

| Worship at Central | |
|--------------------|--|
| Sun 4th | 10:30 Carol Spencer |
| Wed 7th | Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Carol Rose |
| Sun 11th | 10:30 Rev Barbara Pettitt Communion, Remembrance Sunday 4pm SPACE at Penwortham Methodist Church |
| Wed 14th | Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Barbara Pettitt |
| Sun 18th | 10:30 Rev Katharine Bland |
| Wed 21st | Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Tony Bonser |
| Sun 25th | 10:30 Revd Barbara Pettitt All Age Worship |
| Wed 28th | Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Barbara Pettitt |
| Sun 2nd Dec | 10:30 TBA First in Advent |
| Wed 5th | Lunchtime Worship at 1pm TBA |

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway



November 2018

*Loving God,
Serving People,
Changing Lives*

Minister: Rev Barbara Pettitt

Tel (07784) 791287

www.centralmethodist.org.uk

Would you like us to pray for you?

Leave your prayer on a card
in the Prayer tree corner

Prayer



At Central, its ok to worship in whatever way you feel comfortable with. We are all different and God loves us all!

*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 Barbara Pettitt, Central Methodist Church, Lune Street Preston PR1 2NL

Tel: 01772 556371 (Church) 07784 791287 (Mobile)

Stewards: Sue Higham and Ruth Millward-Hopkins.

Safeguarding Officers: Sarah Steele, Maureen Abson & Ann Curtis

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*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen

Central's Diary Dates....

Advent Bible Studies

Wednesdays at 2pm at Church

28th November - Waiting
5th December - Excitement
12th December - Quiet
19th December - Unwrap the gift



Thursdays 7.30pm at the Ministers house

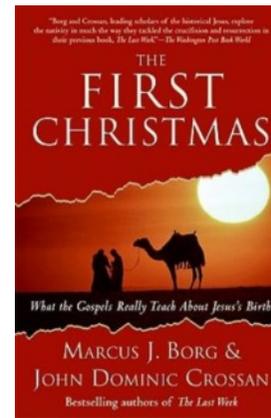
29th November - Waiting
4th December (please note Tuesday) - Excitement
13th December - Quiet
20th December - Unwrap the gift

An invitation to come read, explore and share in discussion about what happened that first Christmas.

Marcus Borg's and Dominic Crossan's :- The First Christmas.

In The First Christmas, two of today's top Jesus scholars, Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, show how history has biased our reading of the nativity story as it appears in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The First Christmas explores the beginning of the life of Christ, peeling away the sentimentalism that has build up over two thousand years around this most well known of all stories to reveal the truth of what the Gospels actually say.

Starting Monday 19th November for 5 weeks 7-9pm at the home of Rachel Rackley contact her if you would like to go along!



Sunday Nov 25th Introduction to Appreciative Church. A talk by Kieran Bohen. We would encourage you too stay after the service as we explore whether we wish to enter this process as a church.

Churches have been engaging in this process across the UK since woods as they seek to live out their mission statements..how can we best change lives serve people...where we are?

Loving God, Serving People, Changing Lives

Explore an opportunity to start an ecumenical night church in Preston



Central Methodist Church

Saturday November 10th 7-8pm

“ open to anyone in the city who wishes to explore, ponder, or pray in this sacred space.”



As there are plenty of opportunities to have fellowship together this advent, our next meeting will be in January probably the 23rd!



Wherever you go, God is there

‘For the place where you stand is holy ground.’

Exodus 3:5 NKJV

Jewish scholars used to debate why God revealed Himself to Moses in the middle of the desert. Why not a highly populated or religiously significant place? The consensus was that God wanted to show ‘that no place on earth, not even a thorn bush, is devoid of God’s presence’. Pastor and author A.W. Tozer wrote: ‘God is above, but He’s not pushed up. He’s beneath, but He’s not pressed down. He’s outside, but He’s not excluded. He’s inside, but He’s not confined. God is above all things presiding, beneath all things sustaining, outside all things embracing, and inside all things fulfilling.’ And here’s the best part: ‘God...works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure’ (Philippians 2:13 NKJV). Today God is living within you, working within you, and giving you a desire to do the things that please Him. And here’s an interesting thought. Since God lives within you, don’t go anywhere that you know He wouldn’t be pleased to go, or get into situations you know He wouldn’t be pleased to be in. When you feel wrong about being with a certain person, or in a certain place, pay attention. It may be the Holy Spirit telling you that you don’t belong there and you shouldn’t be doing that. Is God being narrow-minded? No; He wants only the best for you, so He’s protecting you from harm. The Bible says, ‘For the Lord God is a...shield...no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly’ (Psalm 84:11 NKJV). Today wherever you go, remember that God is there!

(UCB.CO.UK)

| | 4th | 11th | 18th | 25th | 2nd Dec |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Front Door Steward | Ruth Millward-Hopkins | Sue Higham | Ruth Milward-Hopkins | Sue Higham | Ruth Millward-Hopkins |
| Inside Door & Offertory Stewards | Stella Swift Bill Manning | Valerie/ Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst | Simon M-Hopkins Geoff Tyson | Ron Bosworth Dawn Robinson/ Angela Parker | Stella Swift Bill Manning |
| 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... | Ann Curtis | Gordon and Irene Barnes | Pete and Enid Whiteside in memory of George and Mary | Simon and Ruth Milward- Hopkins | Sue Higham in memory of Duncan |

Friday 2nd November: Fun Quiz - in aid of Fox Street Night Shelter, £3 per person payable on the door plus a tin of food for the Night Shelter at Penwortham Methodist from 7.30pm

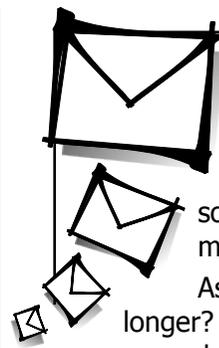
Saturday 3rd November: Preston Orpheus Choir presents A Concert of English music to mark the Centenary of the Armistice, at St Saviour's Church, 9 Church Rd, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6EP. Tickets £10 (under 18's free) available on the door or from Shirley 735197

Saturday 17th November: AN EVENING OF TWO PARTS: Part 1: A memorial to all those who fought in the First World War & Part 2: A musical celebration of songs from the 1920's with an opportunity to join in and enjoy at Penwortham Methodist Church, PR1 9XR starting at at 7pm. Tickets £3 from Ken Jolley - 743786

Saturday 24th November - Study Day on Mental Health in Bradford with Waverley Abbey North, who are establishing a teaching centre for anyone interested in Counselling and mental health.

Friday 30th November: St Andrew's Ceilidh at St Cuthbert's Church hall, PR2 3AR. Tickets £12.50 (including hot pot supper). To book call 07749 576 296 or email sarah.carrick@methodistaction.co.uk

Thursday 20th December 7pm on Centrals steps: BBC Radio's Lancashire Sings Christmas!



'Don't sweat the small stuff' is the title of a book by Richard Carlson containing 100 affirmations that reinforce not sweating on the small stuff. He suggests that not letting small things get to you is a great way to reduce stress overall. To some extent I agree with him. But small things can be viewed more than one way.

As I am writing this I have been in post eight weeks – does it seem longer? I have been getting to know some of you and finding my way around the circuit which of course isn't completely new to me. As a family we feel very welcomed and Chelsea was especially touched by the flowers and card on her 18th birthday. It has also been such a blessing to us as a family that physical space has been made available for her to sit in a pew like everyone else. In many ways a small thing but it has meant so much to us as a family.

Don't you find it's the small things that make a difference, good or bad? The big stuff so often we take in our stride, but the small things can niggle at us in a most persistent way – like when the toothpaste tube gets squeezed in the wrong place or taking the last of the milk and returning the empty milk carton to the fridge. Those minor irritations can sometimes seem huge.

Conversely the doing of small things can have such a positive impact.

In Matthew's gospel Jesus says these words:

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me some clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25v35,36)

These are simple things aren't they? Food, a drink, clothes, a welcome, care and a visit. Just about anyone can do those things. In a way as God's family here in Preston City Centre we are all in a position to do those small things that make a big difference. We welcome daily all who would come, we offer drink and food, we offer listening and a warm welcome and we offer further support through the Fox street homeless project downstairs.

I have seen us hug and share and laugh and welcome and feast and care. Such simple things upon which the kingdom of God is built. When we do these things for anyone, Jesus says it is as though we do it for Him.

Thank you for your welcome and support and care and friendship. Let us pray that the God of inclusion will continue to strengthen us for this task in our city centre.

Every Blessing

Barbara



IN THE PRESS.....

Strengthening of the mission of the global Church

World Church and All We Can deepens partnership to strengthen mission for global Church. Integral to the Calling of the Methodist Church is to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

The World Church Relationships (WCR) team of the Methodist Church plays its role in fulfilling Our Calling by offering relational support to its Partner Churches around the world. Likewise, from its formation, All We Can, the official Methodist relief and development agency, represents the Methodist Church and aligns with its mission by providing support to locally based organisations and churches around the world. It seeks to respond to the communities it serves by engaging with local people to end the suffering caused by inequality and injustice.

In 2019, these complementary elements of World Church Relationships and All We Can will come together to provide Methodist Global Partner Churches with a more comprehensive and cohesive range of support and resources to enable them to become ever more independent and self-sufficient.

Martin Ashford, Head of Mission and Advocacy for the Methodist Church, said: "The initiatives already undertaken by World Church Relationships and All We Can have helped strengthen the future joint programme of support offered to our Methodist Global Partner Churches. This integrated and comprehensive expertise will enable the Methodist Church to offer a full range of services that Partner Churches may wish to draw upon."

Indonesia emergency appeal launched

The Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can, the Methodist relief and development charity, have launched an urgent appeal for the people of Indonesia.

On Friday 28 September, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck just off the central island of Sulawesi in Indonesia, setting off a tsunami that engulfed the city of Palu.

Waves more than three metres high swept across the land destroying almost everything in their wake. At least 1,300 are already confirmed dead, though the true impact of this disaster may not be known for weeks with many neighbouring towns and villages cut off by landslides and debris. At the time of writing, three communities had yet to be reached.

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela A Youngson and Bala Gnanapragasam, said that they shared in the shock of all who are following the news of the devastating tsunami:

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost so much; those who have been bereaved, those who have been injured and those searching in fear and dismay for their loved ones."

"We know that our Methodist family will respond generously to appeals for money and will pray for the swift rebuilding of the communities so devastated by this disaster."

www.methodist.org.uk

THE R.I. TESTS Part 1

I came across these following "gems" from the answers to the Religious Instructor teacher setting a test on the Bible to the year 6 pupils of an elementary Junior School. Pay special attention to the wording and spelling. If you know the Bible even a little, you should find this quite amusing!

The children were asked questions about the old and new testaments. Their following statements about the Bible have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has also been left in.....

In the first book of the bible, guinessis. God got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.

Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was joan of ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.

Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

The jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a jezebel like delilah.

Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.

I hope you appreciated the above 'words of wisdom' so far. More of these "gems" to come in future Gateway editions.....

Peter Bonage



Join Centrals Quiz Team!

We need YOU for a fun night at Ashton Methodist Church

Saturday eve 17 November

See Paul Blackett

Methodist Homes (MHA) Christmas Friendship Appeal 2018

We are asking church members and children to write just one extra Christmas card and share the joy of Christmas with an MHA resident or Live at Home Scheme member.

See Poster for details and return Cards to Rachel Atkinson asap

