverpool days out. There was a wonderful, huge, rocking horse, and fish and chips for tea, served with what was considered to be posh triangles of bread with the crusts cut off – which Judith and I thought was rather odd as, at home, we were always made to eat the crusts to make sure we had curly hair! I can't remember how many grottos and Father Christmas we saw every Christmas trip to Liverpool, but we'd certainly come home with lots of presents!

You won't be surprised to hear Judith excelled at Grammar school, and got the highest grades in English and History A levels. Slightly earlier that year I had managed to pass the 11 plus, so knew I would be following my icon through grammar school next. This time it was harder for me since my interest was in Biology, Maths and Chemistry. Neither the school, nor mum, were impressed with my mediocre performance in English and History!

That summer we moved house but although it had 3 bedrooms, Uncle Roy came to live with us! At the end of the summer holiday, Judith moved onto teacher training college and I adapted to Grammar school. Judith's plans on completing teacher training were to stay in the Kidderminster/Birmingham area and get a flat with 2 college friends, and teach in the area. Unfortunately, she became ill and had to come home to have tests and treatment at Liverpool Hospital. As a result, she ended up teaching at our old primary school! It wasn't long before "My Naughty Little Sister Stories" were being told to pupils. Several have kept in touch with her, even up to 45 years later on, and have written to me since I told them she had died, with lovely memories. She even moved on at one point, getting a class to write letters to "My Naughty Little Sisters, Naughty dog, Angus," and I had to send them photos from him! The mother of 3 girls that Judith taught, worked at the school, and regularly wrote Judith. When she died, Judith was very touched, that her daughter, Cathy, said she would like to continue writing, because the letters would be a special link to her mother. Judith loved getting her letters, telling her what her and her sisters were up to, but sadly the last one arrived the day Judith died. I just wish I'd had chance to read it to her.

After a couple of years, she got fed up with the boyfriend she'd met at college, dumped him, and started mixing with friends she'd known from school and met Alan at a party. He had been at the boy's grammar school at the same time Judith was at the girl's school, but with a cinder track between, mixing wasn't allowed, and the only mixing would be on the school bus if you happened to be from the same area, which they weren't! They married in February of my final year at university, and moved into their own home in Runcorn.

Until I contacted people to tell them Judith had died, I didn't know too much about their lives at this time, but I have had some lovely stories to read in the letters they sent to me. By the time Robin and I got married in 1980, they had moved to the village of Norley, and in 1982, bought a renovated farmhouse on a hillside in the countryside bordering Delamere Forrest. The land was very overgrown but they did an amazing job landscaping it with a large pond, many flower beds, a shrubbery, orchard, and vegetable garden. They even received permission from the forestry



commission to plant 2 woodlands, and were sponsored by them to join the Royal Forestry Society. As well as successful careers, Alan as an accountant and Judith teaching, and a huge garden to landscape, they somehow found time for visits to forests, National Trust properties, History meetings, Music recitals and activities at the Methodist church where Alan played the organ, and walking groups. It is not surprising they made so many good friends. I know her friends in Cheshire are all catching up with one another and remembering her.

By 1992, dad and later mum had died, and we spent more time alternating visits to each other, and a few years later Judith and Alan decided to retire early. On a visit they made to us, I arranged for us to go on a heritage train day trip from Heckington, on the Settle/Carlisle Line. We were given a brochure on rail tour holidays, and that was the start of many wonderful shared holidays, from mainland Scotland, then moving onto all the Scottish Isles, Southern Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Isles, and many more destinations round Europe to Netherlands, Germany and France, on a mix of train and coach. In 2007 I too decided to pack in work early, which left Robin – but unfortunately farmers don't seem to have the ability to retire! We were therefore delighted when Judith and Alan suggested moving here to join us. They didn't have time to find somewhere to buy before they moved, so rented a bungalow in Helpringham for a year before they moved into a new home. Judith, Alan and I said it felt like the sabbatical year that we'd never had after finishing A levels, we had so many days out! It wasn't very long before they had recreated a very similar life to the one they had in Cheshire – they found a very welcoming walking group – TISWASL which stands for "this is the life we are so lucky", history meetings, music recitals, Sleaford Methodist church where Alan played the organ, Helpringham petticoat and garden clubs, and even Sleaford Farmers discussion Group! Then they settled into Ambler House and developed another garden!

It was never obvious how much care Alan gave to Judith as her mobility declined over the years due to severe osteoporosis. However, since she died, many people have commented to me, on being shocked after coming across her lying on the floor, knees in the air, rolling from side to side – something she did to get the spasms to stop. It didn't matter where she was, she'd do it in the pub after walks, at meetings, church, anywhere - she wasn't going to let it stop her going anywhere or doing whatever she wanted to do! But when Alan became ill in summer 2019 it was obvious she couldn't look after him, and after visiting several care homes, the last one we went to was the Old Hall at Billingborough, and it was immediately obvious we'd found the right one. Alan settled in very quickly and Judith built a great rapport with the carers when she visited him. She was delighted when they suggested she should move into a flat there when it became available. Fortunately, we managed to get Ambler House sold in time for her to join Alan, just before Christmas 2020. She loved being able to spend any time she could with Alan again, and it also helped with her care needs as her back problems progressed. The support she had from the home when Alan died in May 2022 was outstanding, and really helped her to cope going forward. All the carers have been brilliant, but I am especially grateful to Stephen, who cared for both Alan and Judith on the nights they died, giving them reassurance and care to slip away peacefully.

Thank you for all the memories you leave us with Judith. Goodbye Love.

*Eulogy delivered by Judith's sister, Lyndsay at the funeral on 30<sup>th</sup> April*

# Coffee and Flowers Rota

June to August 2025

Date		Preacher	Flowers	Coffee
June	1 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Levitt - HC	Di	Heather & Anthony
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Lane	Lesley	Vaughan & Yvonne
	15 <sup>th</sup>	David Copley	Heather	Mike & Gay
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Peter Davidson	Ruth L	Mary & John
	29 <sup>th</sup>	John Bell	Alison	Di & Richard
July	6 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Levitt - HC	Christine	Heather & Anthony
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Ford	Gay	Vaughan & Yvonne
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew Barnard	Hazel	Mike & Gay
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Michaela Doherty	Beryl	Mary & John
August	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Peter Levitt - HC	Judy	Di & Richard
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Neville Ford	Eileen	Vaughan & Yvonne
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Ridley	Ruth L	Heather & Anthony
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Rosemary Wass	Di	Mike and Gay
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Sue Levitt	Heather	Alison & Yvonne & Di & Richard

## Norley Church Preachers, Stewards and Musicians

Date		Special	Preacher	Music	Stewards		
					Vestry	Welcome	Communion
June	1 <sup>st</sup>	ACM and HC	Peter Levitt	John	Ruth L John	Mike & Gay	Yvonne, Alison
	8 <sup>th</sup>		Ruth Lane	Jean	Bruce, Philip	Alison	
	15 <sup>th</sup>		David Copley	John	Ruth L, Bruce	Philip	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Peter Davidson	Lesley	Ruth H, Mary	Vaughan	
	29 <sup>th</sup>		John Bell	Jean	Lesley, Lewis	Oliver	
July	6 <sup>th</sup>	HC	Sue Levitt	John	Ruth L, Lewis	Mike & Gay	Yvonne, Alison
	13 <sup>th</sup>		Judy Ford	Jean	Lesley, Mary	Alison	
	20 <sup>th</sup>		Matthew Barnard	Lesley	John, Mary	Philip	
	27 <sup>th</sup>		Michaela Doherty	Jean	Ruth H, Philip	Yvonne	

<b>August</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	HC	Peter Levitt	Jean	Lewis, John	Vaughan	Yvonne, Alison
	10 <sup>th</sup>		Neville Ford	Saro	Philip, John	Oliver	
	17 <sup>th</sup>		Mike Ridley	Lesley	Ruth H Mary	Yvonne	
	24 <sup>th</sup>		Rosemary Wass	Jean	Bruce, Lewis	Alison	
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Joint Meth - C of E at NMC	Sue Levitt	Alan Wright	Lesley, Philip	Mike & Gay	