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Dear Friends,

Occasionally as I'm flicking through the TV channels looking for something to watch I'll stumble across some documentary which, like Dan Brown's fictitious *The Da Vinci Code*, claims that the Christian story that we know is an institutional stitch-up. Such programmes claim that through the agency of Christian Roman emperors and popes, the version of the Christian story that we have received is a spin-doctored account, engineered to support the agenda and power claims of the powerful.

If that is so, then they have done a spectacularly poor job of it! The Christmas story that we have received from our forebears actually points in the opposite direction.

Writing to a well-connected Greek man called Theophilus, it is Luke and only Luke, that tells us that the first visitors to Jesus were uneducated shepherds. It is only in Matthew, written to a Jewish audience dispersed throughout the Roman world that we read that God revealed Jesus' birth by means of the Zoroastrian astrology of the Persian fire-priests known as Magi. Meanwhile, John uses his fluency in Greek philosophy to turn it on its head. Instead of entreating his readers to reach God by escaping from this world to enlightened wisdom as children of Aristotle and Plato, John insists that God is moving in the opposite direction! For John, the divine reason and creator has become fully human, pitching his tent in the midst of *this* world and *this* life and seeking us out directly. When compared to other religions one of the most striking things about the New Testament is the complete absence of priests. The God we know in Jesus reaches out to us as individuals within the community. Intermediaries with all of their trappings and power claims are redundant.

When people tell me why they think that Christian faith is foolish, my response is to suggest that it's even worse than they describe. Think about it for a moment. Through our readings and carols this Christmas we're claiming that the one God that instigated and sustained the creation of two trillion galaxies becomes human, is born to a provincial teenage village girl and is laid in a cow trough. Utter bonkers!

And yet, for two thousand years people like you and me have dared to place their trust in this story and in the unexpected God that it describes. In doing so we have found that it is *this* understanding that fills us with an uncommon sense, resonates with our experience and sets fire to our souls! I pray that we'll embrace once again the weirdness (holiness) of the Christmas story and find ourselves caught up that "uncreated light, shining through infant eyes".

Happy Christmas!

Grace and peace.

Andrew

Please remember them in your prayers.

Pastoral Piece

Wow! It's incredible, here we are again, Spring, Summer, Autumn gone, the wintery dark nights are with us once again, who said that time does not fly? At this time of year people's thoughts are turning to Christmas. Sadly, with the plight the country is in, it's going to be hard for a lot of people. In fact, the whole world has it's problems. I sincerely hope you all manage to survive through our tough times.

The pastoral team are always available. They don't have magic wands but are very good listeners, and can offer constructive information if required. I thank them all for the dedication they give.

We all hope that you and yours have a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful festive time.

I would like to leave you with the following words.

May the days be good to you:

comforting more often than crazy and giving more often than taking.

May the passing seasons make sure

that any heartaches are replaced with a million smiles and that any hard journey's eventually turn to nice, easy miles that take you everywhere you want to go.

May your dreams do their absolute best to come true.

May your heart be filled with the kindness of friends, the caring of everyone you love, and the richness of memories you wouldn't trade for anything.

May life's little worries always stay small.

May you get a little closer every day to any goals you want to achieve.

May the changes be good ones and any challenges turn out to be for the better.

May you find time to do all the things you always wanted to do.

And may you be Happy Forever. (Words by..DOUGLAS PAGELS).

Here*s wishing you all the very best. May God Bless You All. *Margaret Hogan*

The Church Leadership Team

The CLT met on September 18th and welcomed Andrew back after his sabbatical.

Lack of space in this edition of Outreach prevents a lengthy summary of what was decided you will be pleased to know!

Many of the outcomes from the proposals and decisions taken appear elsewhere in this edition – a meeting with The Hurst and Blakelees stewards; a meeting looking at the restart of Norley Methodist initiatives; the return to 'normal' for communion; revised rental charges for use of the church; exploring interest in a singing group; adopting a collection bag in the porch for services; and developing the property proposals for Church Council approval at the October meeting.

The next CLT will be held on December 8th.

Bruce Lane

First Wednesday Walks

There was no First Wednesday walk in September – too many people were away - but we report here on the October and November walks.

In October, nine brave souls ignored the weather forecast of rain and travelled to Dunham Massey for the proposed walk through the deer park. On arrival we made for the café for a welcome coffee. after which we set out for the walk and saw a glimpse of a group of deer and then came across a

mature buck who was resting from his rutting activities. We noticed the noisy calls of the Ring Necked Parakeets which have now made the park their home.

Somebody then had the bright idea to curtail the walk and instead go on a guided tour of the water mill. Nobody argued. This was followed by a pleasant lunch in the Stables Restaurant. So, all in all, everybody seemed to have enjoyed the day, despite the weather.

The November first Wednesday Walk, led by Vaughan and Garry, was a tour of Chester with a difference. Twelve of us met in the Little Roodee car park and set off through the arches under the Welsh Bridge walking along the path between the river Dee and Chester Racecourse. Continuing alongside the river we eventually reached the point where a branch of the Shropshire Union Canal joins the Dee.

The route then took us along the canal, besides the Roman walls, marveling not just at the work involved in constructing the canal but also the ingenuity and labour involved in cutting the very deep chasm in the sandstone.

Eventually we approached the mill buildings and lead shot tower, reminders of Chester's industrial past. Here we made our way down alongside the Grosvenor Park to the Dee and then back to the car park stopping on the way to watch the cormorants diving for fish near the weir.

Lunch was partaken in the Stamford Bridge Pub.

Future walks will be held on

Wednesday December 7th meet at Church at 9.45

Wednesday January 4th

Wednesday February 1st

Do join us for a short walk, a good lunch and pleasant company.

Autumn Church Council Meeting

The Church Council met on October 4th and its first task was to confirm its membership. The Stewards and Representatives appointed at the May Annual Church meeting were duly agreed (the full list was reported in the June Outreach magazine). Additionally, Margaret Hogan was reappointed as Pastoral Secretary, John Bell as Treasurer and Lesley Gough as Church Council Secretary.

Other roles and responsibilities that continue are:

Ruth Lane - Senior Steward and Safeguarding Lead

Bruce Lane – Property Steward (with John Dimelow and Lewis Dimelow as Deputies).

Michael Gough – Chair of Spiritual Committee

Alison Twinn and Yvonne Roughsedge – Communion Stewards

Reports from the Spiritual Committee, Finance, and Property matters are covered in more detail elsewhere in this magazine. The Autumn Church Council meeting always has a very full agenda, as it includes presentation and approval of numerous key reports and documents. Thank you to everyone who worked on preparing these papers and reports on behalf of the Church Council and the wider Church membership.

Here is a summary of the main items discussed and agreed at the meeting:

- A return to pre-covid arrangements for Holy Communion was agreed – though we will still use the disposable cups and communion wafers for the time being.
- A planned joint meeting with Kingsley Stewards (Hurst and Blakelees) was noted. This will be an opportunity to consider how we could work more collaboratively. We agreed that we would also like to work more closely with St John's, Norley.
- A separate meeting (reported elsewhere) to discuss some additional social activities as part of our Outreach to the local community was also noted.

- Our charitable giving continues - most recently with a fundraising concert in aid of OPAL, donations to the Foodbank (regular donations as well as food gifts and monetary donation from Harvest), Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, and a final collection total of £2042 from Norley and the surrounding area for Christian Aid. The Church Council agreed that the collection from Carol Singing this year will be given to the Salvation Army and Northwich Citizens Advice, and the Christmas Day collection will be given to Action for Children.
- Several key documents were approved: the Church Accounts for 2021-22, the Safeguarding Policy, the Health and Safety Policy, the Annual Church Return, and the Annual Property Checklist.
- The biggest property project for next year, external re-decoration of the Church, was agreed along with some smaller projects. We also intend to develop a plan to update the Open Door Room.
- The update from the Circuit, highlighted the ongoing issues with reduced Presbyter and Local Preacher availability for services. A new Deacon has been appointed and is based in Chester (Wesley).
- There will be a modest increase in rental charge for use of the building by external groups.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on 21/3/2023.

Lesley Gough, Church Council Secretary

Shoebox Weekend

On Shoebox Saturday we were amazed and delighted by all the hundreds of beautiful gifts that were brought by members of our congregation, Wednesday Club friends and people from The Hurst and Kingsley.

A very happy buzz of conversation was heard by the large group who turned up to fill shoeboxes. Friends from The Hurst joined us and all too soon we had filled to the brim about 40 shoeboxes and the gift table was bare.

On Sunday about another dozen shoeboxes were brought to the service and so with this bumper collection about 50 shoeboxes and cash donations totalling £250 including gift aid, we sent the shoeboxes on their way.

This year our shoeboxes are mainly going to the Ukraine, but also to Romania and Moldova where there are many refugees from the Ukraine - Russia war. We rejoice to know that we are showing our love and giving joy and fun to so many children.

Congratulations and many thanks to everyone for enabling us to send a record number of shoeboxes to children and their parents who have had such an 'annus horribilis'.

Ruth Lane

Harvest Festival

Thanks to all those who helped with the recent Harvest Festival. Especially everybody who brought gifts of flowers and produce and those who came along to decorate the church on Saturday, what a magnificent display there was too. The flowers were distributed and an excellent total of 146kg of food along with cash donations of £196.25 (inc. gift aid) were delivered to the West Cheshire Foodbank. It was most gratefully received.



Thanks are also due to Michael Gough who led our Harvest Service and gave us much to think about in his message. We also thank John Bell who played the organ and led our lusty singing of some of our old favourite harvest hymns.

Richard Ramsbottom

Norley Methodist Church Fundraiser for OPAL

In mid-October, we organised a concert featuring a collection of musicians who perform regularly at Castle Park Arts Centre in Frodsham. There was almost a full house on the evening, and those who attended enjoyed a varied musical programme including our own Michael Gough, solo guitarist who performed a selection of his own compositions, the Hoppin' Frogs who entertained the audience with a mix of American, British, and Irish folk music, and the Keith Singleton Jazz Trio with their wonderful guest vocalist, Annie Long, who performed a selection of jazz songs from 'the Great American Songbook'.

Several OPAL volunteers and OPAL Chair, Geoff, joined us, and Geoff gave a summary of the work of OPAL. An amazing total of £730 was raised on the evening!

A very big 'thank you' to everyone who contributed to making the event a success: Michael Gough, who organised the musicians and tickets sales, the musicians who performed, those who helped on the evening and to all who attended and donated!

Lesley Gough

Solar Panels Update

The panels continued to perform well, and in the last 3 months generated a further 1028Kwh of electricity. and we received a payment for that of £641.

In the 10 ³/₄ years that the panels have been in service we have generated 36682Kwh and have received more than £19,400 return on our investment of £7,500.

Bruce Lane

Remembrance Day Service November 13th

The service led by Andrew was attended by well over 100 people. Just about every seat was filled, with our normal congregation housed in the Open Door Room with the screens open and the TV relay showing the service projected by the AV system.

The Scouts had paraded up from the Tiger's Head and the flags (Union, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) were presented during the first hymn. The 2-minute silence was observed at 11am. A Scout (Micah Jamieson) read the lesson and the Remembrance sermon from Andrew included a lively Kim's Game. The colours returned during the last hymn, and the national anthem sung, played by John Bell on the organ while the Union flag was dipped in salute. This was the first time God Save the King had been sung in the church for at least 70 years.

The colours were then trooped out, and the Scout parade reformed in the Church drive and marched to the Tommy in St John's churchyard, where Andrew led a short wreath laying service at 12 noon which included a wreath laid by Richard Ramsbottom on behalf of Norley Methodist Church (many thanks to Ruth Hosker, Maureen Chesmore and Ruth Lane for making the wreaths for the Church and for the Scouts).

Wreaths were also laid by St John's Church, the Parish Council, the WI, the Norley CWAC councilors, and the Luptons in memory of Barbara's father Harry Cliffe on the 80th anniversary of the sinking by German U boat torpedoes of HMS Hecla (on 11.11.1942) with him on board (and subsequently rescued).

Overall, this was a fitting act of community remembrance led by Norley Methodist Church and 1st Norley Scouts.

Bruce Lane

Philippa's Wedding to Ugur – an Outreach Exclusive

The wedding was on 2 September in Turkey. 25 people travelled from England and Wales and were joined by 400 Turkish guests! The wedding started with drums outside the house and dancing in the street.

It was followed by a procession to the beach where the wedding took place at sunset. A beautiful day and night.

Kevin managed his father daughter dance!! Not a dry eye in the house

Lexie, Shelley's Granddaughter was the flower girl



Church Calendar



December 2022 – February 2023

Date	Time	Preacher	Activity
November			
27 th	10.45am	Ruth Lane	Advent 1
29 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
December			
2 nd – 4 th			Frodsham Christmas Tree Festival
4 th	8.30am		Holy Communion at The Hurst
4 th	10.45am	Andrew Emison	Advent 2 and Holy Communion
5 th	2.00pm		Spiritual Committee meeting at the Gough's
6 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
7 th	9.45am		First Wednesday Walk
8 th	7.30pm		CLT Meeting at Howell Croft
10 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Carols'
11 th	10.45am	John Bell	Advent 3
13 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
13 th	2.00pm		Pastoral Committee at Howell Croft
17 th	10.00-18.00		'Too Busy to Stop' day at The Hurst
18 th	4.00pm	Andrew Emison	Advent 4 Carol Service
20 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
21 st	6.00pm		Carols around the Christmas Tree
25 th	9.30am	Andrew Emison	Christmas Day – bring a gift you've received
January			
1 st	10.30am	Andrew Emison	United Service at Frodsham
3 rd	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
4 th	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk
8 th	10.45am	Andrew Emison	Covenant with Holy Communion
10 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
15 th	10.45am	Dean Lawson	
17 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
22 nd	10.45am	Ken Martin	
24 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
24 th	7.30pm		Local Preachers' meeting at Helsby
26 th	2.30pm		Women's Tea at Two-Thirty at The Hurst
27 th	10.30am		Men's Brunch at The Hurst
29 th	10.45am	Michael Gough	
31 st	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
February			
1 st	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk
5 th	8.30am	Andrew Emison	Holy Communion at The Hurst
5 th	10.45am	Elizabeth Holmes	
7 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
12 th	10.45am	Andrew Emison	Holy Communion
Date	Time	Preacher	Activity

February continued			
14 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
15 th	7.30pm		Circuit Meeting at Helsby
19 th	10.45am	Andrew Ellams	
21 st	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
23 rd	2.30pm		Women's Tea at Two-Thirty at The Hurst
24 th	10.30am		Men's Brunch at The Hurst
26 th	10.45am	Ruth Lane	
28 th	10.00am		'Coffee and Chat' at The Hurst
March			
1 st	10.00am		First Wednesday Walk

Our Social Activities and Outreach to the Community

A meeting to discuss our social activities and Outreach locally as a Church was held on the 27th October and attended by 11 members of the Church and our Minister, Andrew. We had an interesting and lively discussion, and as a result we have a few ideas to take forward!

It was helpful to consider why we feel it is important to hold social activities as a Church and we agreed that for many of us we feel they are an opportunity to offer service to the community. Other thoughts shared are that they increase our visibility in the village, enable us to build relationships with others and enable us to feel more connected to each other as a Church family.

We all agreed that anything we decide to do, should aim to have an 'evangelistic intent' – for example looking for an opportunity to include a prayer or a 'thought for the day' where possible – and that way spread our 'good news'.

We are keen to ensure that anything we do, won't conflict with other activities that are available in Norley and elsewhere locally – we want to 'add to' what's available. And we're prepared to try things out – and stop them if they don't work out!

So, what did we decide to try out? We are aware that anything we do depends on generous offers of help in all sorts of ways –so we're keeping things simple and realistic as a starting point! Firstly, we plan to establish a monthly coffee morning (on a Saturday morning) from December, and a monthly soup lunch in the New Year. Please keep checking the notices for further details.

A few of us have been to visit a wonderful community café, which operates one day a week and is based in Sandiway. It's given us lots of ideas for maybe something more ambitious in Norley....



We're also keen to see how we can introduce some new elements to our worship at Norley – perhaps some new music and different styles of Worship which have been well received elsewhere in the Circuit.

In conclusion – it was good to share many interesting ideas and to see some real enthusiasm, which we hope we can now turn into action!

Spiritual Committee update

At the time of writing, we are moving closer to Advent and Christmas - more of that to follow! First here are some general updates from the Spiritual Committee around what has been happening in Norley over the last few months and is planned for the months ahead.

Thanks to John B and Lesley for covering the music accompaniment over the last couple of months. Over the next quarter, we will be pleased to welcome Alan Wright and Saro to provide organ accompaniment at a couple of the services too! Of course, we have missed Jean playing, and hope that she may return to the music rota when she is ready. From time to time, we may have to use the digital music accompaniment – and we are looking at how we can make this more ‘congregation friendly’ (“not so fast”, I hear you say).

I am sure that everyone has welcomed the return to our (more or less) normal ‘pre-covid’ Holy Communion arrangements. Many thanks to Alison and Yvonne for their work as Communion Stewards and ensuring everything is prepared and runs smoothly. Just a reminder, if anyone prefers not to come forwards to the altar rail, please let Alison or Yvonne know, and they will ask the presiding minister to bring the Communion elements to you.

Since the last Outreach was published, we have celebrated Harvest, which achieved an impressive collection of food items (146kg) and monetary donations (£196.25 inc gift aid) for the Foodbank, held a vigil for the village to pay homage to the queen’s life of service, had a successful ‘Shoebox weekend’, collecting over 50 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. It was also good to see a full Church when the Norley Scout Group and their families attended the service led by Andrew, on Remembrance Sunday.

We re-started *Food for Thought* in October and November – with thanks to Andrew and John B for leading, and to all who attended, for their contributions to very interesting discussions. *Food for Thought* will return in the New Year – if you haven’t attended before, do come along – it’s always stimulating, prompting good conversations and sharing of views.

As we approach Advent and Christmas, work is underway preparing an Advent Liturgy and thanks in advance go to Heather for agreeing to make our Advent Ring this year. December promises to be a busy month with a coffee morning, the Carol Service, Carol Singing, and of course a Christmas Day service to be led by Andrew (Don’t forget to bring along one of your gifts!).

December 18th
Candlelit Carol Service
 **4.00pm** 
Everyone Welcome

Christmas Day
  
9.30am Family Worship
Come and celebrate with us

 **Singing around the Christmas Tree!** 
Come and join us singing carols starting at
Norley Methodist Church
Wednesday 18th December
6.00pm
 **followed by singing carols**
at The Tiger’s Head 

As we move into the New Year, there will be a joint service with Kingsley and Frodsham at Frodsham on 1st January. Also, one of the most important services in the Methodist calendar, the Covenant Service, will take place on the 8th January and will be led by our Minister, Andrew.



In 2023, we hope to see how we can work more closely together with friends from Kingsley (The Hurst and Blakelees) - sharing what we're doing and from time to time holding joint services. There may also be some new music and acts of worship too.

Ideas are always welcome, and anyone who is interested in helping to plan our worship at Norley is invited attend Spiritual Committee meetings and share their ideas. Please keep a check on the weekly notices for dates.

Michael Gough

Working Together

As you will know the Kingsley churches of The Hurst and Blakelees have now joined ourselves and Frodsham as part of Andrew's 'patch'.

Our Church Leadership Team met with their counterparts from the Kingsley churches, and we are encouraged to join The Hurst Methodist Church in their activities. You will always have a very warm welcome and delicious refreshments.

Every Tuesday from 10.00am to noon they have 'Coffee and Chat'.

Once a month there is a special event for men - , a 'Men's Brunch' and this takes place on the last Friday of the month at 10.30am. Besides bacon and sausage baps and tea and coffee there is sometimes a speaker.

Not to be left out the women are now holding a 'Tea at Two-Thirty on the last Thursday of each month.

In addition, there is an early Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month at 8.30am. The dates for the next few months are:-

Sundays December 4th and February 5th.
(There is not one on New Year's Day.)

We are invited to join them whenever we can - put the dates in your diary.

I'm not sure the meetings between Christmas and New Year will take place but I hope you can attend The Hurst's Christmas 'specials' which are:-

Saturday December 17th from 10.00am – 6.00pm the 'Too Busy to Stop' day when the church is open for you to take time out and relax and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas

Saturday December 24th at 11.15pm there is a Midnight Communion led by the Rev'd Andrew Emison

Ruth Lane

Financial Report: praise for the past and trust for the future

Like many contributions to Outreach, the financial piece reports on the past, which is known, and speaks of the future which is known only in part.

As every year, the full Annual Report and Accounts for 2021-22 were presented to and adopted by the Autumn Church Council, with grateful thanks to Richard Ramsbottom who examined them and affirmed their accuracy.

The completed Standard Form of Accounts, required of all Methodist churches, was duly signed and copied to the Circuit Treasurer. All righteousness has thereby been fulfilled. The Reserves Policy was adopted, ensuring that we always have financial provision both for the unexpected (about 6 months' expenditure, as recommended by the Methodist Church) and for planned major expenses (in our case, the external painting of the church buildings in the summer of 2023).

Despite the continued ups and downs consequential on the effects of covid, we recorded a surplus of £868 in the year 2021-22, giving a total balance on August 31st 2022 of £22,938, of which £21,646 was held in the Methodist Church Central Finance Board deposit account and £1292 in the NatWest current account. It is worth noting that £5716 (of the total annual income of £34,745, i.e. 16%) was received from HMRC as a result of gift-aid being claimed on offerings and donations: we would be struggling without it – hence the treasurer's repeated reminders of its importance! During the year, the splendid sum of £4087 was donated to fourteen different charitable organisations, including £1062 to the West Cheshire foodbank and £1000 to the Ukraine appeal launched by All We Can, the Methodist relief and development agency. We offer our 'praise for the past'.

For the year 2022-23, the Autumn Council agreed that donations be made of £100 to Norley News and £200 to Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum; that the proceeds of the Autumn Concert (reported elsewhere in Outreach) would go to OPAL (as it turned out, £730); that proceeds from carol-singing in December will be split equally between the Salvation Army and the Northwich Citizens Advice Bureau; that Christian Aid will be the beneficiary of any fund-raising event arranged in 2023; and that the cash collection taken at the Christmas Day service will go to Action for Children.

But for the necessary inclusion of the external painting estimate (the cost will be met from reserves accumulated for the purpose), the budget for 2022-23 showed a small deficit of £500, which is not a cause for concern. As is often observed in business, this figure is simply the difference between two large numbers – income and expenditure – and is based on many assumptions, aka 'trust for the future'. We do not have any debts or outstanding loans. As reported to the Autumn Church Council, the treasurer therefore judges the financial outlook for the year to be resilient, and our reserves offer some protection should a significant emergency expenditure come unexpectedly.

We continue to be immensely grateful for the generosity of the members of our congregation and wider church community: your commitment enables us to sustain a firm financial foundation for God's mission through Norley Methodist Church – so, many thanks indeed!



And finally, owing to the craftsmanship and generosity of Brian Moores, of The Hurst at Kingsley, in making a wooden stand from the pews removed from that church, we are now able to resume the use of the beautiful red offertory bags acquired not so long ago. The act of dedication of our offerings of money and ourselves has thereby been resurrected as an integral part of our Sunday worship.

John Bell, Treasurer

Foodbank Update

The Trussell Trust, the organisation which runs the biggest Foodbank Network, including those in West Cheshire, in Runcorn and in Mid Cheshire, has recently reported an unprecedented increase in the number of food parcels distributed.

Between April and September 2022, 25% more food parcels were distributed, compared to the same period in 2021. The Charity is predicting a 'Tsunami of Need' over the coming months as people struggle amidst the soaring costs of living. They have also noted that one in five people using the Foodbanks are now from working households, who are really struggling to make ends meet.

Our recent Harvest Collection (together with Norley Stores) was 146kg of food and other non-perishable items, along with cash donations of £196.25, inc. gift aid – a fantastic total!

This year we will be taking food and other essential items to the collection depot **during the week commencing 12th December** – and so if you would like to donate food or other essentials, or maybe some Christmas treats, please could these be placed in the collection box by **Sunday 11th December**. This will mean that everything donated can be distributed and given to those in need, in time for Christmas. Monetary donations are also gratefully received via the collection basket in our Open Door Room.

Items currently urgently needed at the West Cheshire depot are: UHT MILK, UHT JUICE, INSTANT MASH, INSTANT PASTA / INSTANT NOODLES, TINNED MEATS, TINNED PUDDINGS.

Donations of Christmas treats such as cake, mince pies (with long dates), sweets and chocolates are also welcomed at this time of year.

Many thanks for your continued support!

Michael and Lesley Gough

Frodsham Christmas Tree Festival

We are warmly invited to share in Frodsham's activities and this we are doing by having a tree at Frodsham's Christmas Tree Festival.

Our tree's theme is 'The Sandstone Trail' and many thanks to Heather Davies for masterminding our beautiful tree and also a big 'thank you' to everyone who provided decorations for the tree.

The tree, perhaps without the Sandstone Trail decorations will be used to decorate the inside of our church at Christmas.

Ruth Lane



Property Matters

The October Church Council approved the proposed property programme for the connexional year as

Redecorate the external of the Church in August 2023 - cost £5500

Repair Sunday school ceiling - cost approx. £300

Replace kitchen, Sunday school, and corridor fluorescent tubes with low energy consumption LED lights – cost approx. £400

Improve the attractiveness of the Open Door room - £?

The property team had completed 5 of the 6 projects agreed for the year ending 31 August 2022, leaving the repair of the Sunday School ceiling to be carried over to this next year. Several other projects arising during last year were completed in addition. These had been reported in previous editions of Outreach.

In total in the connexional year we spent £7225 on repairs and maintenance, the bulk of the cost being the AV system (£3030) and the professional retiling of the disabled toilet.

B Lane 18/11/2022

Bruce 14/11/2022

Norley Church Stewards December 2022 – February 2023

Date		Time	'Special'	Church Stewards	Welcome Steward
December	4 th	10.45am	Sacrament	Mary and Lewis	Joan Barclay
	10 th	10.00am	Coffee/Carols	Ruth & Bruce Lane	
	11 th	10.45am		Michael and Lesley	Philip Garner
	18 th	4.00pm	Carol Service	Ruth Lane & Lewis	Mary Dimelow
	21 st	6.00pm	Carol Singing	Ruth & Bruce Lane	Yvonne
	25 th	9.30am		Ruth Hosker & Philip	Hazel and James
January	8 th	10.45am	Covenant	Michael and Lesley	Vaughan Wynne
	15 th	10.45am		Mary and John	Lewis Dimelow
	22 nd	10.45am		John & Ruth Hosker	Michael Gough
	29 th	10.45am		Mary and John	Ruth Hosker
February	5 th	10.45am		Michael and Lesley	Judy & Christine
	12 th	10.45am	Sacrament	Philip and Lewis	Ruth Lane
	19 th	10.45am		Bruce and Philip	Mike and Gay
	26 th	10.45am		Bruce & Ruth H	Heather & Anthony

Norley Methodist Church Flower and Coffee Rota December 2022 – February 2023

Date		Flowers	Coffee
December	4 th	Alison Twinn	Mike and Gay
	11 th	Ruth Lane	Hazel and James
	18 th	Christine Gleave	Di and Richard
	25 th	Diane Ramsbottom	Alison and Yvonne
January	8 th	Beryl Richards	Heather and Anthony
	15 th	Ruth Hosker	Yvonne and Vaughan
	22 nd	Heather Davies	Mike and Gay
	29 th	Hazel Dale	Mary and John
February	5 th	Lesley Gough	Hazel and James
	12 th	Judy Smith	Di and Richard
	19 th	Vaughan Wynne	Alison and Yvonne
	26 th	Eileen Burrows	Heather and Anthony