

# CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway



February 2019

*Loving God,  
Serving People,  
Changing Lives*

Minister: Rev Barbara Pettitt

Tel (07784) 791287  
www.centralmethodist.org.uk

Worship at Central	
Sun 3rd	10:30 Mrs Carol Poole
Wed 6th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Barbara Pettitt
Sun 10th	10:30 Rev Barbara Pettitt & The Vice President of the Methodist Church Mr Bala Gnanapragasam 4pm SPACE at Penwortham Methodist Church
Wed 13th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Dr Carol Spencer
Sun 17th	10:30 Ms S Selvaretnam
Wed 20th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Barbara Pettitt
Sun 24th	10:30 Revd Katharine Bland All Age Worship
Wed 27th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Prof Alan Gillies
Sun 3rd Mar	10:30 TBA
Wed 6th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm TBA

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

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Stewards: Sue Higham and Ruth Millward-Hopkins.

Safeguarding Officers: Sarah Steele, Maureen Abson & Ann Curtis

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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



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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....

**Monday 11th March: Lent at the 'Minster', an ecumenical series for the five Mondays in Lent starting at 7.30pm. Owing to work being undertaken in the Minster, these evenings will be held at Central! More details to follow next month.**

**Call in and experience Night Church.**

## Night Church

Night Church is a sacred place in the city centre where you can find peace, talk with others, listen to music, maybe light a candle or pray - late at night.

We welcome people of all faiths and those who have none.

We welcome everyone, just as you are.



@nightchurchpreston First Saturday of the month - 9pm to midnight  
Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston, PR1 2NL

## 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



**Our fortnightly Wednesday Fellowship continues on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March. Everyone is welcome to join us at Central at 7:30, finishes before 9pm**

If attending just the Concert at 7.30 p.m. given by Blackburn People's Choir and the opportunity for afternoon singers to join in a couple of items! Tickets £8 payable at the door. Tel 01772 655939 with any enquiries.

**GraveTalk at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church, 1pm until 3pm 02.03.2019. Free Event there will be tea and coffee and cake! There will be questions. The truth is we are all going to die but nobody wants to say anything. Grave Talk is a chance to talk about death, think about your funeral, ask questions, and air your thoughts. For people of all faiths and doubts. For further information please contact Rev Andrew Webb 01772 323818 or Denise Johnson Circuit Pastoral Worker 07719200451.**

Tuesday 5th March: Firefest at Leyland Methodist Church starting at 7.30pm. A festival of events celebrating Christian Holiness. With Shane Rootes, Rev Rob Cotton and Rev Neal Stanton. Presented by The Southport Methodist Holiness Convention, latterly known as Summer Fire



**Remind yourself that God is faithful  
'It is right to refresh your memory.'**

**2 Peter 1:13 NIV**

A pole-vaulter only discovers how high he can jump when he clears the bar. Then he sets it higher. God does that too. He stretches your faith to what seems like your breaking point. Pastor and author Jon Walker says: 'At one point I sensed God stretching my faith. Specifically, He told me to stop receiving a regular payslip and start living by faith... So with radiant certainty that God would provide because He told me He would, I did what He said and started looking for His provision. I kept a log of every way God took care of me, and the list grew joyfully impressive. God was moving me from a tentative "I hope it will happen," to a certain "I know this will happen." Yet within months I was literally staggered with doubt. I'd lost my focus... and started scrambling for ways to generate income... believing it was my responsibility to make things happen because God may or may not come through... You may be further along than I am in learning to trust God; then again, you may have experienced exactly what I'm describing.' Understand this: a faith that cannot be shaken comes only from a faith that has been so severely shaken that it is now sure, certain, and steadfast. Our greatest concern is getting our needs met, but God's greatest concern is developing our faith. 'Without faith it is impossible to please God' (Hebrews 11:6 NIV 2011 Edition). That's why Peter wrote, 'I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth... It is right to refresh your memory' (2 Peter 1:12-13 NIV 2011 Edition). So, keep reminding yourself that God is faithful.

(UCB.CO.UK)

	3rd Feb	10th	17th	24th	3rd Mar
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 Park- er	Stella Swift Bill Manning	Valerie/ Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst
Coffee served today by....	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse Ron Bosworth	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst	Kate and Pete Johnstone	Stella Swift Julia and Sarah Blackett	Sue Higham Sheena Rhodes
Today the flowers have been given by...	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse in memory of Ivy Jackson	Pete and Kate Johnstone  Maurice Dean	Walter French in memory of Margaret	Stella Swift	

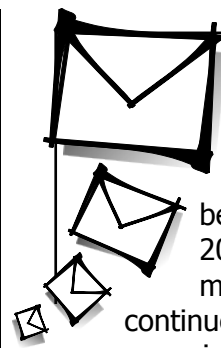
Methodist Women in Britain Midweek conference: Monday/Tuesday 4th & 5th February 2019. Speaker Claire Welch - Head of fundraising and Marketing at All We Can. The sessions are very informal friendly good fellowship and fun. Attendance may be both days, Monday afternoon or Tuesday daytime. See Poster



**Friday 8th February: "A Rainbow of Hope for Children of Africa" Concert by the South Ribble Concert Band, followed by supper. 7.30pm at Hutton Village Hall. Tickets £7.00 from Liz Henfield (612951) or Cath Greenlees (613500)**

Saturday 9th February: Re-Cycling and Coffee Morning from 10.00am - 12.00 noon at the Church Hall (I presume this is St Andrews Church Hall but the email didn't say). Items needed please: used stamps - British and foreign; currency - old and new British and foreign; mobile phones; ink cartridges; tools - carpentry, leatherwork, craft tools, sewing machines (not gardening tools); jewellery; watches; spectacles; shoes - sandals, pumps and children's shoes; picture postcards - used and unused; inhalers; batteries.

Saturday 9th February: Singing for Fun for Methodist Action North West - Easy singing for fun led by Jeff Borradaile from 2.15 - 5.30 at Fulwood Methodist Church. Bring your own food or book a hot meal (£5 approx) All proceeds will help support the needy in Lancashire. No previous experience is required, just a willingness to "Have a go.". Cost is £12 includes a free ticket to the evening concert.



Have you noticed on the front of The Gateway are the words: **Loving God, Serving People, Changing Lives.** Maybe most of us know they come from our five year mission plan and maybe we have stopped seeing those words because they are familiar. This plan was adopted in February 2018 – so very nearly a year ago – is it now our four year mission plan? I mean I'm not entirely joking here. If we continue to say 5 year mission plan it can help us to forget its now a year since we prayerfully and carefully crafted it.

I've been reading it and pondering it and praying around it and wondering if we need to be more aware of its presence. Do we need to find ways to remind ourselves it is a living, changing document intended to help in the shaping of our life together?

As I consider our mission plan I feel an excitement and a sense of vocation for us as a church family. There are new things on the horizon. Night church, continuing bible study opportunities, seeking to expand the reach of one2one listening, and Appreciative Church.

We are going to use the Appreciative Church programme to move us further on and a facilitator will be with in the autumn this year.

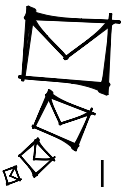
We need to remind ourselves that we are committed to this plan, that it is the plan we believe God gave us, therefore he is already at work in us and others preparing the ground. We don't do any of this in our own strength but in the strength God provides. We can all be involved in the outworking of our mission plan. We can pray and we can be involved in new initiatives and in the expansion of current activities.

As we move forward I pray we will all catch a sense of vocation and vision around our mission plan. Jesus charged the disciples with mission, these are the words he said to them after his resurrection:

"Jesus, undeterred went right ahead and gave this charge: God authorized and commanded me to commission you; go out and train everyone you meet far and near, in this way of life..... I'll be with you as you do this, day after day, right up to the end of the age." (Matthew 28v20 The Message)

May God bless each one of us as we continue to love God, serve people and change lives in this place. Amen

*Barbara*





# IN THE PRESS.....

## Methodist Church launches new evangelism and growth team

The Methodist Church has announced a new team that will encourage growth and confidence within the Church. The team will focus on supporting the Methodist Church's network of 4,650 churches through promoting everyday evangelism, helping churches reach out into their local communities, and starting new churches.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. This new team is part of the Methodist Church's response to God and to the cultural and demographic shifts within society. Facing a declining membership along with other denominations, the Methodist Church wants to connect with people who are currently unaffiliated to faith or exploring spirituality in different ways.

New roles have been created to work alongside leaders across the Methodist Church and with its ecumenical partners. The emerging strategy promises innovation, experimentation and adventure with its intention to develop hundreds of 'new places for new people' and to help existing churches come alive and grow.

Leading the team is Trey Hall, the new Director of Evangelism and Growth at the Methodist Church, who began creating the team after he started work in the late summer of 2018. Trey commented: "I am absolutely delighted to welcome these gifted folks to the team.

"We want to take some joyous risks in evangelism and growth as we learn to speak and live out God's goodness in honest, inclusive, and culturally compelling ways. This will certainly be a challenge, but it's a challenge that will build up life, creativity, and energy ahead as we seek to live out our calling!"

[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

## Methodist leaders and Archbishop of Canterbury call for end to anger and vitriol in public debate

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela Youngson, and the Vice-President, Mr Bala Gnanapragasam, met with the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace on Wednesday 9 January. The meeting discussed progress on the Anglican-Methodist Covenant and closer working and understanding in mission and evangelism between the two Churches.

As part of the conversation, those present reflected on the current political situation in Britain. Following this discussion, the Archbishop, the President and Vice-President have made the following joint statement:

"Jesus calls us to love one another, and even to love our enemies. In this time of political turmoil we have been shocked at the anger and vitriol that has surrounded so much public discourse, personally, online and via social media. Our Christian heritage, along with other global faith and non-faith traditions, calls for us to treat others as we would wish to be treated. This does not mean the absence of passionate difference, but it does call for respect for human dignity."

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## 3Generate sleeping bags delivered to Calais

Sleeping bags donated at the Methodist youth event 3Generate have been delivered to Calais, where they will provide essential bedding for refugees.

The seventy sleeping bags were delivered to the charity Care4Calais by Nigel Pimlott, Regional Learning and Development Officer for East Central District. The sleeping bags had been donated by adults at 3Generate, the annual Methodist young people's event, held last month in Southport.

[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

## R.I. Grading Papers Part 2

Here are a few more of the year 6 Primary School pupil's answers to the Religious Instruction teacher's questionnaire. (All the spelling and grammar mistakes were not corrected)

The first commandments was when eve told adam to eat the apple.

The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

Moses died before he ever reached canada then joshua led the hebrews in the battle of geritol.

The greatest miricle in the bible is when joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him

David was a hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.

Solomon, one of davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

When Mary heard she was the mother of jesus, she sang the magna carta.

When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found jesus in the manager.

I hope you appreciated the above 'words of wisdom'. There is more to come in future Gateway editions!

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By the way, have you heard this one before? - - -

Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant", said the teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder, pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means"? she asked. "Sure", replied the young boy, full of confidence. "It means carrying a child."

The things children say never fails to amaze me.

*Peter Bonage*



Methodist relief and development

**Volunteer Wanted! Would you like to be the local contact for receiving All We Can materials for the church? Please see Ruth if interested.**