

The LINK



NEWS FROM
LIVERPOOL ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH



AUTUMN 2023

MINISTER'S LETTER –

From our Minister Rev. Patrick Evans

Dear Friends

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" (Matthew, Chapter 21, Verse 23)



Should we be angry with the chief priests and the elders, as at every turn they criticise and confront Jesus? Should we be sympathetic towards them as they struggle to understand the change in the theological season? It is often argued that in their selfishness they sought to thwart him because he was a challenge to their authority and the lifestyle this gave them. So did they fail to read the signs that Jesus was the Messiah, or conveniently choose to ignore them for their own short term benefit.

Some churches have a season of Creationtide, from 1st September to the 4th October. It is apt to have Creationtide as we move from Summer to Autumn. In the story of creation in Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 28, God calls upon humankind to rule over all the earth and subdue it; that is, to bring it under control.

As I write this letter, today is forecast to be 20 degrees in October. One newspaper headlines this week was *'Out of control - scientists stunned by planet's record September heat'*.

Minister's letter – continued

With a climate researcher saying “I’m still struggling to comprehend how a single year can jump so much compared to previous years”.

Only a few weeks ago the government watered down the timetable to reach the net zero emissions target. I wonder if we are struggling like the chief priests and the elders to read the signs of what is happening around us. Perhaps like them we are selfishly concerned about the ramifications are for us. I say this with two flights booked over the next few months!

Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you: have mercy on us as climate change confronts us. Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, may WE subdue the earth, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide, and to bear the cost of change. Forgive our past mistakes and send us your Spirit, with wisdom in present controversies and vision for the future to which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
God bless.

Patrick

Preachers and Pastors

A new minister's car broke down so he took it to the local garage on Monday. The mechanic identified the fault and said it would take a few days to fix. “Please go easy on the costs, “said the minister, “I’m just a poor preacher.” “ I know said the mechanic, I heard you yesterday.”

(From A little book of church humour.)

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

OBITUARIES

Philip Edward Righton, in his 74th year, died on the 7th August, 2023, after a long illness.

Philip was the dear husband of Carol and loving father to Catherine, Tim and Ben. Although not a Church Member at Liverpool Road, he was in his earlier life involved at St John's C of E, Birkdale and a member of Holy Trinity Church Choir. His children were involved in our Youth work and Carol, a member, attends regularly at Sunday Worship. Philip's funeral took place at St. John's C of E, Ainsdale, with which he had connections, followed by Cremation at Southport Crematorium.



Tom Moore, the husband of Kath Moore, passed away following a short illness on the 22nd June, 2023. His funeral took place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday, 10th July, 2023. I cannot recall meeting Tom but Kath is one of our lovely 'Meeters and Greeters' in the vestibule on Sunday Mornings.

We offer our condolences, our love and prayers to Carol and Kath and their Family, in their sad loss.

ON THE MOVE



Colin and Eileen Fyles, following a short period of being 'homeless', due to long-winded conveyancing and adaptations, were taken in by their daughter Catherine. They are now settling in their new home in Lulworth Road. Wishing you both every happiness in your new home. 'Home is where the heart is.'

Church Family News (continued)

On the Move (continued)

Malcolm Dunning, following a broken hip and convalescence at Byng House, has very recently moved to Clitheroe, to be nearer his daughters Helen and Alison. He, and Wendy, his late wife, worshipped with us for many years. We shall miss Malcolm greatly, as of course we do Wendy, but send our best wishes, love and prayers as he settles in his new home.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Daniel Wilcox, Jayne and Steven Wilcox's son, and a past member of our Boys' Brigade Company has just completed a University four year Course in America.

Daniel studied at the Albany Union University gaining a 'Major' degree in Political Science and Economics.

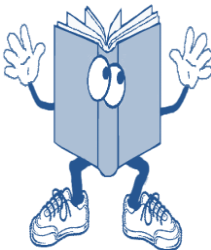


'It is rumoured he is to stand against Donald Trump in the next presidential Elections.'

BOOK REVIEW - Rev. Richard Coles' novel -

'Murder before Evensong'

has received good reviews from the Literacy Commentators and National Press. I don't often read novels but during a full day in Hospital to relieve boredom by reading the book. I enjoyed the novel which took me back to Re-ordering discussions within our church. 'Installing a Toilet at the rear of church, pews out, etc However - No murder, in our church, as yet!' (JL)



PASTORAL VISITORS' REPORT

A review of the membership list is ongoing to check if this continues to be appropriate for some people, transferring to the Community Roll being another option. The membership now totals 80. We are also looking at those on the Community Roll as some people have moved away from Southport and others have not demonstrated that they are interested in keeping the link with Liverpool Road. In these cases, their records are being 'archived' on Churchsuite. Conversations about General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are being encouraged so that people understand the background for the need of the Churchsuite database in the Circuit and the importance of making contact information 'visible' on records.

There are spaces on the Flower Ministry calendar should anyone wish to donate flowers in church for Sunday worship. The response to stepping in and supporting the organisation of this work while Hilary Barrass has been unwell has been appreciated.

Arrangements are being made to update the names on the Memorial Board, linked to the Memorial Garden, displayed in the vestibule. It is envisaged this will be completed in the next couple of months

Those receiving Holy Communion at home have reduced in number. There are currently 4 recipients and Rev Patrick Evans is covering these at present. Andy Trimble, however, is still offering to provide this service.

There was a good response by Pastoral Visitors to the need to update Foundation Safeguarding Training. Jack Watson, the Circuit Safeguarding Officer, will be scheduling further training sessions in the autumn for anyone who was not able to attend the one held in May.

We are delighted that Vicky McCaffrey has expressed interest in joining the team of Pastoral Visitors pending approval by Church Council.

Doreen Iddon

Pastoral Visitors Secretary

FLOWER MINISTRY 2023

There are vacant weeks in our flower ministry calendar should anyone wish to donate flowers in recognition of an event such as the loss of a dear friend or family member.

You could buy flowers on your selected week, arrange them in church vases just before the service and distribute them to recipients. Alternatively, our flower ministry team can buy, arrange or distribute flowers with your donation.



All flowers are gifted right after the service or on the following day to a range of recipients. Some may require comfort during challenging times whilst others are celebrating something special such as a wedding anniversary or baptism. Occasionally, we turn to our list of house bound members when there are no obvious recipients.

Our flower ministry calendar is located on the noticeboard in the church entrance. Please browse the calendar and contact Hilary Barrass or Lin Capper should you wish to make your donation for any vacant week. Thank you,

Hilary Barrass & Lin Capper
Flower Ministry Team

Flower Ministry Committee. (From church humour – Hint?)

Nothing is accomplished by a committee unless it consists of three members, one of whom is sick and the other on holiday.

Keep up the good work ladies. It is appreciated. You do a great job!

PROPERTY MATTERS

The North Tower of the Church.

Work carried out by Mr. Paul Robertson of Grip Tie Ltd. , now been completed giving us back access through both front entrance doors of the Church. The flat roof of the tower above is now secure, waterproof, and treated together with the surrounding brickwork against dry rot. Our thanks to Paul and his team.



Work undertaken by the Monday Morning Maintenance Group.

We have replaced shelving in the cupboard in The Girls' Brigade room. Prepared and redecorated some areas of the internal Church walls. Filled in cracks in the walls of the passageways at the entrance to School hall and Library to be followed by a coat of Emulsion paint.

Further application of linseed oil to external Church walls. During this recent period we have concentrated on the North tower and passageway walls facing the Schoolrooms. The emergency lighting in both the Church and Schoolroom buildings has been carried out , rectified and has been further tested.. Some of the damaged suspended ceiling tiles in the Church Vestibule have been replaced. Constant removal of rubbish collected from bins and around the premises.

An annual tidy-up and pruning of overgrown bushes of the Memorial Garden has been carried out plus securing of a plaque in memory of Pat Inglis, Janet Oldham's mother.

Completion of The Methodist Church Annual Checklist presented to September Church Council Complying with the Methodist Church requirements. Date of the next Quinquennial Inspection is scheduled for September 2024

Property Matters (Continued)

The numbers helping on Monday mornings is getting smaller. We greatly miss the presence of Jim Lloyd who is presently going through a period of ill health.

We Hope to see you back in good health soon Jim. We thank you for all you have contributed to the work of keeping our premises in a sound condition and for all the work you do as Booking Steward.

Thanks to the members of the Maintenance team for their efforts and to Joseph Hagan for his impute and his cheerful manner during the times he attends our morning working group..

Geoff France.

Property Chair.

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

COME WORK FOR THE LORD

The work quite hard, sometimes the hours
are long and the pay is Love.

But the retirement benefits are out of this
world. Any purchases reimbursed.

Mondays, 09.30 to 12.30 hours

Over the hill?

*I don't **remember** any hill.*

63rd SOUTHPORT BROWNIES



During the summer term we completed the Innovate stage 2 Skill Builder's Badge, by learning about inventions and architecture through games and craft. The Brownies enjoyed a 'A year in a weekend' themed pack holiday to round off the summer term. The holiday started off with the Brazilian festival to mark the beginning of Lent. We all enjoyed being taught Brazilian dancing by one of the wonderful parents and trying on the colourful head dresses.

The following morning, we celebrated Easter with an Easter Egg Hunt. Our summer themed activities included baking cakes for afternoon tea and some carnival games. Autumn themed activities included learning about Guy Fawkes through crafts and games and making Smores. We rounded off the weekend by everyone waking up to the Activity room decorated for Christmas and gifts under the tree.

We restarted meetings in September. Over the last few weeks we have been doing fun science experiments. We have booked a visit from 'Mad Science' in the next couple of weeks, who will be fun running an evening to end the half term off. We awarded the Brownie Gold Award to one off the girls who has gone up to Guides this term. Well done and best of luck in your journey in Guides to the three girls that have moved up. We also would like to welcome a new helper and 2 new young Leaders to our team. A *BIG* thank you to all of our volunteers.

If you know any girls (aged 7-10) interested in joining us please do not hesitate to contact Brown Owl AKA Amanda on 07366393005.

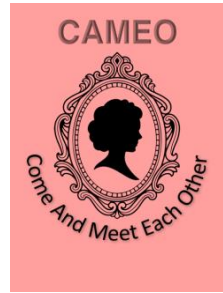
Amanda Turner

Brown Owl

CAMEO – *Come And Meet Each Other*

CAMEO formerly known as Women's Fellowship

Due to falling numbers, we decided to meet once a month at members' homes rather than at Church. The hostess provides tea, coffee and cakes as we 'come and meet each other'.



As a result of this change, we closed our bank account and donated all our funds to local charities. This included 'The Southport and Area Schools Worker Trust' – a local charity that has served children, teenagers and their schools for decades with an ever-growing vision to provide safe spaces to explore the big issues of life and faith.

Occasionally, we visit local eateries such as the renowned Swan Chippy in Southport town centre and the international bistro Esperantos of Ainsdale.

We have welcomed two new members recently, which is most encouraging and we invite any ladies to consider joining us.

Hilary Barrass

Signing the Marriage Register.

At a recent wedding and signing the register a Bride couldn't make the ball point pen work.

"Put your weight into it," said the Minister.

So the Bride duly signed the book:

Felicity Smith (8 stone 8 pounds)

10.



I WILL SING THE WONDROUS STORY

A few weeks ago, I was in a Sunday morning service at Liverpool Road when we sung the above hymn. As it was accompanied on the organ, I was able to fully focus on the words and they really spoke to me of my own Christian journey.



As we sang *'I was lost, but Jesus found me, Found the sheep that went astray, Threw His loving arms around me, Drew me back into His way'*, I was taken back to 1971 when I first felt led to seriously ask Jesus into my life.

He met me in an unusual way and it was half way through my time at university. The second half of my time at university was then very different to the first half. It seemed like I was a different person and that was what others had told me. As we sang *'I was bruised, but Jesus healed me, Faint was I from many a fall, Sight was gone, and fears possessed me, But He freed me from them all,'* I was reminded of a time in my late twenties when someone I was in a very close relationship with, badly let me down. I remember feeling utterly dejected and alone, and, not only that, she tried to cover her tracks by letting totally false stories about me circulate, which were taken in by some, and perhaps they still are. However, Jesus came and met me there, and set me back on my feet again. Yes, He used some people who remained loyal to me but I have no doubt Jesus moved in and took control. As we sang *'Days of darkness still come o'er me, Sorrow's path I often tread, But His presence still is with me; By His guiding hand I'm led,'* I was reminded that over 20 years ago I was diagnosed as having clinical depression. That was one of three major reasons that I took early retirement. My experience through those dark times is always of a Saviour who stretches out His hand to me to lift me up and says "Let's walk together through this."

I will sing the wondrous story (continued).

I know some do not like to talk of such things and if that is you, please forgive me, but I have also known many other sufferers who have thanked me for being open about these things.

As we sang *'He will keep me till the river, Rolls its waters at my feet; Then He'll bear me safely over, where the loved ones I shall meet'*. I was reminded that I have passed my three score years and ten and I am now ten years older than my father was when He died. However, I can look forward to a Saviour who is ready to welcome me home definitely not because I am in any way good enough but because of His grace and loving nature.

My Dad used to sing with Blackpool Male Voice Choir and some years after he died, I found an old cassette where he was singing *'God be with you till we meet again'*. It was a real tear jerker but in a happy way.

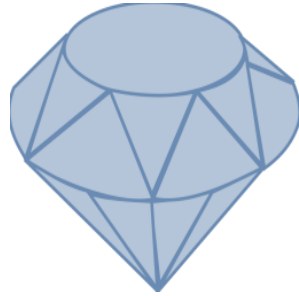
Occasionally I have vivid dreams that I can always remember. A few years ago, just before Easter, I had a dream in which I was there when Jesus was being nailed to the cross. First, he was trying to console the other two who were crucified and then He cried out as they put the nails through. I could not describe the rest, but even though it was a dream it was all so real. I will always remember that as we sing *'Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story, Of the Christ Who died for me, Sing it with the saints in glory, Gathered by the crystal sea'*. Singing that hymn just spoke so much to me that I was really buzzing, so preachers please take note, it is not always the sermon that touches people the rest is just as important.

Derek Taberner

N.B. Derek's item missed the last issue of *'The Link'* as it was already printed and about to be distributed. **But this item says it all !** Thanks Derek!
Other personal items welcomed in future issues of *The Link..*

FACETS.

Facets Autumn term registration took place on 12th September with just over 50 people attending plus the leaders and deputies, the numbers being very similar to last session.. As usual classes have been up and down with no one registering for Bridge.



The classes now are Art, Music for pleasure, Keep fit, Scrabble ,Table tennis , Guitar teaching ,Question Time ,Crafts , Active retirement and Flower Arranging.

At the end of the Spring Session we lost Gerry Horton one of our leaders and also our treasurer, Ken Grundy, both retiring due to poor health .Luckily we have been able to replace both.

The Annual Facets Sunday Service was held on October 1st led by Colin Fyles when several of our Facets members were in attendance.

The Facets' holiday will take place at half- term on 23rd October when about 30 people will enjoy 5 days at a Warner Leisure Hotel – Littlecote House in Wiltshire .

Activity classes will continue until the end of November and the Autumn/Winter session will end with a Christmas Lunch on the 5th December. We always look forward to new members to join in the fellowship. Ever thought of joining for just one session or more?

Brian Simmons

Co-ordinator.

A Senior Moment

'The real advantage of old age is that it lets you sing while you brush your teeth.'

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE



Having enjoyed a lovely evening on the beach in July with the girls and their families, we started our Autumn session refreshed and ready to welcome everyone back to Company meetings in September.

We have started our Badge work, the older girls looking at Communication, how we communicate with each other, starting with the use of mobile phones!!

On the 15th October in the morning service the JMA certificates are to be given out and as some of our girls started collecting last year. We hope to see them getting their first certificates.

After the success of a couple of events we held last session, where we invited families of our members to join us, we are hoping to have a social evening on the 31st October as an alternative to Halloween. The Annual Enrolment Service will be held in November, where we renew our promises to the Church and to The Girls' Brigade. This is an important event in our year and we encourage all our members to attend. The District has booked tickets for the All Souls Pantomime which this year is Rapunzel. We haven't been for a couple of years, but we usually have a great time, and are looking forward to it.

We are blessed to have the support and encouragement of Church members, and we appreciate your ongoing support.

Jayne Wilcox

G.B. Leader

Recruiting !

Two young girls were chatting, "So why don't you come to the same Junior Church and Girls' Brigade as me?" said the first.

"Because I belong to a different abomination," replied the second.

WESLEY GUILD

We began our Autumn session with a meal at Church, using the same caterers as Facets. It was a two- course meal with choices for the main course and the dessert. Fifteen of us enjoyed a delicious meal and a very pleasant evening. A big thank you to Molly Wright for organising it, to all those who helped prepare the New Room, loaded the dish washer and cleared away afterwards.



The following Tuesday we began our normal meetings with a devotional evening led by Patrick, followed by communion. At the time of writing, we have had three further meetings; Beryl and Roger Woods who were talking about the research they have carried out into their family tree. They had obviously put a lot of work into it and it was fascinating to hear.

The following week Colin Fyles talked about the lessons learned from moving house. The last of the evenings we have enjoyed, before publication, was a social evening, with a Quiz and a game of Dingbats, led by Colin Fyles and Ken Revill.

The list of our speakers, before Christmas, is as follows:- Rev. Roy Doran; Mrs. Marion Conroy; Geoff France (leading a social evening); Rev. Sonja Marshall; a member of The Mission Aviation Fellowship; Rev. Ann Hall; Rev. Hilary Smith; Bernard Capper (leading a social evening) and finally a Christmas Praise and Faith Supper Evening before finishing for Christmas.

We meet every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm. If you're at a loose end you are most welcome to join us for any of our meetings.

God bless

Eileen Fyles

New Users in our Premises.

A welcome to **Keep Moving Club** which meets on a Friday Morning from 10.15 a. m to 12.30 p. m. The Keep Moving Club is led by Mrs Kaz. Parkinson, (nee Ball, a former member of our Girls' Brigade Company and she welcomes anyone for fun and enjoyable classes who wants to keep moving.

Keep Moving Club

Low impact Exercise Classes on Fridays.

at Liverpool Road Methodist Church, Large Hall.

10.15-11.00am Low impact Dance Fitness

11.05-1135am Balance improver

11.40-12.10pm Seated Dance Exercise

Beginners Very Welcome-Work at your own Pace



Further information
Parkinson on 07540

please call Kaz
369 942 or

come along and try us out – **first session free.**

