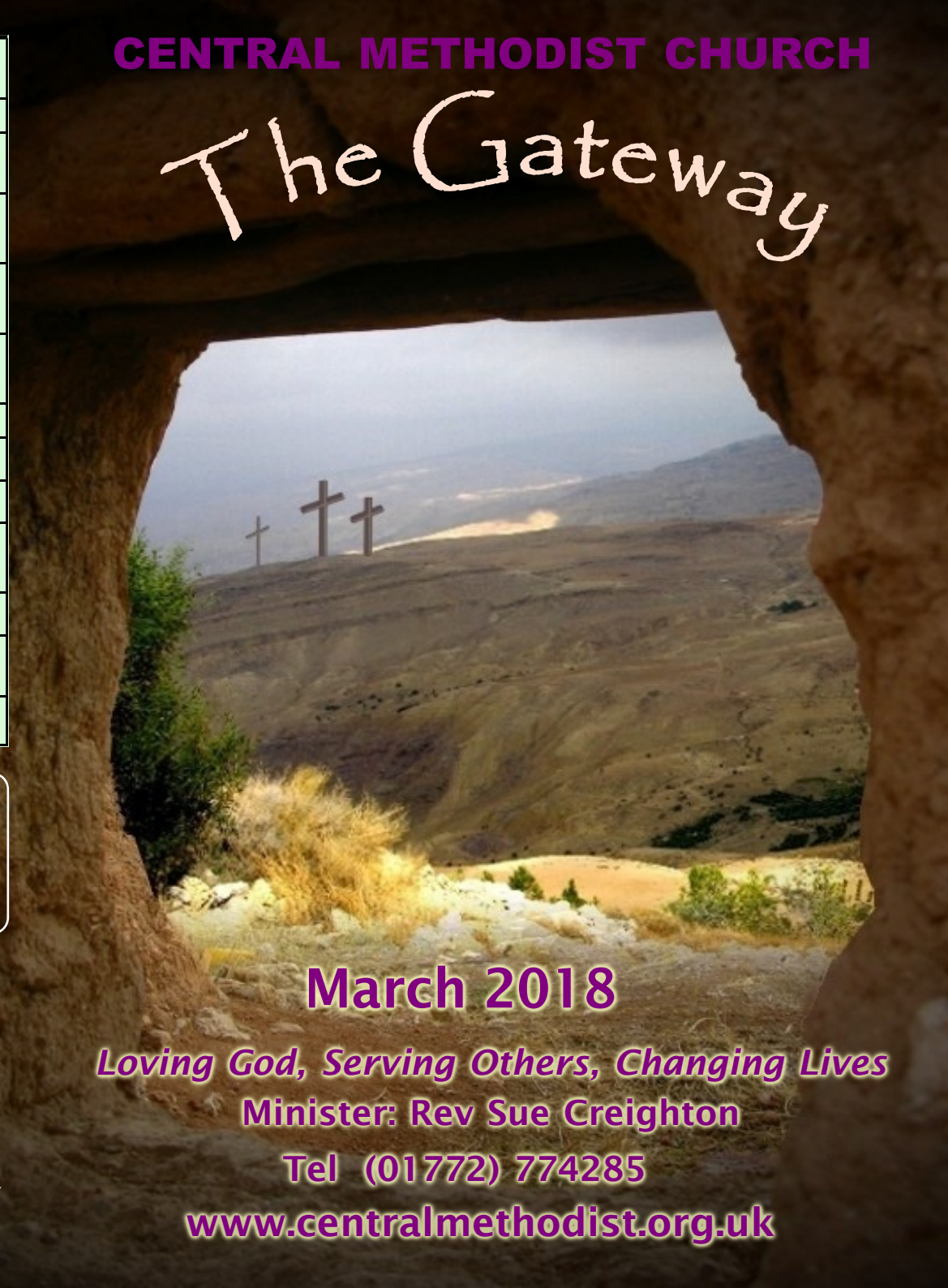


CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway

Worship at Central	
Sun 4th	10:30 Mrs Carol Poole
Wed 7th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm With Revd Sue Creighton
Sun 11th	10:30 Revd Sue Creighton, Mothering Sunday, AAW 4pm SPACE at Fulwood
Wed 14th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Sue Creighton
Sun 18th	10:30 Revd Sue Creighton Holy Communion 
Wed 21st	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Mrs Carol Rose
Sun 25th	10:30 Mr David Evans, Palm Sunday
Wed 28th	Holy Week Worship at 1pm with Revd Sue Creighton
Thu 29th	7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Revd Sue Creighton 
Fri 30th	10:30 Good Friday Reflections - Revd Sue Creighton
Sun 1 st Apr	10:30 Revd Sue Creighton All age celebration & Holy Communion 
Wed 4th Apr	No lunchtime service today



Would you like us to pray for you?

Leave your prayer on a card
in the Prayer tree corner or **Prayer**
leave a prayer on our website in confidence



*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 Creighton, Central Methodist Church, Lune Street Preston PR1 2NL
Tel: 01772 556371 (Church) 01772 774285 (Home)
Stewards: Sue Higham and Ruth Millward-Hopkins.
Safeguarding Officers: Peter Johnstone and Maureen Abson
Coffee Shop Tel 881851

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

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March 2018

Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives

Minister: Rev Sue Creighton

Tel (01772) 774285

www.centralmethodist.org.uk

HOLY WEEK

Mon 26th, Tues 27th, Thu 29th, 1pm– 15 minute Holy Week reflection
 Wed 28th 1pm – Holy Week Service
 Thursday 29th, 7.30pm – Maundy Thursday Communion
 Good Friday, 10.30am – Good Friday Reflections
 11.45am – Walk of Witness from St. George's Church
 12pm – Flag Market act of Worship and Witness
 Easter Day, 10.30am – All Age Celebration and Holy Communion

Saturday 28th April: One Way UK are hosting a Puppet Ministry Training Day at St. Wilfrid's Parish Hall, Standish, Wigan. The day is for adults and young people, those who are curious as to how puppetry can enhance your outreach, schools workers, church leaders, Sunday school teachers, youth/children's workers or those already involved in puppet ministry and wanting to improve or refresh their skills! Please contact us if there is anything specific you would like us to bring. Cost: £18 per person if booked 10 days prior to event, or £25 thereafter. The day will start at 10am and finish at 4:30pm. Registration opens at 9:30am. Refreshments will be available but please bring a packed lunch and a puppet if you have one. There will be a selection of practice puppets available for you to use if needed.




Travelling to God... with a suitcase
2018
 Lent in the Minster

This Lent explore how you can travel to God, with others from the Preston Area Churches

- .. full of dreams** Mon 19th Feb. (Preston Minster, Church St) Rev Ed. Saville
- Pilgrimage** Mon 26th Feb. (Preston Minster, Church St) Rev John Howard-Norman
- Uncluttering** Mon 5th March (at Central Methodist, Lune St) Fiona Castle (Roy's widow)
- .. but going nowhere?** Mon 12th March (Preston Minster, Church St) Anthony Finnerty
- . with my sins in ..** Mon 19th March (Preston Minster, Church St) Bishop Julian

Plus others speakers on Social Action happening in Preston
 Each evening: 7.20 for 7.30pm, finishing by 9pm for refreshments.

Lent Bible study
at Central
Continue...
 Wednesdays at 2pm

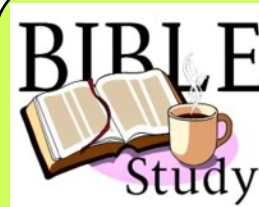


Problems? Worries?
Anxieties? Stress?
Pressures? Loss?



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 one2onelistening.org.uk



Dealing with depression

'Your words...were my joy and my heart's delight.'

[Jeremiah 15:16 NIV \(2011 Edition\)](#)

People in Bible times dealt with depression too. Elijah said, 'I have had enough, Lord... Take my life' (1 Kings 19:4 NIV 2011 Edition). Job said, 'I loathe my very life' (Job 10:1 NIV 2011 Edition). David wrote, 'My soul is downcast' (Psalm 42:6 NIV 2011 Edition). Now, when you're clinically depressed you should seek professional help. But the kind of depression we're talking about here is when your motivation is drained, your desire to pursue God is gone, your conversations have turned sour, you're blind to your blessings, your enthusiasm is forced, and you're in a daze regarding the future. Here are some possible causes: 1) Sin. Sin is like a stone in your shoe; you'll have no peace until you get it out. No holiday, job change, relationship change, or doctor will heal it. But the blood of Jesus will cleanse it (see 1 John 1:7). 2) Greed. King Ahab's obsession with owning Naboth's vineyard made him miserable and affected his entire family (see 1 Kings 21:4). 3) Comparisons. Constantly comparing yourself to others will depress you (see 2 Corinthians 10:12). 4) Speaking negatively. 'The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences' (Proverbs 18:21 NLT). 5) Fatigue. Jesus called His disciples aside to rest. Why? Because He recognised that when fatigue walks in, faith walks out (see Mark 6:31). 6) Unforgiveness. When you refuse to forgive someone, you carry them like an albatross around your neck. So, what's the remedy for depression? Often it starts with prayer and Bible reading. Jeremiah, who battled depression, wrote, 'When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight.'

(UCB Word for Today)

	4th	11th	18th	25th	1st Apr
Front Door Steward	Sue Higham		Sue Higham		Sue Higham
Inside Door & Offertory Stewards	Simon M-Hopkins Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth Dawn Robinson/ Angela Parker	Stella Swift Bill Manning	Valerie/ Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst	Simon M-Hopkins Geoff Tyson
Coffee served today by....	Kate and Pete Johnstone	Julia and Sarah Blackett, Stella Swift	Sue Higham Sheena Rhodes	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse, Ron Bosworth	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst
Today the Flowers have been Given by...		Edith Wilson in memory of Joe		Olive Iddon	

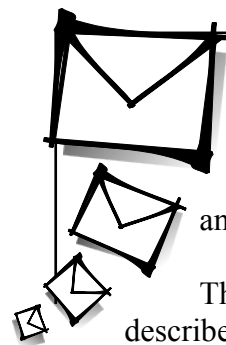
Come and Sing Stainer's 'The Crucifixion': Saturday 17th March 2018 at St Leonards Church, Marshalls Brow, Penwortham, PR1 9JA. Workshop from 2.30pm to 5.30pm - £10 for singers - payable on the door - please book your place beforehand. Performance from 7pm - £5 payable on the door. All information and to Book a singers place – www.prestonorpheuschoir.org/rehearsals-and-performances/come-and-sing-crucifixion/ . Any queries 735197.

Fairtrade Fortnight: Photo Exhibition: Discover Fairtrade Gold - tells the story of marginalised mining communities in Africa & South America, where Fairtrade is changing lives. Mon 5 March - Sat 10 March, every morning till 1pm, Sat till 12. Central Methodist Church, Lune Street

Thursday 8th March: An Evening with Cole Moreton at Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre - doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets are free but booking is essential. To reserve your place, contact Kara on: k.cooper1@lancaster.ac.uk

Saturday 10th March: 'Luv Esther' performed at Carr Hill High School, Kirkham from 7pm. Tickets £10 for adults, £6 for children or £30 per family.
Friday 23rd March: The Jihad of Jesus – UK Tour at Blackburn Cathedral from 6-9pm. The tour - The Jihad of Jesus - is based on the best-selling book of the same name by Dave Andrews, devout Christian, writer, community worker. The intention of the book, and of the tour, is to engage Christians and Muslims in exploring together the common quest for justice and peace. Booking essential - via Eventbrite, at the link below: <https://the-jihad-of-jesus.eventbrite.co.uk>. For further information contact: Lynne Mitchell - lynne.mitchell@blackburn.anglican.org or 07425169827 or Ali Amla - 07872835318 or m.amlala@lancaster.ac.uk

Saturday 21st April: Methodist Action North West's Spring Ball at The Marriot Hotel, Preston. 7pm for 7.30pm. Dress to impress. Tickets £35 from 07749 576296 or sarah.carrick@methodistaction.co.uk



Dear Friends

‘When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.’

This hymn by Isaac Watts, written early in the 1700’s has been described as one of the greatest hymns in the English language. Whether we agree or not, it is certainly a beautiful hymn of outstanding poetry, containing a statement of faith as well as a call to an emotional response.

As we approach Holy Week and ultimately the crucifixion and death of Jesus, it is the 1st line that has made me reflect deeply on what Isaac Watts was saying. He says when I ‘survey’ the wondrous cross. Survey means to look at or examine something especially carefully. Surveying something is very different to just looking at it. Many of us have looked at a cross, in or outside a church, on Bibles, in our homes, even on pieces of jewellery. We’ve all looked at a cross but have we surveyed it...have we examined it especially carefully. Have we studied it, and gazed upon it?

Once we go beyond just looking at a cross we can begin to really take on its meaning, we can more deeply understand why it is a wondrous cross and not just an everyday, ordinary object. It’s because it is on the cross the Prince of glory died and it is a wondrous cross because through his suffering and death, we see the God of the universe taking on *our* pain and suffering and conquering *our* death. It is a wondrous cross because God reached out from it to all of us through the outstretched arms of Jesus and welcomed us into his love and care, his grace and his forgiveness. It is a wondrous cross because from it Jesus said ‘today you will be with me in paradise. And just looking at it isn’t enough, to look is to glance and then look away but Isaac Watts says ‘when I survey’, and it is in surveying that wondrous cross that the truth comes to us about God and God’s saving Grace. And when that truth comes we cannot help but respond with the words at the end of this beautiful hymn, ‘Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.’

Every blessing, Sue

IN THE PRESS.....

Death of Billy Graham

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Loraine N Mellor and Jill Baker, have offered their condolences to the family of US evangelist the Revd Billy Graham, who has died aged 99.

Graham, best known for preaching to audiences in large arenas, died at his home in North Carolina on February 21. He became a Christian aged 16 after listening to an itinerant evangelist and was ordained as a minister four years later.

The President said: "We send our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Billy Graham, without doubt one of the greatest evangelists of the last century. He shared the love of Jesus Christ to millions around the world."

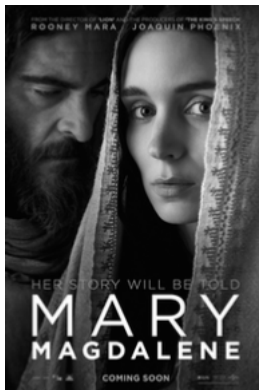


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Why Mary Magdalene is the Hollywood film Christians have been waiting for

Mary Magdalene isn't perfect. This two-hour long film is slow-moving and often drags. The landscapes look nothing like Israel (the film was shot in Italy – and it shows). And the solemn tone means the entertainment value is diminished.

That said, the film has done well to (mostly) stay true to the Bible's narrative. Jesus is played wonderfully by Joaquin Phoenix. His depiction of a Christ who has moments of human weakness (he's physically exhausted after performing miracles) and carries a heavy burden raises all sorts of interesting and thought-provoking theological questions.



Mary Magdalene is showing in UK cinemas from 16 March

Church of England and Methodist Church to continue exploring closer communion

Following debate at the General Synod, the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission will now undertake further refinement and clarification on proposals that would see the Church of England and the Methodist Church enter into a relationship of communion and enable an interchange of their presbyteral ministries.

Building on the theological convergence encapsulated in An Anglican-Methodist Covenant, signed in 2003, and the work of the Covenant's Joint Implementation Commission from 2003-2014, acceptance of the proposals would mark a further step on the journey of reconciliation between the two Churches.

After the debate, the Revd Gareth J Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, said: "We are very grateful to the Church of England for this opportunity to address the General Synod and discuss the progress we are making together on the path towards reconciliation and the ordering of our existing ministries in a way that reflects the needs and wishes of both Churches.

"We recognise that these are matters of significance to all within our Churches. As we move forward, we will continue to discern the will of God and deepen our understanding of each other through ongoing dialogue."

The proposals are already available for discussion in both Churches. In light of the further work, and to enable time for proper reflection, it is unlikely that the proposals will be brought to the Methodist Conference for discussion before 2019

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HOMELESS

At a recent Wednesday Afternoon Church Service here at Central Methodists, our Minister, Rev Sue Creighton, gave a wonderful sermon on the plight of homeless people in Preston sleeping rough. It inspired me to compose this following poem.....

They sleep in doorways, bitter cold
Faces prematurely old.
Each day, each night, all just the same
For these people with no name.

Each one had a father, mother
Some a wife, a sister, brother.
But now they're homeless and afraid,
Their vulnerability for all displayed.

As some pass with icy glare,
As though they're rubbish lying there,
Some kinder people show them pity
Give them change there in the city.

Whilst uttering a silent prayer,
They're thankful they're not lying there.
Yet some, who benefit from chance,
Drive by and never spare a glance.



General assumptions by some 'passers-by folk' are that these street sleepers are scroungers, alcoholics, 'lazy good for nothings', etc.

Often the majority of these unfortunate homeless sleepers have actually been found to be current victims of very sad circumstances, for example - former armed forces personnel who have been traumatised and badly affected by their recent war involvements. Others are victims of being thrown out of their former homes, perhaps have mental problems etc.

Therefore, maybe more of these particular "passers-by folk" would perhaps be better admitting that "There but for the grace of God go !!"

Peter Bonage