

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway



June 2019

*Loving God,
Serving People,
Changing Lives*

Minister: Rev Barbara Pettitt

Tel (07784) 791287

www.centralmethodist.org.uk

Worship at Central	
Sun 2 nd	Jane Wild 10.30 Bible Month
Wed 5 th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Roger Stubbings Bible study: Church at 2pm. Rachel Rackley 7.30
Sun 9 th	Martin Beck 10.30 Bible Month SPACE at Bamber Bridge Methodists 4 pm
Wed 12 th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Roger Stubbings Bible study: Church at 2pm. Rachel Rackley 7.30 pm
Sun 16 th	Mark Slaney Holy Communion 10.30 Bible Month 
Wed 19 th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Roger Stubbings Bible study: Church at 2pm. Rachel Rackley 7.30 pm
Sun 23 rd	Selvie Selvaretnam 10.30 Bible Month
Wed 26 th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Roger Stubbings Bible study: Church at 2pm. Rachel Rackley 7.30 pm
Sun 30 th	Ruth Dowson 10.30 Healing and Wholeness at Kingsfold 4 pm

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



Wifi password: Ezekiel37

8

*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

New newsletter: How fast was that!

There is a lot of talk about travelling this month. Ruth has talked about our journey through life with God and the discussions on this subject we hope to have at our Glenthorne retreat at the start of the month, and we also are also enjoying the pictures & news of Paul's continuing pilgrimage to Rome. I too will be making my own journey in June on my trusty bike, cycling 500 miles round the Irish Sea for Rosemere Cancer Foundation [for obvious reasons], and yes, you can sponsor me! Thanks in advance. *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 25th of June, 2nd, 9th, 23th and 30th of July. Details from Jason McMahon 07871 273721 jason.mcmahon@live.co.uk

Circuit News

Dementia Friends session for 6th June at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church at 3pm. The session lasts roughly 1 hr & gives an overview of dementia & looks at how we may respond. This is an Alzheimer's UK initiative. Contact djpastoral@outlook.com

Our Quiz night at Ashton Methodist takes place on Friday 31st May in the coffee lounge at 7.00pm. You can bring along a team of 4 or another team. It's a really fun night with refreshments at half time. What's not to like for just £3.00 a head - no pre booking with a clever friend.

There will be an Ascension Day Service on Thursday 30th May at Ashton Methodist Church at 7.30pm. The service will use some of the Thy Kingdom Come prayer resources.

Blue Sky + Discussions about marriage and relationships. What does it mean to be: Be divorced? (9th June) Be heterosexual? (23rd June) Be homosexual? (30th June).

All sessions will begin at 7:30pm at Ingol Methodist Church

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?



@nightchurchpreston
Central Methodist Church,

First Saturday of the month
Lune Street, Preston, PR1 2NL

Night Church will be held on Saturday June

**8th and
July 6th
9pm to
Midnight.**



Keep trusting

'He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.' Philippians 1:6 NIV

When we don't feel like we're making progress in becoming more like Christ, it can be easy for us to become discouraged and feel like giving up. But God's committed to our spiritual growth. 'He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.' So even when we're still making the same mistakes, or still struggling with the same things, we know that God's still working and He won't let us stay in that place. Inwardly we're being transformed. The Bible says: 'And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit' (2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV). God might not work in us the way we think He's going to. Sometimes He works by allowing a time of testing. When we think of people who were tested in the Bible, Job is one of the most famous. He had to go through so much suffering and hardship, but his faith remained. In fact he said, 'But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold' (Job 23:10 NIV). The process of testing and working in us helps us to change and become like gold too. Gold is refined by heating it until all the impurities are gone. Sometimes God works by allowing us to go through uncomfortable situations in order to remove the impurities in our lives. Other times He might work in us by taking things away, or giving us the strength to overcome the things we're struggling with. Whether we can see Him working or not, we need to keep on trusting that He will continue working in us.. **(UCB.CO.UK)**

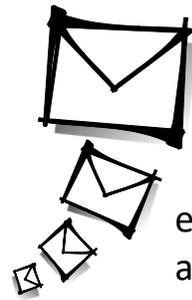
MAY	2ND	9TH	16TH	23TH	30TH
Front Door Steward	Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Millward-Hopkins
Inside Door & Offertory Stewards	Simon Millward-Hopkins Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth Dawn Robinson Angela Parker	Stella Swift Bill Manning	Valerie & Andrew Waterhouse Bill Swindlehurst	Simon Millward-Hopkins Geoff Tyson
Coffee served today by....	Pete and Kate Johnstone	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse Ron Bosworth	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst	Sue Higham & Sheena Rhodes	Pete and Kate Johnstone
Today the flowers have been given by...	Ruth and Simon	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse	Margi Hardman	Beryl Duckworth	

District News

- The next event “**More Tea Vicar?**” is aimed at supporting leaders and workers in churches and how each community can develop its own mental health and wellbeing. This will be on June 13th at St John’s Blackpool.
- “**Is Christianity dying in the West?**”
Monday 24th June 2019 7.30 – 9.00pm Bishop's House, Ribchester Road, Blackburn BB1 9EF
Tuesday 25th June 2019 7.30pm Lancaster Priory
- Scars Across Humanity: Understanding and Overcoming Violence Against Women**
Wednesday 26th June Burnley & Pendle Faith Centre 7.00pm Note: 7pm not 7.30pm
- Sat 22nd June, 10.30am: **Quiet Day** at the Xaverian Centre (was Tabor)
- Thurs 27th June, 7.15pm: **Would you Adam and Eve it?**

A hilarious and award winning production coming to St Paul’s Church, Longridge. Having received rave reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Searchlight Theatre Company in association with the Bible Society are presenting their amazing production ‘Would you Adam and Eve it?’

The first 90 chapters of the bible in 90 minutes, online tickets priced at £10



Journeying in Faith

On our weekend away in Grasmere from 31st May to 2nd June we are hopefully going to explore, share, contemplate, celebrate and pray about our journeying with God through life.

I am really looking forward to hearing about the experiences of others and know I’ll be challenged and encouraged by them.

It is not always easy! Paul Blackett’s pilgrimage travels (for the computer savvy, find him at www.polarsteps.com/paulblackett/1509281-via-francigena)

are at once uplifting, beautiful, unexpected, tiring, frustrating, opportunities to meet with wonderful, generous and like-minded – people and a hard and often muddy slog!

I am sure you can all identify those types of emotions and experiences in your own lives and Jesus made it clear that following His pilgrim way as disciples would definitely not always be easy. However, let’s always keep at the centre of our hearts and minds what God tells us in *Jeremiah 29: 11* ‘**For I know the plans I have for you,**’ declares the **LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’** And at those hard, muddy slog moments, *Psalms 23:4* tells us ‘**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.’**

Happy journeying!

Ruth.


RUTH

IN THE PRESS.....

Time to properly Rethink Benefit Sanctions – say churches A coalition of churches is calling for an independent review into benefit sanctions, saying recent changes to the system will not fundamentally change the impact on struggling families.

The Government announced an end to benefit sanctions lasting longer than 6 months, but the Joint Public Issues Team (representing the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Church of Scotland) say this will only help a small proportion of families affected by sanctions.

JPIT says the expanded sanctions regime continues to cause hardship and drive families to foodbanks and the roll out of Universal Credit further expands the reach and duration of benefit sanctions.

Paul Morrison, policy adviser to the Joint Public Interest Team said: “We welcome the announcement that the maximum length of a benefit sanction will be reduced. It however does not fundamentally change this damaging and discredited system.

“Since 2015 the Churches alongside many others have called for a full independent review of the benefit sanctions regime. The human cost of the UK’s harsh sanctions regime is very high. We see the hunger and hardship it causes every day in churches and foodbanks.

“The Governments claim that their harsher sanctions drive more people into work is not supported by published evidence. We need a proper independent review – where all the evidence is looked at and where the effects of sanctions of people’s lives are properly and publicly examined.

“Universal Credit further escalates the sanctions regime. More families will be under threat of sanction - including for the first time those in work. Sanctions for families on the new Universal Credit system are more frequent and on average last longer. We must properly review this system before expanding it still further.”

Methodist news: “People on the move”

...a North West conference exploring issues of migration

On **Saturday 8 June 2019** From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
At Methodist Central Hall, Manchester (M1 1JQ)

“Why and how should faith communities respond to migration?”

With The President and The Vice-President of The Methodist Conference
Register for your free ticket at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/people-on-the-move-tickets-58860112180>

Further information available from **Rev. Ian Rutherford** (City Centre Minister) on ianr7@hotmail.co.uk

Nearer to God in your Garden

Among many of my hobbies and other interests, I do also love my daily morning “duties” of providing the numerous garden birds with their breakfast. I have been feeding them dutifully for at least the last fifteen years. I usually prepare the bird food the previous night. If for any reason I am not at home, anyone of my now grown up grandchildren do the task for me.

I derive a great deal of pleasure undertaking this bird feeding, before I go back inside to feed myself, usually toast, porridge or my favourite, a bacon barm cake.

I would like to share the following wonderful story with you.....

Every morning, come rain or shine, I open my back kitchen door, and whistle the same regular tune out loud; it’s such a wonderful feeling to see and hear the arrival and chirping sounds of my various feathered friends.

A few weeks ago two of my regular feathered Robin friends had set up a nest in a tree at the bottom of my garden. I wasn’t too sure if they had produced some eggs into their nest, but I also didn’t want to climb the tree and disturb them just to see if there were any eggs there.

This particular morning, I gathered my different types of bird food together and stepped outside, whilst whistling my usual morning tune. Mr and Mrs Robin flew down immediately; chirping away at me, then immediately turned round and flew back to the nest.

Within seconds they again flew back to their bird table with two smaller robins with them. Yes indeed, Mr and Mrs Robin had flown back, and this time had brought their two “babies” back with them to show me. They then peacefully began to eat their breakfast in front of me.

I am not embarrassed to admit that my moist eyes shed tears of joy as I watched all four of them feeding together. In that precise beautiful moment I understood what the phrase, “Nearer to God in your garden” actually meant.

Peter Bonage

On Wednesdays for Bible Month Roger Stubbings will lead a Bible Study on Colossians at 2pm. For those who can’t get to this, Rachel Rackley has kindly agreed to host a study at her house at 7.30. Please let Rachel know you would like to come, and she is happy to negotiate alternative times and evenings. Everyone is welcome and can volunteer to lead.