

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway

	Worship at Central
Sun 3rd	10:30 Rev Barbara Pettitt Summers Baptism
Wed 6th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Janet Titterton
Sun 10th	10:30 Jason McMahon. Remembrance Sunday 4pm SPACE at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church 
Wed 13th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Rev Barbara Pettitt
Sun 17th	10:30 Rev Barbara Pettitt Holy Communion 
Wed 20th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Henry Rose
Sun 24th	10:30 Zoe Ainsworth and Patricia Alla-Cudjoe
Wed 27th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm With Rev Barbara Pettitt
Sun 1 st Dec	10:30 Morning Worship, First in Advent

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



November 2019

*Loving God,
Serving People,
Changing Lives*

Minister: Rev Barbara Pettitt

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www.centralmethodist.org.uk

Central's Diary Dates....

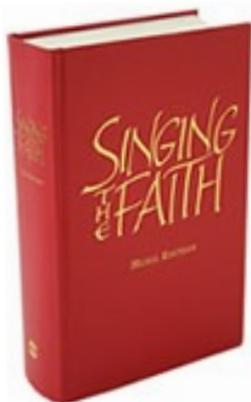
Sunday 1st December Shoebox Sunday

Thursday 19th December Lancashire Sings Christmas 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Carol Service 4:00pm

Christmas Day Service 10:30am

5th January 2020, Covenant Service



New Hymn Books!
(£10 each)

We are buying copies of Singing the Faith to add to our Worship. Would you like to contribute to the funds needed to buy these?

Please pass your gift in an envelope to a Steward before the end of December. Thankyou!

Advent Bible Studies

Wednesdays, 2pm at Church

27th Nov God's people

4th Dec Old Testament prophets

11th Dec John the Baptist

18th Dec Mary



Saturday 23rd November: Christmas Fayre at Kingsfold Methodist Church from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Admission 20p. Cake stall, book stall, parched peas, gifts and Christmas stalls, toys, refreshments, visit Father Christmas

Inter Faith Week: some of the events in Preston Mon 11 Nov: Lunch and Hindu faith activities - Gujarat Hindu Centre, South Meadow Lane, Preston 12 to 2pm . Wed 13 Nov: Celebration of Sikh Culture with food at Exchange, Tunbridge St Gurdwara, 5pm to 8pm

Church donations

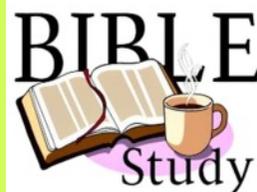
Could you... *giftaid it?*



See
Simon Millward-Hopkins
for information

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13



Live!

Job 5:26 NIVUK

Author Norman Cousins said, 'No disease is more lethal than the boredom that follows retirement.' Here's a true story of a lady in her eighties who went to her doctor for a check-up. He asked if she stayed active. She gave him a big smile and said, 'I jog about four or five miles every day.' Surprised, he told her she needed to be careful and not overdo it. 'Take it easy,' he suggested. She took his words to heart and decided to slow down. She reduced her jogs to slow walks, and cut back to one or two days a week.

Within a year she was dead. After hearing about her death, the doctor who'd given her such advice told a friend, 'Never again will I tell a patient who's doing so well to take it easy.' The Bible is filled with the stories of people who lived on because they had something to live for! Remember Caleb? At eighty-five he attacked the giants in the hill country, drove them out, and became a land developer (see Joshua 14). And how about Noah?

He began building the ark when he was five hundred years old. And a hundred years later he helped to start the world all over again. Age means nothing unless you're cheese! And wrinkles, grey hair, and spots on your hands mean less than nothing. As long as God chooses to leave you on this earth, don't just exist – live! Claim the promise: 'You will come to the grave in full vigour.' Keep dreaming. Accept new challenges. And don't even think about taking it easy!.(ucb.co.uk)

International Aid Shoe Boxes!

Would you like to fill a shoebox with gifts destined for those who have little themselves? Pick up a leaflet from church to read about where they go to and who receives them. Please bring them along on December 1st!



Harvest Festival Thank you!

Thank you to all who contributed to our Harvest this year. It is still possible to donate for a week or so yet!

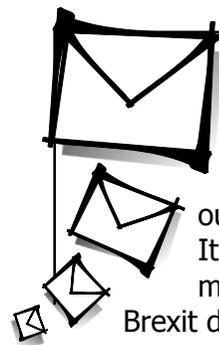
	3 rd Nov	10 th	17 th	24 th	1 st Dec
<i>Front Door Steward</i>	Sue Higham	Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Sue Higham	Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Sue Higham
<i>Inside Door & Offertory Stewards</i>	Ron Bosworth & Angela Parker	Stella Swift & Bill Manning	Valerie & Andrew Waterhouse, Bill Swindlehurst	Simon Millward-Hopkins & Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth & Angela Parker
<i>Coffee served today by....</i>	Sue Higham & Sheena Rhodes	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse Ron Bosworth	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst	Kate and Pete Johnstone	Stella Swift Julia and Sarah Blackett Rachel Rackley
<i>Today the flowers have been given by...</i>	Ann Curtis	Gordon and Irene Barnes	Pete Whiteside in memory of George & Mary	Simon and Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Sue Higham In memory of Duncan

Saturday 2nd November: Preston Orpheus Choir invites you to a Journey through the Decades – a celebration of 90 years of music making at 7.30pm at Fulwood Methodist Church, PR2 8EA. A programme featuring a selection of the music performed during the last 90 years, from Vivaldi to Rodgers & Hammerstein - something for everyone! Admission £12 – under 18's free.



Saturday 9th November: You are warmly invited to the Godly Play Bus Launch event from 10am - 12pm at New Longton Methodist Church, PR4 4AA. From 10 to 10.30 the Bus & Team will be dedicated. Come and see this amazing sacred space and find out more about the Godly Play Bus Project. Pop in anytime to explore the bus and meet the Godly Play Team. Tea and cake available in the hall. For more info email: lancsgodlyplaybus@gmail.com

Friday and Saturday 8th and 9th November. Fairtrade Christmas Market and lunches at St Andrews Church Hall in Longton. 10-5pm each day
 Saturday 9th November: Crafty Christmas Market at Trinity Methodist Church, Gregson Lane, PR5 0ED from 10am to 3pm. A variety of craft stalls, visit Santa's grotto and crafty workshop, breakfasts, lunches, snacks and drinks. Free Admission



From the Minister;
 It's been a hectic few weeks getting back into the rhythm of work and family life. I have loved being back, picking up what's been happening in my absence and trying to work out my priorities.

It's been a hectic few weeks in politics as well or would we say months? Here we are, as I write this on the 31 st October, our Brexit date, and we are still in Europe. Another extension granted, the prospect of a General Election on 12 th December.

It's a hectic time as we come into the Advent and Christmas season, all that planning and shopping and celebrating to be prepared for.

It is my imagination or are we living in more hectic times? I am realising more and more that those things designed to help in our modern world actually can contribute to a sense of frantic activity.

With mobile phones, emails and social media people seem to expect instant responses. We get impatient when someone doesn't answer their mobile or respond to our email enquiry immediately. How can they be out when I need their attention.

And we get trapped into thinking we have to respond immediately. Because the mobile **is** ringing or the computer is **pinging** to let us know yet another email has arrived or an acquaintance has posted on social media.

In our hectic lives we need to find some thin places. Places where the space between heaven and earth, earthly and spiritual is so thin we feel the very presence of God. And in that presence there is nothing hectic. In that presence is quiet and stillness.

"Be still and know that I am God" said the psalmist.

As we enter this season of elections and Christmas preparation let there be time to slow down and acknowledge the thin places. Let us find time to be in God's presence as we prayerfully consider what our response should be in this coming election. Let us find space to include God in our Christmas preparation and our lives.

Every Blessing as you seek God's way for you.

Rev Barbara



IN THE PRESS.....

'God For All': consultation continues to refine new evangelism and growth strategy

Around 250 representatives from across the Connexion came together at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster on Saturday 19 October to be part of a consultation to refine the new Evangelism and Growth strategy entitled 'God For All'.

The consultation opened with worship and song accompanied by Jazz Church from Birmingham and continued with testimonies from a variety of people from around the Connexion.

The current Youth President, Thelma Commey said her early experiences of singing and dancing in Sunday School led her to want to live out what she was singing. She said in order to do this she needed to trust in God "no matter how scary it was." Mark North is a minister who works in the former mining community of Bolsover in the Sheffield district and said much of his community work is with people who are experiencing addiction, poverty and deprivation. He said it was his privilege to be part of that: "In evangelism we learn as much from the communities we live in as we give to them" and concluded by saying that he was "meeting God in the beauty of brokenness."

Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth, talked about how evangelism is a crucial and non-negotiable part of Our Calling to respond to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ. He explained that the strategy had come from conversations that have been taking place around the Connexion over the past year, but ultimately the stories come from God. Feedback from Saturday's consultation, and other consultations that have taken place around the Connexion, are being collated by the Evangelism and Growth Team and will be used to further refine the 'God For All' strategy. This will be presented to the Methodist Conference 2020.

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Deaths of the homeless are the tragic tip of the iceberg of suffering

The soaring numbers of people dying on the streets represents the tip of the iceberg of suffering that is caused by homelessness, say church leaders and mission partners working on the ground.

Roger Clark, CEO of West London Mission (WLM), which has supported thousands of homeless and vulnerable people since 1887 said:

"The fact that 726 people died on the street in 2018 is an absolute scandal. Those that have passed must not be forgotten for who they were and their legacy must be action."

The Revd Mike Long, Minister of Notting Hill Methodist Church and Chair of Shelter's Commission, 'A Vision for Social Housing', said:

"These deaths represent the tragic tip of the iceberg in terms of the suffering that homelessness causes. Hundreds of thousands of people are classed as homeless in Britain today, having to cope with 'temporary' accommodation that in many cases is harmful to physical and mental health. 'This makes no economic sense nor is it morally acceptable'.

Paul Morrison, Policy Adviser for the Joint Public Issues Team, said: "Homelessness has rapidly increased over the last decade. Cuts in housing benefit and support services have taken their toll. It cannot be right that families in work are unable to make ends meet and pay the rent.

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Methodist artist creates artwork illustrating core values of the British Army

The Methodist Church has commissioned Methodist Presbyterian Ric Stott, an accomplished artist and pioneer minister, to produce six pieces of art on the British Army Core Values. The Core Values illustrated by the art are: courage, discipline, respect for others, integrity, loyalty, and selfless commitment. Army chaplains will be encouraged to use the art to reflect with soldiers on the meaning of these values and how each one applies to them. Questions that might be prompted from the artwork include: What helps you to find the courage to overcome fear? What inspires you to put the needs of others above your own? Speaking on the background to the project, Doug Swanney, Chair of the Methodist Forces Board, said:

"This resource was prompted by a Methodist army chaplain who saw the potential for art to help chaplains in drawing out soldiers' experiences and understanding of the British Army's Core Values.

A talented Methodist minister spent time listening to soldiers' stories of how the Core Values are lived out in their work and lives. Inspired by these stories, he used his God-given gifts to create the artwork."

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The Mysterious Omission of the Wife of Noah!

Before I go any further re my explanation of my above article I must test your knowledge of the story of Adam's Ark...

OK? Here it comes....What was the wife's name of Noah from the fascinating story of Noah's Ark?

If anyone can answer that above question without first looking up the answer, then you have my instant admiration.

Perhaps some of you will have accepted my challenge and immediately rushed for your nearest Bible to come up with an answer. In fact, I'll save you the trouble of thumbing through whichever Bible you have got hold of.

I must point out to you that there are literally hundreds of different versions/translations of the Bible throughout the world, mainly because of the numerous languages that are in existence. Myself, I just have two versions, the NIV and the NKJV.

Anyway, the answer to my opening question is NONE! Surprisingly there is NO mention of Noah's wife's name in ANY version of the many Bibles. She is always mentioned in all Bibles as "the wife of Noah"!

However, my curiosity led me to go that particular step further to find the answer for myself.... According to Jewish tradition, her name is/was Naamah – the sister of Tubai-cain, a descendent of Cain, who was the son of Adam and Eve. This can be verified by reading Genesis 4: v 22.

Why Tubal-cain's sister (a daughter of Lamech by his wife, Zilla) should be specifically mentioned is unknown. Jewish tradition made her Noah's wife. Her name, meaning "the beautiful" or "the pleasant one"

reflects the worldly mind of the Cainites, who looked for beauty rather than for character as the chief attraction in women.



Mmmm, I hope you feel better for that revelation; bye for now.

Peter Bonage