

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway

December 2018 & January 2019

Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives

Minister: Rev Barbara Pettitt

Tel (07784) 791287

www.centralmethodist.org.uk

Worship at Central	
Sun 2nd	10:30 Prof Alan Gillies
Wed 5h	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Barbara Pettitt
Sun 9th	10:30 Revd Barbara Pettitt Holy Communion 4pm SPACE at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church
Wed 12th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Andrew Webb
Sun 16th	10:30 Revd Mark Slaney
Wed 19th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Barbara Pettitt
Sun 23rd	10:30 Revd Revd Barbara Pettitt - All Age Worship.
Mon 24th	4pm Carol Service with Revd Barbara Pettitt
Tue 25th	10:30 Christmas Day! Revd Barbara Pettitt
Wed 26th	No lunchtime worship today
Sun 30th	10:30 Miss Rachel Atkinson
Wed 2nd	No lunchtime worship today
Sun 6th	10:30 Mrs Jenny Berill
Wed 9th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Barbara Pettitt
Sun 13th	10:30 Revd Barbara Pettitt, Covenant Service 4pm SPACE at Fulwood Methodist Church
Wed 16th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Mr Gordon Little
Sun 20th	10:30 Mrs Carol Rose
Wed 23rd	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Barbara Pettitt
Sun 27th	10:30 Revd Barbara Pettitt - All Age Worship
Wed 30th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Mark Slaney

Prayer Would you like us to pray for you?
Leave your prayer on a card in the Prayer tree corner or
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 Milward-Hopkins, Julia Blackett
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



CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH



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

Fox Street. If you would like to contribute to vouchers for Fox Street residents this Christmas then please pass on a cash donation to a Steward as soon as possible.



Thanks to all who brought a Shoebox for Operation Christmas Child!



Advent Collections If you would like to contribute money towards food hampers for Ribbleton Ave school pupils whose families may struggle this Christmas then please pop an envelope in the collection. **Thank you**



A fresh expression of Church



Friday 21st December 9pm - 12am

Listen to music...
maybe light a candle...
talk over a coffee...
be nearer God...
Call in anytime

Join us for a Real Christmas

Every Sunday at 10:30am

Thursday 20th December 7pm
Lancashire Sings Christmas!

Carols on Christmas Eve, 4pm

Christmas Day 10:30am
a celebration for all ages!



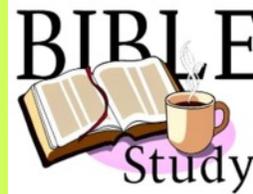
Booking forms are available for our Church Family weekend

31st May -
2nd June 2019



Book early!

Keep pressing on



'Straining towards what is ahead, I press on.'

Philippians 3:13-14 NIVUK (2011 Edition)

Developing your faith is like taking swimming lessons. Observe: 1) Fear is like water; if you let it, it will take you under. 2) You can only tread water for so long before you drown. 3) When you reach a certain point, there's no turning back. 4) Faith is like the air in your lungs; it will sustain you and keep you afloat if you just relax. Have you ever watched a seasoned swimmer? Stroke after stroke, he takes what's in front of him and pushes it behind him, letting it propel him towards his goal. He literally takes what stands between him and his goal, and uses it to get there. Sometimes we despair and say, 'I'm just keeping my head above water,' and that's okay as long as you keep 'stroking' and pressing on. It's when you feel backed into a corner with nowhere to turn, that you've got to take hold of the faith God has placed within you and keep moving forward. Jesus said, 'The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force' (Matthew 11:12 KJV). The word 'violence' suggests ferocity, passion, and intensity. You must be relentless and fight your way through, confident that God is on your side – because He is (see Psalm 56:9). The waters you're in don't determine your destiny; they either carry you over or take you under. It takes faith to keep going. When you quit, God can do nothing more for you! So today whether you're doing the breaststroke, the backstroke, or some other kind of stroke that nobody's ever heard of – keep pressing on.

(UCB Word For Today)



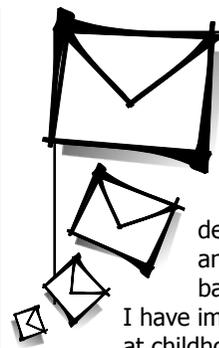
	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Front Door Steward	Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Milward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Milward-Hopkins
Inside Door & Offertory Stewards	Stella Swift Bill Manning	Valerie/ Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst	Simon M-Hopkins Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth Dawn Robinson/ Angela Parker	Stella Swift Bill Manning
Coffee served today by....	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst	Kate and Pete Johnstone	Julia and Sarah Blackett, Stella Swift	Sue Higham Sheena Rhodes	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse Ron Bosworth
Flowers by...	Sue Higham in memory of Duncan	Joan Cookson in memory of Doris	Pete and Maureen Abson		
	6th	13th	20th	27th	3rd Feb
Front Door Steward	Sue Higham	Ruth Milward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Milward-Hopkins	Sue Higham
Inside Door & Offertory Stewards	Valerie/ Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst	Simon M-Hopkins Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth Dawn Robinson/ Angela Parker	Stella Swift Bill Manning	Valerie/ Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst
Coffee served today by....	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst	Kate and Pete Johnstone	Julia and Sarah Blackett, Stella Swift	Sue Higham Sheena Rhodes	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse Ron Bosworth
Flowers by...	Ruth and Simon Millward-Hopkins	Margaret Chetwood in memory of Ernie and Evelyn Shilcock		Brenda Sheliker in memory of PJ	Andrew and Valerie Warterhouse in memory of Ivy Jackson

3 Generate weekend

The 3 Generate festival that I attended with Fulwood and Bamber Bridge was a success because there was over a thousand youngsters there like me. It was great to meet up with new people and make new friends and attend different sessions like music acts and drama acts. Everything was based around being courageous which was the theme for this year.



SARAH B



Greetings from the Minister. I hope and pray you will have a peaceful and joyous Christmas time.

For nothing will be impossible with God. Luke 1v17

I love Christmas. All of it. The shopping for gifts the writing of cards the decorating of the tree and even the cooking of special food. I love to entertain and we usually have friends over during the Christmas season. I love it all. No bah humbug here.

I have images of Christmas perfection dancing in my head. I look back with nostalgia at childhood Christmases that always seemed so perfect. Santa always seemed to know what I wanted and the Christmas dinner was sublime. We were allowed to have pop with our lunch, it was not allowed at any other time of year. So for me Christmas tastes of Dandelion and Burdock. There was always a sixpence in each of our Christmas puddings and always bulging stockings. (although in our house these were actually pillow cases) My Nana came to stay and had the spare bed in my room, so that made it even more exciting. She would come on Christmas Eve and stay until my birthday early in January. My Nana was the only grandparent I knew and I was her only granddaughter so we had a strong bond.

Of course when I look back those Christmases do seem miraculous and that's because none of it was my responsibility. I just turned up and it was all there as if by magic. My memories of Christmas past and my thorough enjoyment of Christmas present can easily merge into a sentimental and somewhat fluffy response at this time of year. A bit of realism is called for.

Over the years I have learned that Christmas isn't so special or enjoyable for many people, for a whole range of reasons. People newly bereaved, (and we were in that group last year) people who are homeless, people who have painful memories of Christmas past and many others find Christmas to be a stressful thing they just want to get past.

Our daughter asked us if we could go 'all out' this year and I think it's a way for us as family to recognise that last Christmas was not an 'all out' one for us, tempered as it was by the loss of our son/brother Timmy.

I have also learned of course that Christmas is really about this baby, Jesus, born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. And as Christians that's what makes Christmas really special.

The coming of this child changes everything. For nothing is impossible with God.

We can embrace this season if that is what works for us, but we need to embrace both the spiritual and secular aspects. We also need to remember that for some people this is a difficult time of year, and perhaps when you are struggling other people's laughter and happiness just adds to your sense of unhappiness.

Support for people can take many forms, in prayer and small practical actions.

Writing a Christmas card for someone who would not otherwise have one. Giving food to a local food bank. Overseas Support. Buying charity Christmas cards are all such simple actions most of us could do.

Christmas should be fun and I am not suggesting we don't enjoy ourselves but as we do so we remember and pray for those for whom Christmas is just another difficult day.

Every Blessing

Barbara



3Generate 2018 - Methodist youth gather in Southport

The 3Generate annual gathering of Methodist young people takes place over the weekend 23-25 November 2018. This will be the biggest 3Generate yet, the event having tripled in size over the last four years with 1750 young people and volunteers from across the UK coming together at Pontins in Southport.

The theme for this year's 3Generate is courageous. The young people, aged 8 to 23, will have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of workshops, including 'Do God and Gaming Go Together?' and 'The Reality of Gang Violence', a powerful session led by young people from the Methodist Church of Mexico. Other highlights include the comedian Rob Thomas, the 'Life Exhibition - a multi-media experience that helps children explore the life of Jesus and his relevance today - and '1000 Letters', a project to share faith stories across generations.

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Attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela Youngson and Bala Gnanapragasam, have condemned the recent atrocity carried out at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in which eleven people died. They also offered their deep condolences both to the families and friends of the victims and more widely to the Jewish community which was deliberately targeted in this act of extremist hate crime.

The Revd Youngson said: "We are deeply saddened by this tragic news; our prayers are with the victims and families of those affected and with all members of the Jewish community, both in the United States and in this country, who feel under attack from anti-Semitic language, threats and acts of violence. There can be no justification for such horrific acts of violence or the extremist views which reportedly motivated the killer. We must continue to pray for peace within and between nations, and to act as peacemakers in our communities."

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New envelopes are on their way!

As those of you know if you use the envelope scheme, your new envelopes are being delivered to church on the 25th and see their first use on the 2nd of December. Could I say a very big thank you to all those who have contributed this year?

According to my spreadsheet, we have raised through the envelopes £12,923.64, and have claimed £2,158.63 through Gift Aid, giving us a total amount of £15,082.25 to continue the work of the church. This is a wonderfully generous contribution for the church members for which we are all very grateful.

If you would like to join the scheme, then please ask me for a box of envelopes. I have some to spare. Even better, if you pay any tax what so ever, please offer to Gift Aid your contribution so we can claim 25% back from the government. And finally, if you are human and occasionally forget to bring your money, to put it in the envelope etc, then the simplest thing to do would be to set up a standing order to make the payment on a regular basis to the church, and save us the cost of your envelopes and yourself the bother of keeping on having to fill it up and bring it in!

Once again a big thank you to all those who have faithfully contributed week in, week out and we hope you will continue to offer us your financial support.

Yours, Simon Millward-Hopkins

Offering Envelopes



My goodness, this past year has flown by so quickly. I can hardly believe that last CHRISTMAS was nearly TWELVE months ago. "They say" that when time passe so quickly to you it means that you are getting older; oh dear me! Anyway, as the end of this year approaches, may I take this JOYFUL TIME to share two significant poems with you....

THE SHEPHERD'S SONG

There's a baby in a stable down here in Bethlehem.
God's Angels brought the message and bade us go and worship him.
They told us to go quickly this newborn King to see
Whose parents had just travelled from their home near Galilee.

So we left our sheep and hurried as quickly as we could
And came and knelt to worship Him the way that we should.
We knelt beside the manger with adoration in our eyes,
And thanked the blessed angels who gave the message from the skies.

IF I WERE

If I were a sweet little fire of spring, I would offer my scent to Jesus.
If I were a beautiful bird on the wing I would render an anthem to Jesus.
If I were a silvery fish in a stream, I would swim to the ocean to meet him.
But I am a mere child with a dream, so I'll sing a new chorus to greet him.

If I were a candle that glowed in the night, I would guide all the children to Jesus.
If I were a strong wind that blows with great might,
I would whistle a great tune for Jesus.
If I were a river that flowed to the sea, I would bubble and gurgle with pleasure.
So pleased would I be knowing He is with me
because Jesus is my greatest treasure.

I also now take this opportunity to wish everybody a Peaceful
and Happy Christmas, plus a rewarding New Year.

Peter Bonage

Things we say in Church...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Grace

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