

Worship at Central	
Sun 3rd	10:30 Mrs Lynne Watson
Wed 6th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Barbara Pettitt
Sun 10th	10:30 Rev Barbara Pettitt with Holy Communion 4pm SPACE at Ashton Methodist Church 
Wed 13th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Barbara Pettitt
Sun 17th	10:30 Rev Barbara Pettitt
Wed 20th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Mrs Denise Johnson
Sun 24th	10:30 Revd Ray Borg
Wed 27th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Barbara Pettitt
Sun 31st	10:30 Rev Barbara Pettitt - Mothering Sunday
Wed 6th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Dr Carol Spencer

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway

Lent



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: Ruth Millward-Hopkins, Sue Higham and 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*

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

March 2019

*Loving God,
Serving People,
Changing Lives*

Minister: Rev Barbara Pettitt

Tel (07784) 791287

www.centralmethodist.org.uk

Central's Diary Dates....



Becoming Fully Alive 2019 Ecumenical Lent Series

The Preston Area Churches invite you:

- Monday 11th March (at Central Methodist Church) Ian Higginbotham
- Monday 18th March (at Central Methodist Church) Bishop Jill (Lancaster)
- Monday 25th March (at Central Methodist Church) Rev'd Mark Slaney
- Monday 1st April (at Central Methodist Church) Rev'd Mark Bradford
- Monday 8th April (at Central Methodist Church) Bishop Paul Swarbrick

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

*Be challenged
this Lent*

*Each week at
Central Methodist Church,
Lune Street*

donation £22 .St Joseph's Prayer Centre. Blundell Avenue, Formby, Liverpool. L37 1PH. For bookings; Prayer Centre Mobile: 07712 178 670. Land Line: 01704 875850 E-mail: theprayercentre.stj@gmail.com

Friday 15 March, 7:30pm - People of the Passion – Christ Church Hall, Victoria Rd, Fulwood PR2 8NE Tickets £5. A one man performance created and performed by David Shenton. It tells the story of the Passion and Easter from the perspective of those around at the time. A powerful and moving performance that helps us engage with the cost of Easter. For further information or tickets please contact Chris Boland on cpboland@outlook.com or 01772 715202.

Saturday 30th March: Into the Wilderness - A Lenten Journey at At the Xaverian Mission Spirituality Centre, 169, Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston PR28HE (what was) Tabor at 10.30am. Into the Wilderness, exploring Jesus' final words in his Farewell Discourses. Retreat led by Donna Worthington 10.30am-4pm (coffee from 10am). Cost £20 (Please bring a packed lunch)



Be secure in who you are

'We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.'

Romans 12:6 NIV

Insecure people often say yes, when in reality they'd like to say no. But people who succeed at being themselves don't let others control them. They see themselves as God sees them; therefore they're led by His Word instead of the fear of rejection. You can invest so much effort into trying to keep everybody happy that you end up losing yourself. Question: Do you feel like you can't be everything everybody wants you to be? Do you want to say no, but the fear of displeasing others makes you keep complying? And in the meantime the pressure is building inside you and you're thinking, 'I can't do this anymore'? Don't get angry with those who keep making more and more demands on you. You are responsible for ordering your own life. The buck stops with you! That requires a clear sense of your own worth, your calling, your direction, your goals, and your priorities. One Christian author writes: 'For years I lived under the pressure of everybody's expectations. I thought, "What if I let them down?" I thought they were pressuring me, when in reality it was my own fears and insecurities weighing me down. "But," you say, "don't you care what others think?" What others think isn't my problem, unless I make it my problem. Pleasing God and being what He wants is my first concern. If I try to be anybody else I'll forfeit His blessing, because God can't bless an imitation.' The solution is to work on becoming secure in who you are in Christ, and everything else will begin to fall into place. (UCB.CO.UK)

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. It's not a service, stay as long as you want.



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



Our Wednesday Fellowship has moved to two weekly! Everyone is welcome to join us at Central at 7:30, finishes before 9pm

Next dates: March 6th 20th and 3rd April

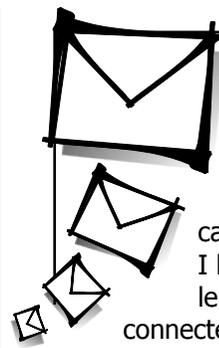
	3rd Mar	10th	17th	24th	31st
Front Door Steward	Sue Higham	Ruth Milward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Milward-Hopkins	Sue Higham
Inside Door & Offertory Stewards	Valerie/ Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst	Simon M-Hopkins Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth Dawn Robinson/ Angela Parker	Stella Swift Bill Manning	Valerie/ Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst
Coffee served today by....	Sue Higham Sheena Rhodes	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse Ron Bosworth	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst	Kate and Pete Johnstone	Stella Swift Julia and Sarah Blackett
Today the flowers have been given by...	Please see Sue Higham if you would like to donate to our church flowers.. Thank you to all those who already contribute!			Olive Iddon	

Salvation Army - Urgent Appeal: We are in desperate need of food for the food bank! We need pretty much everything apart from Cereal and dried pasta. We really are giving a record number of parcels out at the moment 569 bags given already this month!!! Please contact the office if you require further information on 555425.

Easter Praise Circuit Choir: Do you enjoy singing much loved hymns, psalms and spiritual songs? Would you like to meet others who do so? Would you like to get to know others from across the circuit? Then come and join us to prepare music for various services including circuit events and an Easter Praise Service at Longton Methodist Church on Sunday 28th April. All rehearsals are on Tuesdays at Penwortham Methodist Church starting at 7:30pm on 5th March, 26th March, 2nd April, 9th April, 16th April, 23rd April. Contact for more details or questions: Jason McMahon, 07871 273721 or jason.mcmahon@live.co.uk

Saturday 9th March: Contagious Holiness from 9.30am at St Cuthbert's Church, Lytham Road, Fulwood, PR2 3AR. A Teaching Day hosted by New Wine Network Group Leader Mark Bradford. Please arrive at 9 for a 9:30 start. Refreshments will be available on arrival and through the morning. The cost is £7.50 Any further questions, please contact Mark on mark.bradford@stcuthbertschurch.net.

Saturday 9th March: THE BUTTERFLY Takes Flight! Liverpool - 10.30am - A day with Fr Matt Blake OCD and Gillian Coxhead. For the Journey of Transformation through Teresa's Interior Castle. 10.30-3.30pm (following Mass 10am). Light lunch provided suggested



'Be still and know that I am God' says the Psalmist in psalm 46v10. We are invited into some stillness and silence during Lent. Silence can be terrifying for some of us whilst others embrace it and wish for more. Are you a person who can tolerate silence or a person who finds it very hard? The same with stillness, that too

can be terrifying or energizing depending on the person you are.

I have been playing with the idea that 'Lent Is' is an anagram of 'silent' which is an anagram of 'listen'. It has made me ponder on the

connectedness of those words. Is Lent a time for us to be silent before God and listen *to* him or listen *for* him? If that is what Lent is, are we able to find times and places and ways to keep silent and listen during this season?

I wonder what God might say if we did consciously spend time in silence in order to listen?

'Be still and know that I am God.'

I checked a couple of dictionaries and was fascinated to discover that the meaning of silent comes with words with 'less' in them: noiseless, voiceless, wordless, soundless. To be wordless and voiceless can be a dangerous thing in certain circumstances. For example where people are oppressed because of an innate characteristic such as their gender or disability. But in other circumstance knowing when not to speak is as important as knowing when to speak.

'Be still and know that I am God.'

As we come before our God in worship, in prayer, in sorrow being voiceless may be a very good option. I am a words person and I am far too fond of coming before God with all my words, which sometimes get me into trouble, especially when I start telling God what I want and what he should be doing. It is when I come without words that I hear God more clearly. It is when I silence my words and my wants, it is when I stop doing and try being that God's presence is more keenly felt.

'Be still and know that I am God.'

Lent is a time to be silent a time to listen a time for stillness.

Let us all find ways to still ourselves before God, to be, rather than do, to hear, rather than speak.

Someone once told me, a long time ago, that I am a human being not a human doing. It is good to be reminded of that and in our lead up to the great celebration of Easter Sunday we can choose to be silent and listen to God.

'Be still and know that I am God.'

May you find God's presence and peace throughout this time of journeying with Jesus to the cross, to death and the resurrection beyond.

'Be still and know that I am God.'

Barbara



IN THE PRESS.....

New Director of Global Relationships

The Methodist Church in Britain is pleased to announce that, from the start of April, the new Director of Global Relationships will be the Revd Conrad Hicks.

Currently Assistant Chair of the South East district and a presbyter in the Hants-Surrey Border circuit, Conrad brings a wide range of world church experience. He has been a mission partner in Jamaica, a medium-term volunteer in Mexico, served as a superintendent minister with the Methodist Church in Ireland and as a companion of the British and Irish Methodist Churches to the Methodist Church in Guatemala.

Conrad joins the team at a time of significant development, with other new colleagues having been recently appointed, enabling a renewed focus for the World Church Relationships team as they serve the needs of the British and Irish Church and our world church partners. He brings fresh vision, deep understanding of how we learn and share with our world partners today and a focus to enable British Methodism to fully live out our calling to One Mission.

Conrad commented: "It has been an enormous privilege to serve in different parts of the World Church, alongside sisters and brothers whose discipleship is humbling and inspiring. I am excited about working with global partners, colleagues in the World Church Relationships Team and across the Connexion, as we pursue God's call to engage in mission globally and locally, seeing churches, communities and lives transformed."

www.methodist.org.uk

Saturday 23 March, at 10:30am: 'As One' Conference at Landmark Bethel Church: don't miss our Conference in 2019. This will be Preston's largest 'As One' Conference with James Aladiran and Tomi Arayomi. Saturday 23 March, doors open at 9am, session 1 starts at 10:30 am. Join us for what promises to be an unforgettable event as we transition into the new! The venue for this conference is: Landmark, St Mary's Street North, Preston, PR1 5LG. There is no charge for this event but an offering will be taken. Please register on the following link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/as-one-tickets-52705043203>

Saturday 30 March, from 7pm – 'An audience with Leah McFall' at Fulwood Free Methodist Church On Saturday 30 March, the Rise Woman's ministry at FFMC presents an audience with Leah McFall: Up close and personal. Leah McFall was the runner up to the TV programme 'The Voice' in 2013. Leah will be singing her songs and telling us her story of fame, rejection, loss and identity. Tickets, £10.00, are available from Fulwood Free Methodist Church 01772 861597 or text Tammy McNamara 07507 763144. Bring your friends! The Rise team look forward to seeing you there! Don't miss out! Age 14+

Thu 4, Fri 5 & Sat 6 April, 9.30am daily: Women's event Alive and Kicking at Bethel Church We are also excited about holding our First Women's event 'Alive & Kicking' with Sue Eldridge Thursday 4 Friday 5 Saturday 6 April 2019 Times 9.30am-4pm. Alive & Kicking is a powerful three-day journey for women of all ages and in all stages of their lives. It's a journey into living shame-free, authentic and courageous lives; knowing who they are and who their heavenly Dad is and how to own their own story and walk in the truth of who they were made to be. link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/alive-and-kicking-tickets-52705902774> Bethel Church, 11

4 Delaware Street, Preston, PR1 5XT

DIVING INTO GOD

In the mid Eighteenth Century there was a very famous Poet and Hymn writer, William Couper. He was also notable for coming out with many interesting sayings, including his most famous one regarding that "God Moves in a Mysterious Way". This following story is a wonderful example of this particular adage.....

It is a verified tale of a few years ago about a young American man who had been raised as an atheist and was training to be an Olympic diver. The only religious influence in his life came from his outspoken Christian friend.

The young diver never really paid much attention to his friend's sermons, but he had heard them often enough.

One night the diver went to the indoor pool at the college he attended. The lights were all off, but as the pool had big skylights and the moon was bright, there was plenty of light to practice by.

The young man climbed up to the highest diving board and as he turned his back to the pool on the edge of the board and extended his arms out, he saw his shadow on the wall. The shadow of his body was in the shape of a cross.

He was genuinely overcome by this "unusual apparition". Instead of diving, he humbly knelt down and there and then he asked God to come into his life. As the young man stood up, a maintenance man walked in and turned the lights on.

The pool was completely empty, and had been earlier fully drained for repairs. It does makes you think, doesn't it?

Peter Bonage

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