

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway



May 2017

Christian Caring, Gospel Sharing, in the Heart of Preston

Minister: Rev Sue Griffiths

Tel (01772) 774285

www.centralmethodist.org.uk


Worship at Central	
Sun 7th	10:30 Carol Spencer
Wed 10th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm With Revd Sue Griffiths
Sun 14th	10:30 Revd Sue Griffiths Holy Communion 
Wed 17th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Mark Slaney
Sun 21st	10:30 Steve Gregory
Wed 24th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm With Revd Sue Griffiths
Sun 28th	10:30 Revd Sue Griffiths All Age Worship
Wed 31st	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Sue Griffiths
Sun 4 th June	10:30 Morning Worship

Problems? Worries?
Anxieties? Stress?
Pressures? Loss?



Offers a welcoming, safe and confidential space for you to talk and for someone to listen.

Book through the Olive Grove Coffee Shop or at www.one2onelistening.org.uk
Or call 07542 076603

Times of worship are for keeping in touch with God, not your social network . So please, be considerate and switch your phone to silent! Thankyou! 

Rev Sue Griffiths, Central Methodist Church, Lune Street Preston PR1 2NL

Tel: 01772 556371 (Church) 01772 774285 (Home)

Stewards: David Jones, Sue Higham and Ruth Milward-Hopkins.

Safeguarding Officers: Peter Johnstone and Maureen Abson

Coffee Shop Tel 881851

Wifi password: Ezekiel37

The Gateway Newsletter is published 10 times a year , monthly except for January and August. Notices for inclusion should be received by the last Sunday of the month
editor@centralmethodist.org.uk



Central's Diary Dates....

May 5th-7th Church Weekend in the Lakes

May 8th 7pm Resources at Central

May 14th at noon Church Annual General Meeting- bring your lunch!



200 YEARS



1817-2017
Preston Central
Methodist Church

*Loving God,
serving people,
changing lives*

18th June Celebration Service

Sadly the street party on 17 June can no longer go ahead, but the exciting news is that we will focus all our celebrations on Sunday 18 June.

Celebrations will start with a Celebration Service at 10.30 followed by a community lunch at 12 with activities for everyone to enjoy.

Everyone is welcome.

This will be our main focus for our bicentenary celebrations so please invite friends and family and anyone who may have had connections with Central in the past.



**New course dates for
Module 1 Effective
Listening**

**Mondays 15th and 22nd
May 6-9pm**

**Or Wednesday 7th June
10-4**

**at Ingol Methodist
Church, Tag Lane**

**Apply online at
www.one2onelistening.org.uk**

**call 07542 076603 or
email
info@one2onelistening.org.uk**

Course cost £38

ments (or pay at the door). Proceeds supporting Christian Aid. More Information from Carol Rose 01772 783680 or ca.rose@btinternet.com

Saturday 20th May: Morecambe Bay Sponsored Walk for Action for Children at 12.30pm. A cross bay walk from Arnside to Kents Bank with refreshments at Abbot Hall Hotel after the walk. Registration is £10 for each adult walker and sponsorship is also required. To register, or to find out more, please contact; Diane Goodier on 01925 850856 or email diane.goodier@actionforchildren.org.uk.

Saturday 20th May: Invite to Opening of the new building for Longton Community Church, on Ribbleton Lane from 7.30pm.

Saturday 10th June: Learning to Heal Day at St Cuthbert's, Fulwood from 9.30am to 4pm. <https://stcuthbertschurch.churchapp.co.uk/events/ccq6i2o9>. Any questions, please contact mark.bradford@stcuthbertschurch.net.



Please keep your eye on the Brightsign display in the Coffee Shop for up to date info!



The Process of Peace

[Psalm 119:165 NIV \(1984 Edition\)](#)

One of the last things Jesus told His disciples before leaving this world was, 'In this world, you will have trouble' (John 16:33 NIV 2011 Edition). And He was right, wasn't He? We all experience stress, occupational demands, deadlines, expectations, personal pressures ganging up on us and constantly trying to rob us of the peace we desperately desire. No one is immune to stress, frustration, and the feeling that we're on the 'autobahn of life'. What is all this but the absence of peace? And the answer can't be found in a pill, a possession, or a pleasure. All those things wear off or wear out. The Bible talks about three different kinds of peace. Let's look at them: 1) Peace with others. 'As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone' (Romans 12:18 NIV 2011 Edition). This is external peace, and it's necessary for human relationships to flourish. 2) Peace with yourself. 'Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts' (Colossians 3:15 NIV 2011 Edition). This is internal peace, a rest of mind and soul that escapes most of us. 3) Peace with God. 'Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' (Romans 5:1 NIV 2011 Edition). This is eternal peace, and it comes from knowing you've a right relationship with God. So here's how it works: when you're at peace with God you'll be at peace with yourself, and when you're at peace with yourself you'll be at peace with others. That, in a nutshell, is The Process of Peace!
www.ucb.co.uk

	7th	14th	21st	28th	4th
Door & Offertory Stewards	Simon Millward - Hopkins Mary Neary/ Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth Dawn Robinson	Gary Creighton, Stella Swift/ Florence Bowen	Bill Manning Bill Swindlehurst	Simon Millward - Hopkins Mary Neary/ Geoff Tyson
Coffee served today by...	Sue Higham Sheena Rhodes	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse Ron Bosworth	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst	Kate and Pete Johnstone	Julia & Sarah Blackett Stella Swift
Today the Flowers have been Given by...	Sue Higham in memory of Duncan	Andrew Harrison in memory of Norman	Peter and Maureen Abson	Florence Bowen	Simon and Ruth Millward-Hopkins

Waterway: to spread the Gospel: 12th- 17th May - Join the Chair of District, Paul Davis as he walks from Adlington to Barnoldswick along stretches of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal through the Lancashire District. Visit Methodist Churches and Schools closest to the canal, hear stories, pray! Join the whole pilgrimage, a day, or a couple of miles. Further details: lancsmethodist@btinternet.com or Steve 01254 883200. Please be aware that, although hot and cold drinks will be available at the churches along the route, any accompanying walkers should bring their own lunch.

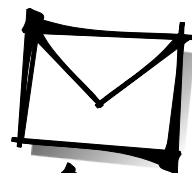


Prayer Dance: Third Friday of each month, 7-8pm at Lea Methodist Church Hall, Birkdale Drive, PR2 1UN. Come and explore a different way of praying using movement, stillness and dance. No experience or dance ability required, and everyone is welcome; individuals work in whatever way is right for them. Wear comfortable clothing and footwear, and bring a bottle of water. Please contact Anna on 07545820031. Free parking on site and wheelchair accessible entrance. Dates: 19th May, 16th June, 21st July

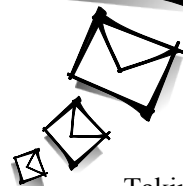
Tuesday 2nd May: Developing a temporary hosting scheme for destitute / refused asylum seekers in Lancashire at 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's, Fulwood: - this is your invite to attend! <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hosting-scheme-for-destitute-refused-asylum-seekers-in-lancashire-exploratory-meeting-tickets-33040844054>

Saturday 13th May: Comedy Night - Shake off the winter blues and spend the night laughing. Join us at Whalley Methodist Church (BB7 9SN) as we welcome the only half-Spanish/half-Scottish hybrid working comic in the world: Tony Vino starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £6. For tickets email administrator@clitheroemethodistcircuit.com or text or phone 07811 237236. Tickets also available on the night.

Sunday 14th May: Music in the Afternoon with Guest Performers 'Preston Flute Group' at Christ Church, Longridge. Starting at 2.30pm. Tickets £5 incl. refresh-



Hello,



I saw a headline on Blog Preston recently that said 'Preston is one of the most miserable places in the UK'. The Office of National Statistics had surveyed people across the UK between Oct 15 and Sept 16 recording levels of personal well-being including issues around health, work and relationships.

Taking into account the answers people gave, Preston was the 4th most miserable place, just beating our neighbours Burnley who came 3rd. Interestingly our neighbours in South Ribble didn't feature in the list, so clearly things aren't quite as miserable south of the river!! Of course we can't always take surveys or statistics too literally or be bound by them but when you take into consideration that Preston is also recorded as one of the wettest places in the UK and in 2015 was voted the UK's unhealthiest high street it doesn't make for very happy reading. More alarmingly a couple of years ago Preston was given the status of suicide capital of the UK.

So how do we react to such headlines, records and statistics? Are we disbelieving, indignant, full of protest or denial. Are we resigned, despondent and accepting of the status quo? When I read these kind of headlines, whether they are fully accurate or not I respond by thinking that we can't ignore the needs, concerns, cares and worries of our city. In Philippians 2 it says 'each one of you should look not only to your own interests but to the interests of others.' This tells me that we need be concerned for those around us and what they are experiencing. I think there is also a challenge to consider what each of us might do to change the status quo, to challenge the reasons why people's lives are so difficult and to look at how we can support, help and care for those who are struggling. As Christians it is our calling and our Christian responsibility but we don't have the monopoly on kindness, compassion and caring as people of other faiths and no faith will also care about and respond to the needs of others in our city. I hope that as we consider our response we'll be encouraged to know that even the smallest action can make a difference, as Mother Theresa once said about her work with lepers in Calcutta 'we ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.'



Every Blessing, Sue

Churches condemn Government's new two-child limit as "deliberately ignoring" needs of some of the UK's poorest children

From Thursday 6th April the Government's flagship benefit, Universal Credit, will not offer help to the third or subsequent children in a family. This fundamentally changes the benefit system so that it "deliberately ignores" the needs of some of the UK's more vulnerable children say Church leaders.

Over the next three years around 640,000 families containing at least two million children[1] will see substantially lower Universal Credit payments

From November 2018 the two-child limit will also be applied retrospectively. The needs of the third child born long before the two-child limit was thought of will also be ignored.

Rachel Lampard, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, said: "The two-child rule takes a knife to the social security safety net and hundreds of thousands of the UK's most vulnerable children will fall through the gap created. These cuts are the driving force behind the expected increases in child poverty over the next decade. The consequences for these children will last for a lifetime."

The Revd Dr Richard Frazer, Convener of the Church & Society Council, commented: "From Thursday payments under Universal Credit will deliberately ignore the needs of some of the UK's poorest children. The Government's flagship benefit will not offer help to the third or further children in a family.

"How can a decent society look at an impoverished child - and then ignore their needs?"

Both the Government's impact assessment[2] and Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) research make it clear that the two child limit is not expected to achieve its aim of reducing the number of children born to poorer families needing the support of the benefit system[3].

"We should be appalled that children's needs are being deliberately ignored, no matter what the justification. It is extraordinary that the Government has pressed ahead with this cut despite the fact that its own research says that it is not likely to achieve its aim of encouraging families to have fewer children," said Grace Pengelly, Secretary for Church and Society, United Reformed Church.
www.methodist.org.uk

Hope in the midst of despair

More than £340,000 has been given in response to the East Africa Famine Appeal, launched at the end of February by All We Can and the World Church Relationships Team of the Methodist Church in Britain. The call to donate to the urgent appeal to help avert famine in countries on the verge of disaster has been met with a generous wave of giving from Methodist Churches and individuals across the world.

All We Can Chief Executive, Maurice Adams said, "The response so far to the East Africa Famine Appeal has been remarkable and humbling. Such an extraordinary response is required because of the extraordinary calamity we are witnessing. The need is vast, and the resources required to tackle this ongoing emergency continues to be immense.

www.methodist.org.uk

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Dr Roger Walton and Ms Rachel Lampard MBE, speak about confidence, suffering and hope in this year's Easter Message.

"...Do we sometimes race over the reflection of holy week and the pain of Good Friday, in order to reach the joy of Easter?..."

"...The Christian vocation means feeling and facing the suffering and injustice of the world, alongside God, until new creation is complete. Staying with suffering and tackling injustice is no easy option but is where Christian confidence takes us..."
www.methodist.org.uk

A Letter From A Friend

I just had to write and tell you how much I love and care for you. Yesterday, I saw you walking and laughing with your friends; I hoped that you soon wanted Me to walk with you too. So I painted you a sunset to close your day, and whispered a cool breeze to refresh you – you never called – I just kept on loving you.

As I watched you fall to sleep last night I wanted so much to touch you. I spilled moonlight onto your face – trickling down your cheeks as so many tears have. You didn't even think of Me. I wanted so much to comfort you.

The next day I exploded a brilliant sunshine into glorious morning for you. But you woke up late and rushed off to work – you didn't even notice. My sky became cloudy and My tears were the rain.

I love you. Oh, if only you'd listen. I really love you. I try to say it in the quiet of the green meadow and in the blue sky. The wind whispers my love throughout the treetops and spills it into the vibrant colours of all the flowers. I shout it to you in the thunder of the great waterfalls and compose love songs for birds to sing for you.

I warm you with the clothing of My sunshine and perfume the air with nature's sweet scent. My love for you is deeper than any ocean and greater than any need in your heart if you'd only realise how I care.

My Father sends His love. I want you to meet him – He cares too. Fathers are just that way. So please call on Me soon. No matter how long it takes, I'll wait – Because I love you.

Your friend, Jesus.

Peter Bonage