

# CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

## The Gateway



February 2020

*Loving God,  
Serving People,  
Changing Lives*

**Minister: Rev Barbara Pettitt**

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

Worship at Central	
Sun 2nd	10:30 Rev Barbara Pettitt Holy Communion 
Wed 5th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Barbara Pettitt
Sun 9th	10:30 Rev Wilfred Robinson 4pm SPACE at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church
Wed 12th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Carol Spencer
Sun 16th	10:30 Pat Alla-Cudjoe and Zoe Ainsworth
Wed 19th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Alan Gillies
Sun 23rd	10:30 Rev Barbara Pettitt
Wed 26th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm With Rev Barbara Pettitt
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	10:30 Morning Worship

If this is your first visit, or first time for a while, then please stay after the service so we can say hello and chat over a cup of coffee!



We have welcome cards at the back of the church and we invite you to leave your details, or ask a Steward.

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  
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*



Wifi password: Ezekiel37

# Central's Diary Dates....

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm Mission Group Meeting

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 7pm Resources Meeting

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February- Snowdrop walk (see page 4)



## At the Cross Wednesdays 2pm in the Coffee Lounge

26<sup>th</sup> Feb - The Centurion: Finding Truth Mark 15v33-39

4<sup>th</sup> Mar - The Criminal: Finding Forgiveness Luke 23v32-43

11<sup>th</sup> Mar - Joseph of Arimathea: Finding Courage John 19v38-42

18<sup>th</sup> Mar - Mary: Finding Trust Luke 2v25-38

25<sup>th</sup> Mar - Thaddaeus: Finding Faith Matthew 10v1-8, 16-25

1<sup>st</sup> Apr - Martha: Finding Life John 11v17-27

### At the Cross

The death and resurrection of Jesus are the 'crux' of the Christian faith. We usually remember those events over one weekend each year. This year we focus on those events during Lent – the six weeks leading up to Easter Sunday.

Come and hear voices from around the cross. Hear from ordinary people, people like us, touched by an extraordinary event.

Hear from a centurion who was 'only following orders', a criminal who 'got what he deserved' and a woman who clung onto her faith in the middle of death and loss.

Come if you are big, or little or non-existent in faith.

All are welcome



### Florence Reavley

Florence sadly passed away in Warrington hospital on Monday, 27 January, aged 85. She was with her daughters and close family at the end. She had the comfort of prayers from the hospital chaplaincy and local Methodist church in Warrington. I thought you would like to let the congregation know, as I am sure many will remember her. Please do remember her in your prayers. Thank you so much. Best wishes, Morag Reavley

maintain genuine friendships, and how to play to your personal strengths. Tickets cost £4 each. For more information and to book tickets please visit [www.cff.org.uk/wisdom](http://www.cff.org.uk/wisdom) or ring 029 2081 0800."

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Cantata - Hallelujah What a Saviour! by Preston Methodist Voices and Midge Hall Methodist Church Choir at Penwortham Methodist Church at 4pm

## Lytham Hall Snowdrop Walk



Another chance to join us in a church walk on Sat Feb 22. It's a ticketed event £3 adults 50p Children. (Parking at the hall will be limited to blue badge holders.)

The walk will be accessible for all, and for those who want to walk for longer I thought we might go on the train and walk the sea front to Lowther Gardens and up to the hall.

Will confirm meeting times later. Group 1 for the train at Preston. Group 2 for those going directly to the hall. Let Rachel know directly on [rorackley@msn.com](mailto:rorackley@msn.com)



Don't give up on them

'Isaiah 60:4 NLT

One of the lessons Jesus taught in the parable of the Prodigal Son is this: don't give up on someone no matter how bad things may be in their lives. We give up too soon because: 1) We see only their conduct. But we don't know the experiences they've gone through that may have made them what they are. Sometimes people 'act out' of the pain of unhealed wounds and unresolved issues they carry inside them. Sometimes their anger is masking deep fear. Other times, they act like the dysfunctional parents who raised them, because those are the tools they were given to work with. And until someone shows them a new and better way to handle life, they'll remain stuck. 2) We don't know what people are struggling with.

Don't let their façade of success fool you. Someone can live in a nice home, and drive a nice car to a nice job, yet their marriage is falling apart, their children are in rebellion, and their mind is going crazy. They need your compassion. Instead of writing them off as a lost cause, ask God for words of wisdom. Isaiah said, 'The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed' (Isaiah 50:4 NIV 2011 Edition). If you'll keep praying for them and trying to help them, God will make you a paramedic of His mercy and grace. So the word for you today is: don't give up on them – because God hasn't!

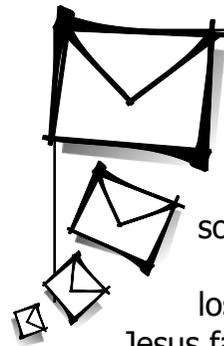
(UCB.CO.UK)

	2nd Feb	9th	16th	23rd	1st Mar
Front Door Steward	Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Millward-Hopkins
Inside Door & Offertory Stewards	Stella Swift & Bill Manning	Valerie & Andrew Waterhouse, Bill Swindlehurst	Simon Millward-Hopkins & Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth & Angela Parker	Stella Swift & Bill Manning
Coffee served today by....	Kate and Pete Johnstone	Stella Swift Julia and Sarah Blackett Rachel Rackley	Sue Higham & Sheena Rhodes	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse Ron Bosworth	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst
Today the flowers have been given by...	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse in memory of Ivy Jackson	Barbara, Alison, Chelsea and Sara in memory of Timmy  Pete and Kate Johnstone  Maurice Dean	Walter French in memory of Margaret	Stella Swift	Did you know...  Our church flowers cost £24 a week and are provided by Margaret Mason Florists!

Friday 7th February: "A Rainbow of Hope for Children of Africa" - Concert by the South Ribble Concert Band at Hutton Village Hall at 7.30pm. The concert will include big band and popular light music, film themes and music from the shows and will be followed by a supper. There will also be a Fairtrade stall and raffle. Tickets, priced £7.50 are now available: tel: 612951 / 613500. Proceeds will go to FOMO, the Rainbow House of Hope, Uganda, and Christian Aid.

**Friday 7th February: A Recycling Collection, with coffee and biscuits, a Fair-trade stall and raffle will be held in St Andrew's Church Hall from 10.00am - 12.00 noon. Please come and donate your unwanted jewellery (gold, silver and costume jewellery); watches; spectacles; used inhalers; currency (old and new, foreign and UK); mobile phones; ink cartridges; stamps (British and foreign); picture postcards (used and unused); books for adults and children; tools (except gardening tools) including carpentry, leatherwork, sewing machines, heavy duty tools; knitting wool and knitting machines; shoes (especially sandals, pumps and children's shoes).**

Tuesday 17th March: Care for the Family event - The Wisdom House at Fulwood Free Methodist Church, Preston at 7:30pm. "The Wisdom House is an event where Rob Parsons shares his best stories to enlighten and encourage. You will come away with: The courage to pursue dreams, New confidence to be who you were made to be, Ideas on how to deal with difficult people, The ability to create and



By the time you are reading this article we will be in the month when Lent starts. Perhaps you have already started to think about what you might give up for this season of Lent. Chocolate, fish and chips, TV or something else.

Giving things up in Lent has nothing to do with losing weight! The real reason is probably the fact that Jesus fasted for forty days. The Latin term for Lent (jejunium) means 'The Fast'. Our English word Lent comes from the Old English lencten, lengthen, that is spring, when the days get longer – and our clocks go forward. (spring forward). So Lent is usually seen as the Church's springtime of renewal.

The poet Malcolm Guite says that:

*'Lent is a time set aside to reorient ourselves, to clarify our minds, to slow down, recover from distraction, to focus on the values of God's kingdom and on the value he has set on us and on our neighbours.'*

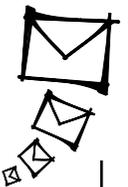
The book 'Holy Attention' suggests that Lent is a season of intentionally attending to God, self, neighbour and world. To help us with this practice of 'Holy Attention' the church came to devise 'Lenten discipline'. Things such as fasting, self-denial, prayer, bible study and good works. These things are not ends in themselves though, these things are to help us in our self-examination, that we might change the direction of our lives.

John Wesley taught us two simple way of practicing our faith; acts of piety and acts of mercy. In this season of Lent the inward, outward and social aspects of our faith come together in a focused way. A good starting point might be to join us for our Lent bible study.

Whether you give up something, take up something or not this Lent, I pray that you are able to find space to practice a bit of Lenten discipline to help you attend to God, self, neighbour and the world.

Every Blessing

*Rev Barbara*



### Special donations and collections recently...

£315 passed to Ribbleton Avenue school for families in difficulties, £92 was sent to All We Can following our Harvest Appeal, £210 was collected towards new hymn books, and £68.50 went to International Aid to help with transport costs of the Shoeboxes.

*Thank You!*

## IN THE PRESS.....

### A prayer for Brexit day by the Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

However we feel about today  
We mark this Brexit day  
As people who grieve or celebrate together  
One people  
Loved equally, freely and unconditionally  
By the one wise all-seeing God  
Either way let us hold this day gently  
Giving ourselves permission to leave  
Without elation or despair  
Determined to love our neighbour  
Support the weak and welcome the stranger  
Lord of all life  
Let your servants depart in peace  
And live according to your Holy Law

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

### An Open Letter to the Prime Minister

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have written to the new Prime Minister, assuring him of their prayers and asking for clarification on key issues including climate change, poverty and social cohesion. We wish to congratulate you on being given the responsibility by the British electorate to form a government, and assure you of our prayers and the prayers of the Methodist people as you take on that responsibility.

Churches are rooted in communities around Britain. It is our task to emphasize, from our ground level experience of British society, issues which we believe must be seen as key priorities.

Creation does not belong to us. Our task is to nurture and recognise our place within it. Many of our members see climate change and environmental degradation as the most pressing issues of our day. Can you tell us what steps you will be taking internationally and domestically to help the UK to reach its climate change targets? What kind of lead will you be taking at the 2020 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow?

Many of our churches and church members are involved in running foodbanks and offering support for people caught up in poverty. Foodbanks should not have to exist. Can you clarify for us what steps your new government will take to address the scandalous levels of poverty, and particularly child poverty?

The church is an inter-generational, multi-ethnic, socially diverse collection of communities. It is far from perfect. But we have seen in our communities growing forms of hostility, divisiveness and hatred, and have sought to support people who have experienced such discord. What active steps will your government now take to work towards healing and greater concord in society?

We wrote to you, Prime Minister, in July to express our concern that a No Deal Brexit was likely to impact the poorest communities very hard indeed. We wish to reaffirm our concern that the poorest in society face huge risks as our trading relations with EU are rewritten. We seek your reassurance that needs of families facing poverty will be central to the proposed trade deal and that should it not be in place before the transition period expires that comprehensive measures are put in place to protect them from the ensuing upheaval.

Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

Professor Clive Marsh, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

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## God's Wings

One of my favourite hobbies includes ornithology (i.e. the Study of Birds {the feathered kind of course!}) Anyone who knows me really well also knows the lengths I go to in pursuing this particular pastime.

Therefore an article in National Geographic several years ago 'caught my eye' and provided a penetrating example of what lengths an individual bird is actually capable of doing in certain situations.

As there is also a link to a "Biblical connection" I would like to share this particular story with you....

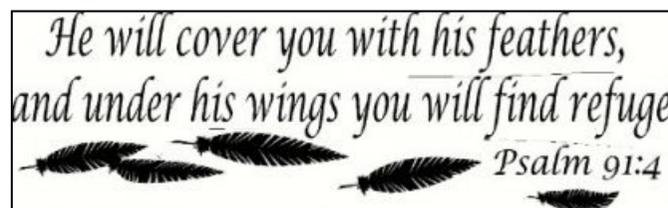
After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, he was surprised to see three tiny chicks scurry from under their dead mother's wings.

The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies.

When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

Oh yes? – the "Biblical connection" that I mentioned earlier....

....."He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge" (Psalm 91:4)



*Peter Bonage*