



KIRKHAM METHODIST CHURCH



www.kirkhammethodist.org.uk

South Fylde Circuit—Lancashire District

Kirkham Churches Together



September—October 2017

My Dear Friends,

In September we start a New Methodist Year, a time for us as the members of God's family and the body of Christ to celebrate our unity in Christ and to look forwards to new ways of working together in unity.

Paul in Ephesians exhorts the Ephesians to maintain the unity of the spirit. Jesus on His part prayed that His disciples would experience the same unity that existed between Him and His Father a unity He had demonstrated while amongst his disciples. It is such unity that verifies Jesus' God-sent mission and the Father's love for the world. It is therefore not surprising that Jesus' prayer for unity is realized in the life of the earliest church. Hence we are told that the first believers were together in one place for they shared their possessions and were of one heart and mind.

The story is told of a beautiful little girl who wandered out one cold day into the countryside of Canada. The family finally realized she was lost and started a search. They called the people of the community together. Each went his own way. It became dark and the cold of the Canadian winter settled down. After some time someone suggested the searchers join hands and cover the grass fields. But it was too late. They found the girl curled up, frozen in the cold. Then the shout went up, "If only we had joined hands before!" The spiritual meaning of this story is clear.

Christ's love demands unity among His believers. It is this same unity that the Hymn writers talks about when they say

"One through this sacrament of unity" H&P 779

"What shall our greeting be: sign of our unity?" H&P 806

We are one because of our unity in our love for Christ the son of God; hence the hymn writer says *"Jesus is Lord"*. We are one because of the Love the Father has for us,

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son". John 3:16

Yet until that unity is demonstrated through fellowship and working together, we only experience a minute part of our heritage.

In one of my favourite Peanuts cartoons, Lucy demands that Linus change TV channels and then threatens him with her fist if he doesn't.

"What makes you think you can walk in here and take over?" asks Linus.

"These five fingers," says Lucy. "Individually they're nothing but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold."

"Which channel do you want?" asks Linus.

Turning away, he looks at his fingers and says, "Why can't you guys get organized like that?"

When we are united through fellowship we carry each other's burdens and share each other's success. We can like "friend" in "pilgrim's progress" help each other along the road as companions growing together in love and towards spiritual maturity, for it is as we share with each other that we ourselves grow in faith.

Shalom my friends Sylvester

Weekly Activities At Kirkham Methodist Church

Sunday Services

Morning Worship	10:30am
Sunday School and Creche	10:30am

Group Family Meetings

Ladies Monday Group (1st Monday in Month) 7:45pm

Prayer Meeting

1st Monday of Month	9:30-10:00am
2nd Sunday of Month	9:30-10:00am
3rd Monday of Month	9:30-10:00am
4th Monday of Month	9:30-10:00am

Steps4Fun Children's Dance & Fitness Classes

Monday	5:15-6:15pm
Zumba Fitness Monday	6:15-7:00pm

Yoga Tuesday 7:15pm

Nogal Players Wednesday 6:00-10:00pm

Rainbows	Thursday	6:00pm
Brownies	Thursday	6:15pm
Guides	Thursday	7:30pm

Pre School Monday-Friday 9:15am-3:15pm

Dance Group Saturday 9:00am-2pm

Bible Study House Groups (Two Groups)

Group 1	Tuesday	4-6pm	Fortnightly
Group 2	Tuesday	7:30-9pm	Fortnightly

A NIGHT AT THE PROMS

It will probably surprise no-one to learn that I've never been to a music festival, although in my teenage years I went with my mates a few times on the Ribble bus from Clayton-le Moors to Blackpool on Saturday evenings to listen and shuffle round to the big bands of the day - Joe Loss and Ted Heath at the Tower Ballroom.

We didn't have proms to celebrate the end of school life at 16 or 18, even in my teaching days, but we did go to occasional outdoor performances on summer evenings, on Lytham Green, (before they became 'pop') and at one or two stately homes. But travelling to London and all that standing around at the Royal Albert Hall has never seemed quite worth the trouble, so any genuine Proms have been confined to telly viewing at our house. And so it was that we switched on to BBC4 on a recent Sunday evening for a performance of Bach's 'St John Passion'.

I must admit that 'Passions' have never been my favourite listening- they are, by their subject, generally solemn and reflective, and lengthy. However it was the best programme we could find, and I'm glad we did. The performance was in German (which I don't have, except for the odd phrase from 'Dad's Army'), but there were English subtitles, and I wondered how faithful to the text of John's Gospel Bach had been. I found that it was virtually word-for-word as the version I was reading. I had picked up the account at Chapter 19, where Jesus, scourged, mocked and condemned to die, carries his cross to Golgotha, the crowd (chorus) shouting for blood, the priests and Pilate (soloists), in that telling episode where Pilate, having written that Jesus is King of the Jews, refuses to agree to the priests' demands that he should tone it down. And later, when a soldier pierces the side of Jesus, now dead, the Gospel writer inserts a statement testifying to the truth of these events (Chapter 19 v. 35).

It had been a moving experience to hear and think again about the passion account. In the music there had been hints of familiar hymns, not least 'Now thank we all our God', (Singing the Faith, No 81) set in our hymn books to the German tune 'Nun Danket'.

I spent a few hours next day looking at the Bible's Johns. There are several, but how many? John the Baptist, John the disciple and Gospel Writer, probably not the John who wrote Revelation or John 1, 2 and 3 of the Epistles. Scholars have come to different conclusions about the authorship of these important texts - perhaps a few surnames would have helped (but that's a possible subject for another article some time!).

Eric Wolstenholme.

Messy Church Planning

There will be a planning meeting for our 20th October Messy Church on Thursday 21st September at 7.30pm in the prayer room at church.

We very much value the support of all our regular volunteers but if anyone who hasn't been involved before is interested in helping, both Sarah and Jennifer would be glad to chat with you about what's involved.

Please come and join us at our next

Messy Church

Friday 20th October

5 - 7pm

Theme: 'God's Amazing Gifts to Us'

**Families welcome, all children need to be accompanied
by an adult**

**Mum's & Dad's, Granny's & Grandad's.
Let's make it a family affair.**

*Please let us know if you are coming by the
15th October so that we can sort catering.
Contact Tel - 01772 499543*

KIRKHAM METHODIST



The Beauty of a Flower



Artists and poets have long been inspired by the beauty of flowers. Gardens and Parks are places where we can enjoy a wide variety of flowers with their vivid colours and their delightful scents, all combining to produce something beautiful.

What is the origin of flowers? Do flowers exist by design or chance? Please do not give the credit for their existence to Darwin, whose theory has misled countless people. Darwin's theory of evolution does not even begin to explain why molecules should arrange themselves into a flower. Flowers are not the random product of time and chance, but are part of God's creation. In other words, flowers were God's idea – he designed them and created them.

We read in the Bible **'Then he commanded 'Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit' – and it was done. So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. Evening passed and morning came – that was the third day.'** (Gen 1. 11-13). Thus plant life and vegetation were created by God.

Jesus had something intriguing to say about the beauty of a flower, **'Look how the wild flowers grow: they don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth has clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers'**. (Luke 12:27). This is a striking evaluation of a flower – in terms of beauty, it surpasses all the magnificence of the great King Solomon. But he went on to direct our attention to a common feature of all flowers – *they have a relatively short life*.

The bible uses the short life of a flower as a picture of our own mortality, **'As the scripture says, all mankind are like grass, and all their glory is like wild flowers. The grass withers, and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord remains for ever'**. (1 Peter 1: 24-25).

Many people live their lives as if they're going to live for ever. This is a disastrous mistake. We must face up to the all-important question – *Where is my life taking me?* In other words, am I ready to die and to meet God? Am I still in my sins or have I been forgiven through faith in Christ?

The bible tells us that our choice in this life will determine our destiny in the next life, **'Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not have life, but will remain under God's punishment'**. (John 3:36)

Remember that our life will pass very quickly, just like that of a flower. In view of the certainty that one day you will leave this world and enter eternity, we urge you to trust Jesus Christ now as your only Saviour and Lord, before the opportunity is lost for ever.

I was handed these words by a man from Bethesda Chapel in Southport as left the Southport Flower Show in August. I was sufficiently taken by them that I thought a re-print of them would be suitable for our church newsletter. Do you agree?

RJ

On the fifth day - God Created Nature

Following on from God's Great Garden Holiday Club' I would like to share an article with you that is taken from Nature's Home , RSPB magazine, Summer Edition and written by Simon Barnes. (Permission given).

“Nature helps us to enjoy life better and to endure it more steadfastly”.

Let's start with a flask made of diamond, a flask containing a special fluid, like the one given to Lucy in *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The wonderful juice in the flask, just like that in Lucy's can cure the sick and heal the harmed. It also does a great deal more.

It soothes the soul. It eases those who are feeling the strain of modern life. It helps those whose lives are out of kilter. It makes things better for people suffering from breakdowns, depressions and the inability to cope with the bruising rhythms of the 21st century.

The juice is especially good for children, making them happier and stronger and better able to work and to learn. Children with difficulties become better able to cope with the world and its challenges. The juice also helps people to feel more kindly toward each other and to deal with each other more fairly. It helps people to live better lives. It consoles the bereaved; it brings succor to the people oppressed by worry and care,

But the juice doesn't just undo damage. It also brings wonderful things to anyone who sips from the flask: deep joy, a profound philosophical acceptance of life, a sense of belonging to the world and even, at times, an ecstasy of pleasure that lasts for a moment and stays forever.

So the leaders and the people thought about this for a while. **Then they decided to pour the special fluid down the sink**—because a diamond flask could be flogged for a lot of money and you can never have too much, can you?

The name of the flask is Planet Earth; the name of the liquid is Nature.

The central truth of 21st-century life is that we are throwing away the most precious things in our lives because we've got a madcap notion that we can do better without it. It seems that we honestly believe that when our divorce from nature is complete we'll live richer and happier lives.

Let's not forget, at least for the moment, the fact that nature also keeps us alive. Nature is the life-support system that permits the plants to grow and allows us to breathe and drink and eat.

But nature doesn't just keep us from death: it also makes life worth living.

Continued over....



We seek nature instinctively and we do so in a hundred different ways, some so convoluted that we hardly know that nature is behind it. We go for walks, we garden, we fish, we play golf, we jog through the park, we swim, we sail, we cycle, we ride horses, we keep dogs and cats, we take weekends in the country, we take weeks by the sea, we look out of windows, we move to the suburbs, we drink in the pub garden, we have barbecues and picnics.

Thousands of experiments have shown us how nature makes life better. Patients recover faster after operations if they have a view from the hospital window, better still if they can see a tree. Autistic children work much better when they have access to nature. People doing complex tasks perform better after a break and better still if the break is in natural surroundings.

One experiment asked people to pass judgement on offenders. The judges who could see only skyscrapers routinely punished harder than those who could see trees, and were particularly severe on offenders from minority groups. In a different experiment, one group said that what mattered in life were fame and wealth, while the other said it was family and friends. The latter group were questioned in a room to which three—just three—pot plants had been added.

Nature helps to keep us sane, balanced and cheerful. When we perform good actions we call ourselves “humane”; we are more likely to perform humane acts when we have access to non-human life. Nature helps us to enjoy life better and to endure it more steadfastly. Nature helps us to feel less bad: it also brings us some of the greatest moments of our lives. And—sorry about this, but this is a blunt column and I'm going to use blunt language when it suits me, so brace yourself—love. Yes, that old thing. Love of family and friends is an essential part of life, and again and again nature brings us supreme moments when we feel a great outpouring of love for life itself. It comes in David Attenborough's cry of joy on seeing a blue whale, it comes in Gerard Manley Hopkins' ecstatic poem about a kestrel—a bird you can see on the motorway—and it comes to you and me when we hear the song of a blackbird on a spring evening.

Seems a shame to chuck all that away.

Simon Barnes—RSPB Nature's Home

In the 2012 State of Nature Report it stated that only 5% of children in the UK were connected to nature. It is improving!

God's Great Garden hopefully connected forty three children to God and Nature. A long way to go, but from little Acorns etc etc

Ian Womersley

Current Outreach provision at Citizens Advice Fylde



Fylde

St Annes Town Hall

Tuesday

9.30am – 1.30pm Appointments booked
through Kirkham Main Office :

0300 330 1166

Wednesday

9.30am – 1.30pm Drop-ins for initial help.

Norma Sands is the new representative for Kirkham Methodist Church on the Management Committee of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The poster above advertises a new service that the CAB to promote to as many people as possible.

For more information please contact the CAB.



Girlguiding Kirkham District

Girlguiding Kirkham District is currently looking for adult volunteers to help at their Rainbow, Brownie & Guide Units in Kirkham, Wesham and Clifton.

Can you spare a few hours a week, a month or once a term to help at meetings and keep the units running? Or maybe just help with the administration of the unit? If you are interested in volunteering please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk to register your interest and get involved or email kirkhamdistrict@gmail.com for more information.

Some units also have spaces available for girls please visit the website above to register your daughter's interest in joining in her nearest unit.



Flower Mission



	Flowers Donated by	Flowers Arranged by
6th Aug	Gillian & Ian Womersley	Wendy Pate
13th Aug	—	Diane McCrae
20th Aug	Irene Pugmire	Gillian Womersley
27th Aug	—	Jennifer Jones
3rd Sept	Jennifer & Ray Jones	Helen Ball
10th Sept	—	Lesley Nicholl
17th Sept	Karen Wolstenholme	Dominique Durham
23th Sept	Irene Pugmire	Barbara Wolstenholme
1st Oct	—	Karen Wolstenholme
8th Oct	Michael King	Irene Pugmire
15th Oct	—	Wendy Pate
22nd Oct	Karen Wolstenholme	Diane McCrae
29th Oct	—	Gillian Womersley

Donations received from:- Helen & Peter Ball, Miriam Harnett

Many thanks to everyone for their kind donations and also to the Ladies who arrange the flowers in church week by week.

If you would like to donate or feel as though you could help by arranging the flowers in church then please see Lesley Nicholl.

Lancashire District Day

At

**Briercliffe Rd Baptist/Methodist Church
Burnley BB10 3DX**

On

**Saturday 14th October
10.30am - 3pm**



Speaker—Carolyn Hothersall
My visit to Papua New Guinea

*Enabling Stall and MWiB resources
Doors open for coffee / tea at 10.30am*

LMG

We closed our Spring / Summer programme with a new committee in place for the next two years, and also enjoyed a lovely evening at the home of Kevin and Katharine, joining more of Laura's friends for a hen night, thanks go to Katharine for a lovely evening.

Our new committee which was voted in at the AGM in June is as follows:-

Secretary - Helen Ball

Treasurer - Lucinda Baldwin

Tea Secretary - Lesley Nichol

I thank them for committing to these rolls.

Our Autumn / Winter programme is now in place and we resume our monthly meetings on 4th September 7.45pm in the coffee lounge. Kerry Bridges is coming with 'Weleda' products which promote our well being, and will be on sale.

On October 2nd Christine Hancock is coming to share her love of circle dancing, so bring your dancing shoes!

Jennifer

Coast to Coast

28th July 2017

Blackpool Tower to Flamborough Head - 160 miles in one day.

Well what a day that was! As I stood at Blackpool Tower at just after 6am, I did wonder how on earth I was going to make it all the way to the East coast in one day. The wind was howling, grey clouds filled the sky but my mood was jolly and I was full of excitement and anticipation about the road ahead!

A quick stop in Kirkham and I was on my way, climbing some hills in sunshine until Sawley Abbey when the heavens opened for the first time. By 12.15 I was in Harrogate, stopping at my parents house for a much needed meal, rest and recharge of my phone's battery.

Setting off at 2.15pm in glorious sunshine once again! The Harrogate to York section was perfect cycling, it could not have been better. Quiet roads, wind behind me and not a hill in sight! This was not to last as shortly after leaving York it was non-stop torrential rain through beautiful villages and over moors until seeing the coast.

I reached my destination at 7.05pm, ahead of my planned schedule and with hardly any phone working! Relief and exhaustion flooded over me, I managed a quick call to Rachel to let her know I was safe and that I had done it!

A huge thank you to all of you who have donated or sponsored my cycle, I was overwhelmed by your generosity and it really spurred me on during the more difficult sections of the ride. I am yet to collect all of the outstanding donations, but it seems the total may be close to £550 and I am extremely grateful for your support.

Chris Carter



What took so long?

Morning worship on 4th June was led by our Superintendent Minister, Revd. Dr Adrian Burdon, and the Chairman of the Lancashire District of the Methodist Church, Revd. Paul Davis. During the service, our Circuit Local Preachers Secretary, David Turner, presented me with a certificate, signed by the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference marking 50 years since I became an accredited Local Preacher, and John North, from New Longton brought greetings from the District Local Preachers.

The service gave me a five-minute (it took a bit longer) opportunity to reflect on the journey which brought me to this point. I described taking my first service as an 'On Note' preacher in the Accrington Circuit as a teenager in 1947 - a time when the Circuit comprised 16 churches, most holding both morning and evening services, and keeping the preachers very busy. Then followed starting work, university, marriage, four children and a progressive career in education, and it was not until 1967 that I finally managed to complete the training course and became formally accredited.

There have been times when I have not found it at all easy to cope with the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel, and leading worship which, in my view, should help people to experience a faith which is, as I quoted from a recent 'Recorder' article, 'emotionally fulfilling, spiritually empowering and intellectually satisfying' - that is, appealing to both hearts and minds.

It was appropriate that Laura, at present, the only preacher 'On Trial' on the Circuit Plan led the prayers of intercession, and to have David Elliston, the Circuit's longest-serving preacher and his wife, Pearl, and members of my family present at the service.

Eric Wolstenholme

Used Postage Stamps

Please continue saving postage stamps for Huntington's Disease (HD) and pass onto Gillian Womersley.

This is a simple but effective fundraising activity.

(**Huntington's disease (HD)** is a neurodegenerative genetic disorder that affects muscle coordination and leads to cognitive decline and dementia. It typically becomes noticeable in middle age.)



hunting for a cure - with care
Huntington's Disease Association
email: info@hda.org.uk tel: 0151 331 5444

On the 31st August I finish my term of being a Steward and being part of the leadership team here at Kirkham Methodist church. I would just like to thank my fellow stewards and also the church family for their support during the past six years, especially the last two when serving as Senior Steward.

May God's blessing be upon all who serve in this capacity and especially Chris Carter who now takes on the role of a Steward.

Jennifer

JMA

As ever my JMA collectors have done themselves proud by collecting this Methodist year the outstanding total of £444.48.

An enormous thank you to all the family and church members who support these children and young people in raising money for the World Mission Fund.

Their certificates and badges will be awarded during the morning service on the 1st October which is also our Harvest Festival.

Jennifer

Songs of Praise

The Churches of Kirkham & Wesham
Invite You to

“Songs of Praise”

Come and join Us
All Are Welcome

Sunday 24th September at 4:00pm
At Kirkham United Reformed Church

We will be singing some of our favourite hymns
All ages welcome



God's Great Garden

What a great week we all had in July at KMC Holiday Club. Forty three children attended throughout the week with twenty three helpers. A fantastic time of stories, music, craft, sports, refreshments , prayers and reflections all for and in the name of God. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success and especially to Dobbies Garden Centre for the loan of all the plants that helped to set the scene.

