

# CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

## The Gateway




May 2019

*Loving God,  
Serving People,  
Changing Lives*

Minister: Rev Barbara Pettitt

Tel (07784) 791287

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

Worship at Central	
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Mark Slaney
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Poole 10.30
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Prof Alan Gillies
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Mark Slaney Holy Communion 10.30 <b>SPACE at Fulwood Methodists 4-6 pm</b> 
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Ms S. Selvaretham
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Catherine Kampta 10.30
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Carol Spencer
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	John North All Age Worship 10.30
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Rachel Atkinson
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	T.B.A

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! Thank you!*



Rev Barbara Pettitt, Central Methodist Church, Lune Street Preston PR1 2NL  
07784 791287 (Mobile) or 01772 881851 (Church)

Stewards: Ruth Millward-Hopkins, Sue Higham and Julia Blackett  
Safeguarding Officers: Sarah Steele, Maureen Abson & Ann Curtis

*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](mailto:editor@centralmethodist.org.uk)



Wifi password: Ezekiel37

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

## New month, New editor!

As we all know, Paul our editor has set off on a long walk or pilgrimage along some of the route from Canterbury to Rome, [yes the same one that is being currently shown on the BBC 2]. He too will be concentrating on the Italian section of the ancient 2,000km Via Francigena, mainly because the ice won't have melted on the St Bernard Pass [8,000 feet high] over the Alps when he gets there! I think I will prefer the writing to the walking. We wish him all the best, look forward to reading about his travels and if you have anything for the newsletter, just tell me! Simon



*Calling all singers: We need a choir for the Circuit Welcome Service on Sunday 1st Sept at Penwortham. Rehearsals are on Tuesday at Penwortham Methodists, starting at 7.30 on 7th, 21st May, 25th June, 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th of July. Details from Jason McMahon 07871 273721 [jason.mcmahon@live.co.uk](mailto:jason.mcmahon@live.co.uk)*

### The Envelope Scheme:



Would you appreciate the reminder of a weekly envelope for your church collection? The expenses of being a church community occur continuously whether we are able to attend or not. The "envelope scheme" encourages people to give regularly by having an envelope for each Sunday in the year, to help you remember!

If you would like to take part then please ask Simon Millward-Hopkins. Its a new Tax Year and taxpayers are especially urged to sign up for Gift Aid. We get an extra 25% back from the Government as a result!

*giftaid*

### Domestic violence awareness training

21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 10am - 4pm

Fulwood Methodist Church  
see Sarah Steele for details



Call in and experience 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, so stay as long as you want. We welcome people of all faiths and those who have none.

*Could you help on the night?*

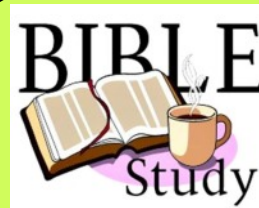
**Night Church will be held on Saturday May**

**4<sup>th</sup> and  
June 1<sup>st</sup>,  
9pm to  
Midnight.**



@nightchurchpreston  
Central Methodist Church,  
First Saturday of the month  
Lune Street, Preston, PR1 2NL

From 12th to the 19th of May, Chair of District, Paul Davis is walking the coastal section of the Lancashire District, visiting churches, schools and projects on his way. On Monday 13th of May he will be following the Ribble estuary through the Preston Circuit aiming to visit these churches at the following times:  
Longton Methodists 9-9.30 Penwortham Methodists: 12.15-13.00 for lunch Central Methodists 13.30-14.00 Ashton Methodists: 14.50-15.30  
He hopes to walk 60 miles in total.




Reflect: Paths

'Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.'

Lamentations 3:40 NIV

If we want to make sure we're on the right path in life, we need to take time to regularly reflect and evaluate where we are at. Sometimes we can get so caught up in life that we don't stop and think whether we're still on the path God wants us to be on. In fact, sometimes we can even forget that we're living for God at all. In Lamentations, the writer says: 'Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.' This is like spending time in self-evaluation. We can examine where we're going right, and where we're going wrong. Sometimes we need to take a step back from our busy lives, sit in the silence, and honestly take a look at what's going on in our hearts. Are we prioritising God? Are our hearts pure? Are we filling our minds with helpful and good things? How's our relationship with God? Are we putting the effort in to know Him better? When we're in our time of evaluation, we can also ask God to show us where things need to improve. David prayed: 'God, examine me and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts' (Psalm 139:23 NCV). God knows us better than we know ourselves, so it's a wise idea to ask Him for His help. The idea of self-examination is not just found in the Old Testament. When Paul wrote to the church in Corinth he told them to examine themselves. The Message version sums it up like this: 'Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular check-ups' (2 Corinthians 13:5). So, let's take that advice and give ourselves regular faith check-ups. (UCB.CO.UK)

MAY	5TH	12TH	19TH	26TH
Front Door Steward	Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Sue Higham
Inside Door & Offertory Stewards	Simon Millward-Hopkins Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth Dawn Robinson Angela Parker	Stella Swift Bill Manning	Valerie & Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst
Coffee served today by...	Pete and Kate Johnstone	Sue Higham & Sheena Rhodes	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse Ron Bosworth	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst
Today the flowers have been given by...	Sue Higham in memory of Duncan		Pete and Maureen Abson	Florence Bowen

**NOTICES: PLACES TO BE, THINGS TO DO, PEOPLE TO LISTEN TO.**



**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 - over 1000 bags given out in February!!! Please contact the office if you require further information on 555425.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 7 pm: Ordinand's Testimony Service Bamber Bridge Methodist Church**

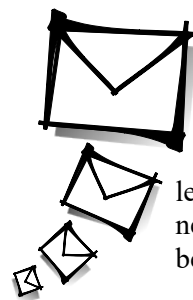
**Friday May 12th 2.30 Christ Church Longridge:** Rossendale Ladies Choir present 'Music in the Afternoon.' Director Matthew Thomas, Accompanist: David Carlston Williams. Entry by donation at door in support of Christian Aid. For more information, contact Carol Rose 01772 783680

**Friday May 17th 7.00 pm: Christ Church Quiz Night - Teams of 4 Spectators welcome. To book your team in, contact John Spencer 01772 782892. All proceeds to Christian Aid.**



**30<sup>th</sup> May - 9<sup>th</sup> June 'Thy Kingdom Come'** will take place from Ascension to Pentecost and we are all encouraged to get our churches and communities involved with any special events, prayer days, individual and family prayer time and any other fabulous creative ideas that you may come with. There may be opportunities to work ecumenically with other churches in your area to create a range of experiences and events.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 pm: Circuit Ascension Service at Ashon or Ingol church TBC**



From the Minister

In the aftermath of Easter the disciples are trying to work out what it all means. Jesus is alive, he is back with them. What now? Where do we go from here? Ultimately of course Jesus leaves them and the disciples carry on his mission. What happens next unfolds slowly as they begin to live out this new life they have been given.

I felt called back into circuit ministry and when the appointment at Central came up I was sure it was the right place for me to be. It seemed a good match and I was and am so excited to see where God is leading us. I have loved my first six months here. I have loved getting to know you all, though I realise I know some better than others.

What I didn't anticipate was that within a few months of taking up my appointment we would be approved to adopt another child. Nor did I think a child would be offered so quickly. But God has other plans and Sara came to be our forever daughter in December of last year.

What was God playing at I wondered? We were just getting to know each other and suddenly there was another person to think about and get to know. You have welcomed Sara in a way that has been amazing to our little family. We hope she will be a part of Central church for many years to come.

So here I am on adoption leave and wondering what now? Where do I go from here? I will be absent from the pulpit for the next few months but not absent from the pews. I will be looking after Sara and taking her to appointments and play groups and parks and anything else that seems fun to do with a small toddler. I will be thinking about all of you and wondering how you are getting on. I will be popping in for coffee sometimes and bringing Sara with me. Mostly I will be enjoying being mummy to our special baby Sara.

God does strange things at times, and often unexpected things. We really had not thought to be in this position at this time in our lives, but Sara is a real blessing to our family and to the wider Church family. Chelsea has embraced her with a passion and love that is great to see.

What does this mean? Well, it means that God cannot be hemmed in and will call us to do all kinds of things we had not planned for ready or not.

Every Blessing for the coming months.

*Barbara*



# IN THE PRESS.....

## Overseas Aid Letter in the Guardian: Aid should help the poorest

As people of faith, our values compel us to speak out for the world's most vulnerable people. We have come together ahead of the comprehensive spending review to urge the government to maintain the aid budget and protect the quality of UK aid.

In 2015, faith communities were proud of the UK's commitment to the sustainable development goals. We must keep our promise to the world's poorest. We believe that Britain has a moral responsibility to continue to provide 0.7% of gross national income in aid, and to influence other governments to do likewise. While the world has seen unprecedented progress in tackling extreme poverty, there is still a long way to go to meet the sustainable development goals by 2030. The UK has a proud record of supporting international development and is well respected around the world. It is critical that we continue this leadership and generosity.

We also are extremely concerned to ensure that the primary focus of British aid remains poverty alleviation and that we deliver the highest quality aid programmes to the world's most vulnerable people. We add our voices to many in asking for reassurances that the government will prioritise providing aid to the least developed countries, ensuring the proportion they receive is protected from further decline. British aid programmes should prioritise vital social sectors such as health and education, promote gender equality, protect the environment and support local solutions to build capacity and increase sustainability. To have confidence that aid is being spent effectively, we also need to know what the government is doing in our name. All aid programmes should be fully transparent and accountable.

We pray to the government that its discernment and compassion for the poorest and most marginalised will guide its work.

Signed by **Rev Michaela A Youngson, president of the Methodist Conference**

## Prayer for Sri Lanka

Creator God, who loves peace and concord, We bring before you the people of Sri Lanka. Just as your Son suffered betrayal and agony on Good Friday, They have faced brutality and violence on Easter Day.

May the church and hotel communities who have faced attack, find reassurance and healing; May the bereaved friends and families, find consolation after tears, May those who believe terrorism changes things, discover the power of love and hope.

Loving God, who hates nothing you have made, We bring before you the divisions we have created, Ethnic, religious, national, class and many more. May we be hopeful rather than harsh, May we avoid the barbed word in favour of affirming phrases, May we offer a smiling eye rather than an uncaring glance. Compassionate God, who brings healing and peace for all, Look now on the bereaved, the injured and the fearful in Sri Lanka.

We pray in the name of Jesus, friend and companion. Amen Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia/Pacific Global Relationships [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

## THE R.I. TESTS PART 3

Unfortunately, here is the last of the witty answers of the R.I. test papers from year six pupils at a local Primary School. ("ALL spelling mistakes and grammar have NOT been corrected")

jesus was born because mary had an immaculate contraption.

St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.

Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.

It was a miricle when jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.

The epistels were the wives of the apostles.

One of the oppossums was st. Matthew who was also a taximan.

St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

.....

I'll finish this 'Month's humour' with the following sound advice regarding what you should tell, or NOT what you should tell, your children.....

.....The mother, a local regular member of the church, was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During her struggle, the phone rang, so she asked her four-year-old daughter to answer the phone. "It's the Minister, Mummy," the child shouted out to her mother. Then she added, "Mummy can't come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."

Bye for now.

*Peter Bonage*



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

Next dates will be May 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.