

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway



June 2018

*Loving God,
Serving People,
Changing Lives*

Minister: Rev Sue Creighton

**Tel (01772) 774285
www.centralmethodist.org.uk**

Worship at Central	
Sun 3rd	10:30 Pamela Roberts
Wed 6th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Sue Creighton
Sun 10th	10:30 Revd Sue Creighton 4pm SPACE at Fulwood Methodist Church 
Wed 13th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Carol Spencer
Sun 17th	10:30 Henry Rose
Wed 20th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Andrew Webb
Sun 24th	10:30 Revd Sue Creighton All Age Worship
Wed 27th	Worship at 1pm with Revd Sue Creighton
Sun 1 st July	10:30 Revd Sue Creighton

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!*



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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
August. Notices for inclusion
should be received by the last
Sunday of the month
editor@centralmethodist.org.uk*



Central's Diary Dates....

Monday June 4th Extraordinary Church Council at 7:30pm
Tuesday July 3rd Church Council at 7:30pm
Circuit Leaving Service Sunday 22nd July 5pm at Longton

Community Service and lunch

Join us for an all age
community service and an
opportunity to say farewell to
Revd Sue



Sunday 15th July 10:30am



Fellowship

Looking to understand the
Bible a bit better over a
cuppa and a piece of cake?

Join our fellowship group at
church. Meets the 4th Wednesday in the month 7:30 - 09:00

Next meeting June 27th "Is it OK to doubt?"

Food banks stocks are running low...

Fox Street: All tinned and dried packet foods are welcome, but they particularly need: tinned meat, fish, vegetables, potatoes, beans, & fruit and rice. They also need gravy granules, assorted sauces, cordials, UHT and powdered milk, cakes, biscuits, coffee & sugar. All items need to be in date by one month.



Salvation Army: are currently in need of tinned potatoes, jars of sauces, packets of noodles and savoury rice etc, biscuits, rice pudding, custard, cat and dog food, sugar and toiletries (toothpaste, shower gel, sanitary products).

²They thank you for your support.

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



There's No Substitute!

'[Hidden] treasures ... riches stored in secret
places.'

Isaiah 45:3 NIV

When we're stressed - and who isn't nowadays? - often our first inclination is to consult the latest 'how to' book or DVD, or seek out the camaraderie of Christian friends. Reimar Schultze observes: 'At best we get a splash of what we're looking for. Time about God never replaces time with God. Look around your church and tell me whether with all the religious books, CDs, and programs, there are any [that] come up to the stature of Enoch, Abraham, Moses, and Noah. God Himself has been, and always will be the greatest source of information, inspiration, transformation, and fellowship ... Isaac was meditating in the fields when "he lifted up his eyes, and saw..." (Genesis 24:63 KJV). From being alone with God comes seeing ... in our quiet moments He sets before us gifts and delicacies ... hidden to the hurried man. The Bible says, "When [Jesus] had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray" (Matthew 14:23 KJV) ... Many who came to see Jesus traveled for days, yet He sent them away so He could pray. To get alone with God you have to send something away: relatives, friends, schedules ... opportunities ... other people's opinions. That was true with Jesus. Many were offended by Him. He didn't let people-pressure run His life; it was governed by His Father ... [You can] become a slave to man, or live to meet God's expectations. You can't do both. If you do the latter, streams of living water will flow from your innermost being, and you'll have power with God. He'll reveal to you "hidden treasures, riches stored in dark places". (UCB.CO.UK)

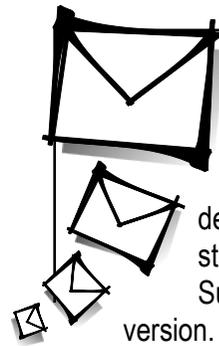
	3rd	10th	17th	24th	1st
<i>Front Door Steward</i>	Sue Higham	Ruth Milward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Milward-Hopkins	Sue Higham
<i>Inside Door & Offertory Stewards</i>	Simon M-Hopkins Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth Dawn Robinson/ Angela Parker	Stella Swift Bill Manning	Valerie/ Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst	Simon M-Hopkins Geoff Tyson
<i>Coffee served today by....</i>	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse Ron Bosworth	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst	Kate and Pete Johnstone	Julia and Sarah Blackett, Stella Swift	Sue Higham Sheena Rhodes
<i>Today the flowers have been given by...</i>	Simon and Ruth Milward-Hopkins	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse	Marjorie Hardman	Beryl Duckworth	

Friday 1st June: To A Yellow Rose - KTB Choir present a tribute evening in memory of their friend and fellow member, Diane Burgess. Performing some of Diane's favourite tunes, along with some special 'yellow' themed songs, KTB Choir promise a rollercoaster evening full of laughs along with tender moments but most of all fun and joy together. Raising money for St Catherine's Hospice, Lancashire. £5, payable on the door at Leyland Methodist Church. 7.30pm



Saturday 9th June: Lancashire Methodist District Mission and Evangelism Prayer Breakfast with our President of Methodist Conference Rev'd Loraine Mellor at Leyland Methodist Church, Turpin Green Lane, Leyland, PR25 3HE from 9am - 10.30am. Drinks, pastries, and bacon butties available upon arrival. To assist with catering it would help if you book your place via office@leylandmethodist.org.uk or 01772 454586 Saturday 9 June: Spirituality for Change in Maghull - This day event is open to all. There will be stalls and a bookshop, plus worship and choose up to three workshops. Please do book your place as there is a free lunch and booking by 1 June will help the organisers get enough food in. Book via Rob at NWMannNetwork@gmail.com Workshops: Men's spiritual, Art, Spirituality within illness and pain, Clinic for Christians who feel like spiritual mice rather than spiritual giants, Spirituality and being a grandparent, The art of public prayer. Children are welcome with their parent/carer.

Tuesday 16th - Thursday 18th October 2018: Reflect Methodist Spirituality - Northern Retreat at The Briery Retreat Centre, Ilkley, West Yorkshire. Water from our own Wells. Leader: Henry Morgan. Cost £200. This will be mostly a silent retreat. Interested? Contact Rev Sandie Exley-Watts sandie@exleywatts.me.uk 01924 840219.

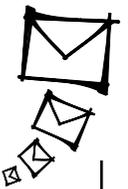


Dear Friends

What do you know about the story of Jonah in the Bible? Did you learn about it at school? I remember us doing a performance of the story and singing Jonah Man-Jazz with the line 'go down Jonah, deep in the ocean, go down Jonah, far from the shore, and that has stayed with me ever since. Maybe you can recall hearing the story in Sunday School. You might have seen it as a cartoon or watched a film version. Maybe you don't know the story at all and have no idea who Jonah is or what happened to him? And you might be wondering why I'm mentioning it!

June is a month dedicated by the Methodist Church as Bible month and this year the focus is on Jonah. Jonah was told by God to go to Ninevah (a city where the inhabitants were enemies of God's people) and to preach God's judgement to them. Jonah refused, got on a boat and went in the opposite direction. While on the boat a huge storm arose and the sailors were frightened, so in the end Jonah owned up to it being his fault and they threw him overboard. God sent a large fish to swallow up Jonah and after 3 days he was spat out onto the shore. Eventually he went to Ninevah and did what God asked and the people repented and turned to God. Jonah was angry and upset at God because he didn't feel the people deserved God's love and mercy.

Most people think the story is all about an almighty fish. Actually the story is not about an almighty fish but about an Almighty God. God calls Jonah, he pursues him and doesn't let him go, he causes a storm and calms a storm, he sends a whale and Jonah survives inside for 3 days. God causes the fish to expel Jonah and Jonah finally goes to Ninevah. Through Jonah God changes the hearts and minds of the people and they are saved They were not condemned by God but became God's people. Whether we believe the story is fact or just an allegory, it still tells us of an Almighty God. It shows us a God who's love and grace and mercy extends to Jonah who initially let God down and also to the whole city of Ninevah. Jonah's words in the last chapter sum up what is at the heart of story 'I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.' Those are words about an Almighty God, not an almighty fish!



Every blessing, Sue

IN THE PRESS..

Gaming Review Announcement

A group of Churches and faith-based organisations have issued a welcome to the government's response to the review of fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs). In a statement, the Salvation Army, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Church of Scotland, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Evangelical Alliance UK, Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs, CARE and the Mission and Public Affairs Council of the Church of England said:

"FOBTs are a serious problem in society and for local communities, families and individuals. Evidence links them to patterns of addictive behaviour, large financial losses and anti-social and criminal behaviour. Today, we warmly welcome the government's commitment to cap maximum stakes on FOBTs at £2.

"We are clear that solving problem gambling goes much broader than responding to the challenge of FOBTs. We therefore welcome the player protection measures, being taken forward by the Gambling Commission.

"In welcoming this proposed action, we want to make it clear that in addition to the major challenge presented by FOBTs, there are also wider issues associated with gambling that require serious political commitment to address. Therefore, we note that at this stage new powers to oversee gambling are not been given to local authorities. We ask the government to re visit this.

"We also note that the government state that 'Gambling-related harm is a health Issue', and welcome the announcement that Public Health England (PHE) is to conduct an evidence review of health aspects of gambling-related harm to inform action on prevention and treatment."

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Ascension Day statement on overcoming religious intolerance

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Loraine N Mellor and Jill Baker, have released the following statement to mark Ascension Day, when Christians celebrate Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven.

The month of May includes a number of important dates in the Christian calendar: Ascension Day, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday all fall within the same month this year. May 2018 also brings special days for those of other faiths including Shavuot for Jews, Wesak for Buddhists and Ramadan for Muslims.

We welcome these seasons and celebrations and send greetings of peace to our neighbours of all faiths in Britain, praying that this will be a time of deepening understanding of each other's traditions. We commend the ongoing work of the Big Iftar and of organisations including the Council of Christians and Jews and the Christian Muslim Forum who seek to build bridges in our communities.

Strong relationships, understanding and tolerance have never been more needed, in a world where intolerance and violence against other faith groups have become all too frequent. We grieve for the victims of recent violence targeted at Christians in the Middle Belt of Nigeria, of the terrorist attack on a church in Bangui, Central African Republic, and of the bombing of a mosque in Khost, Afghanistan. Sadly, these are only a few among many acts of violence targeted against believers including attacks and abuse directed at minority groups in our own country.

We stand at this time in solidarity with all people of faith who are subject to hatred, abuse and violence because of their beliefs. All people are made in God's image and, as we celebrate the ascension of our Lord, we pray that the day will come when no one will be persecuted for their faith.

Loving God, from earliest times you have heard the cry of your children for justice and for peace.

In these days of tension, of difficult remembrances, of competing voices and desperate cries, help us to hear the whisper of your Spirit, calling us to love, to service, to prayer and to compassion.

Open our ears to the voices of those with whom we disagree and our eyes to see how things look to them.

Give us confidence to stretch out our hands across difference and division.

Help us all, Gracious God, to be channels of your grace and your peace, wherever we may be.

Amen.

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The Story Of Adam and Eve, but not as you know it

I would like to share the following tale with you....

A niece of mine recently told me the following story that had me in stitches at the end. Her 4 - year-old son had just been returned home from Sunday school by her next door neighbour. My niece later asked him what he had learnt today in church. It went along something like this.....

He answered that he had learnt all about Adam. He continued saying that Adam was very lonely, so he asked God to help him. God agreed, and gave Adam a spare ribbon. Adam made a wife from it, and he called her Eve.

In order to make sure that that he would never be lonely again, though, Adam then tied his wife up to a tree with another ribbon. This was done to make sure that she would not escape! So they lived happily ever after.

It never seems to amaze me about the wise, hilarious and sometimes confused tales that comes out of a small child's mouth!

Six Wise Christian One-liners

Simply just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car mechanic.

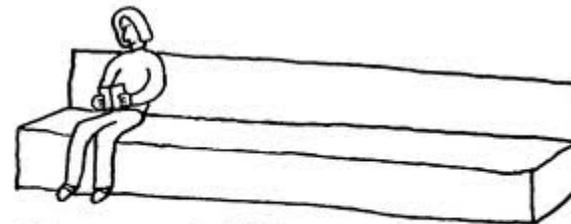
Atheism is a non-prophet organization

In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma - but never let him be the full stop.

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their usual seat in church.



THIS IS MY PEW

THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY PEW

© @davewalker

Peter Bonage