

|                               | <b>Worship at Central</b>                                    |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b> | Morning Worship at 10:30am<br>Mrs Lynne Watson               |  |
| <b>Wed 5<sup>th</sup></b>     | Lunchtime Worship at 1pm<br>Mrs Carolyn Hothersall           |  |
| <b>Sun 9<sup>th</sup></b>     | Morning Worship at 10:30am<br>Mrs Carolyn Hothersall,        |  |
| <b>Wed 12<sup>th</sup></b>    | Lunchtime Worship at 1pm<br>Rev Sharon Thraves               |  |
| <b>Sun 16<sup>th</sup></b>    | Morning Worship at 10:30am<br>Rev Barbara Pettitt            |  |
| <b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup></b>    | Lunchtime Worship at 1pm<br>Rev Jane Wild                    |  |
| <b>Sun 23<sup>rd</sup></b>    | Morning Worship at 10:30am<br>Rev Jane Wild - Holy Communion |  |
| <b>Wed 26<sup>th</sup></b>    | Lunchtime Worship at 1pm<br>Rev Mike Grimsley                |  |
| <b>Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar</b> | Morning Worship at 10:30am<br>TBA                            |  |

**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**

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

**Amen**

*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!*

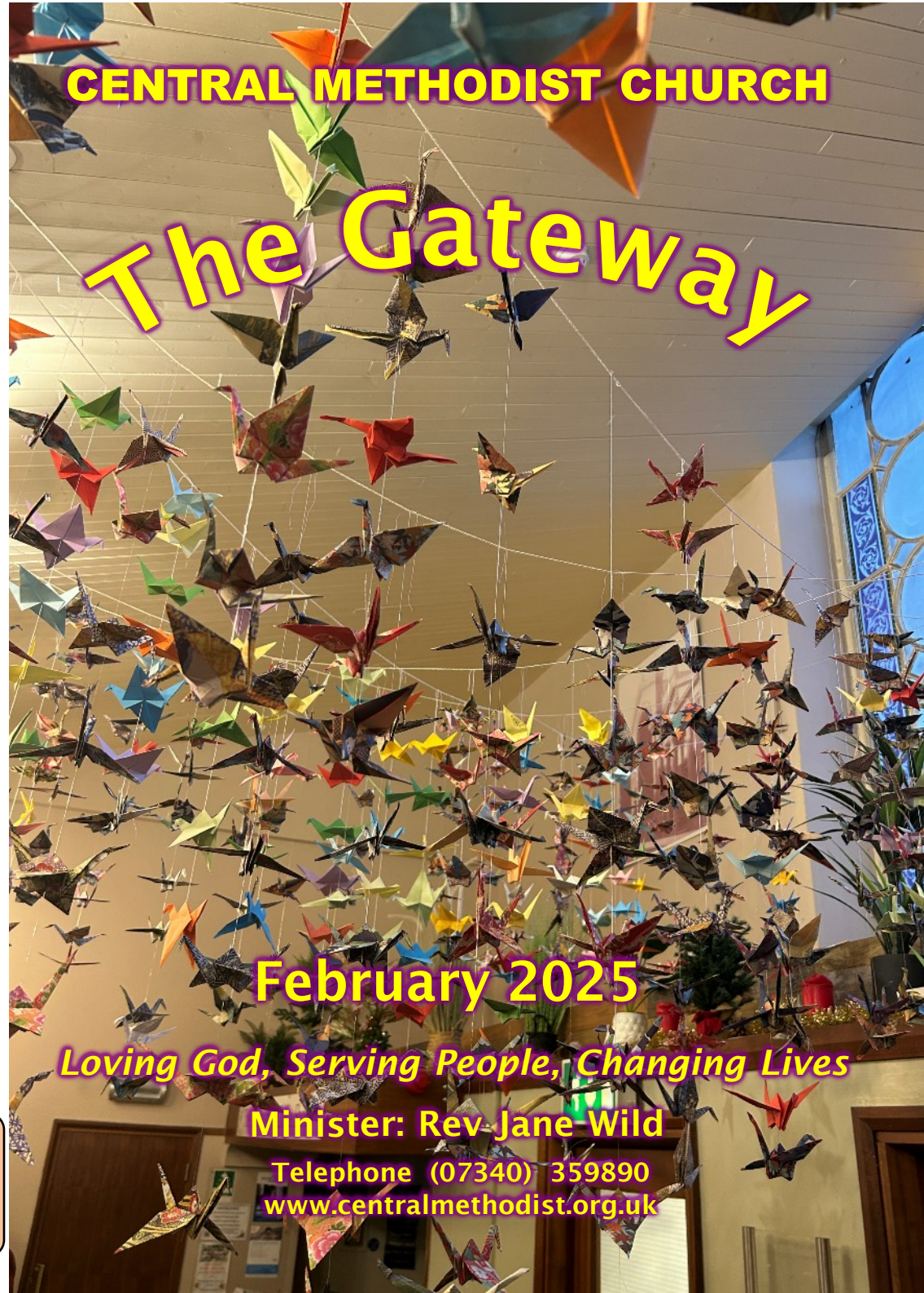


Stewards: Ruth Millward-Hopkins, Julia Blackett, Sue Burgess and Roberta Malone

Safeguarding Officers: Sarah O'Halloran & Geoff Tyson

Coffee Shop Tel (01772) 881851

WiFi Password Ezekiel37



**CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH**

**The Gateway**

**February 2025**

**Loving God, Serving People, Changing Lives**

**Minister: Rev Jane Wild**

**Telephone (07340) 359890**

**www.centralmethodist.org.uk**

# Central's Diary Dates....

**Launch event for the Year of Faith Development:  
Bamber Bridge Methodist Church,  
Sunday 26th January, 4:30pm**

**Circuit Meeting 7pm, 11<sup>th</sup> February. Location TBA!**



## Launch Event

**Sunday 26th January 2025**

4.30pm to 5:45pm at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church

Encountering life in all its fullness  
2025 Circuit Year of Faith Development

Includes cake & refreshments

**Year of Faith Development  
Launch Event**

**How has your faith grown this last year?  
Explore and encounter in 2025**



Our annual weekend away to Grasmere in the Lake District is booked for 9 - 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The cost will be £210 per person which covers accommodation and full board.

We would love to see as many go as possible to enjoy a relaxing weekend in lovely countryside with friends!

**Please pay a deposit of £100 by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Paul (in an envelope marked Grasmere / Name)**

## Prayers

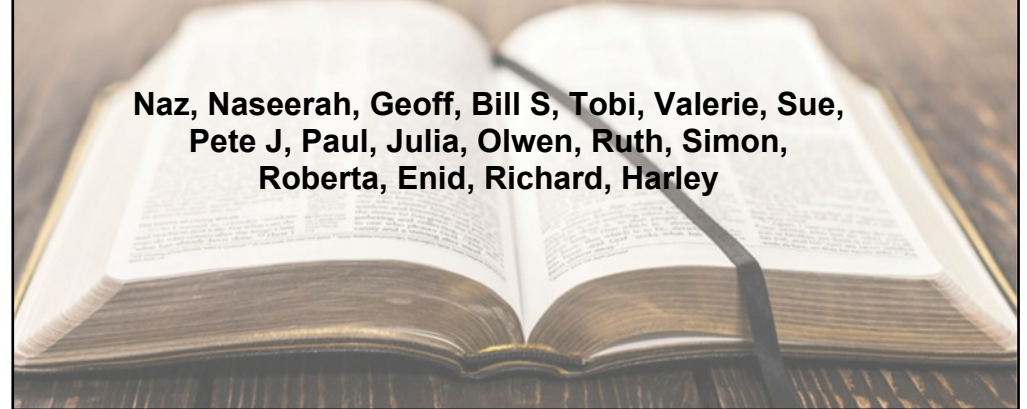
If you would like to leave the name of someone who needs Prayer, please add their name to the prayer book as you come in on Sunday morning.



You can also leave a prayer on our prayer tree.

**Thank you to all our Bible readers who volunteer to read in our services. If you would also like to volunteer please let Olwen know, who will update the list.**

**Naz, Naseerah, Geoff, Bill S, Tobi, Valerie, Sue, Pete J, Paul, Julia, Olwen, Ruth, Simon, Roberta, Enid, Richard, Harley**



Fundraising to replace our hot water boiler and steamer in our kitchen has raised £1,829. A big thank you to all who contributed, we hope to get the new equipment in soon!

Our Christmas collection for Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School hardship fund is still receiving donations until the end of January. If you would like to donate please place your gift in a marked envelope in the offertory, or over the counter in The Olive Grove cafe.



The Zoom meeting ID and pass code for Sunday Worship at Central are: Meeting ID: 992 4189 3207 Passcode: 453840

|   | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 9 <sup>th</sup>                             | 16 <sup>th</sup>                    | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | March 2 <sup>nd</sup>                                    |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Today the flowers have been given by... | Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse in memory of Ivy Jackson | Pete and Kate Johnstone<br><br>Maurice Dean | Walter French in memory of Margaret | Stella Swift     | Margaret Chetwood in memory of Evelyn and Ernie Shilcock |

### Show compassion to everyone

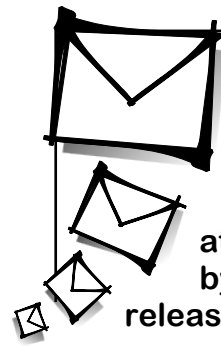
'He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.'

Matthew 14:14 NKJV



Jesus demonstrated compassion wherever He went. He taught that we must care for 'the least' among us (Matthew 25:40). The New Testament church continued His 'brand' by doing away with racism and lots of other 'isms'. 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female...you are all one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3:28 NKJV). Following Christ means showing compassion to everyone, whether you like them or not. You're called to practise compassion where you work and where you live. Jean Henri Dunant couldn't endure the sound of soldiers crying on a battlefield after they had been wounded, so this Swiss philanthropist said he would dedicate his life to helping them in Jesus' name. As a result, he started the Red Cross in the 1860s. Every time you see it, you see a thumbprint of Jesus. A Lutheran pastor in Germany named Theodor Fliedner taught a group of mainly peasant women to nurse the ill. This led to a development of hospitals all over Europe and inspired Florence Nightingale to give her life to tend the sick. Father Damien, a Belgian priest, worked in Hawaii in the nineteenth century and established a place where lepers could be loved and tended to. Each week he would tell them, 'God loves you lepers.' And then, one week, he stood up and said, 'God loves us lepers.' He died from leprosy.

Jesus said of every unwarranted act of kindness shown towards someone, including those who don't deserve it, 'you did it to Me' (Matthew 25:40 NKJV).  
www.ucb.co.uk



Love is all around...

Many of you may remember a time in the 90s, when a certain track from Wet Wet Wet, spent 15 weeks at No.1. That song was originally wrote in 10 minutes by Reg Presley, the lead singer of the Troggs and first released in 1967.

The chorus, which you are probably singing along to in you head now, goes on about 'You know I love you, I always will' and 'Cause on my love you can depend' But how conditional is that love? Is there something that we could do which would stop that person loving us?

With God, love is different. His love for us, unlike human love, is totally unconditional. Nothing we can do will make God love us any more, and nothing we can do will make God love us any less. Our actions may separate us from God, but not from His love for us.

Scripture tells us of this love. 1 John 3:1 says; 'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!'

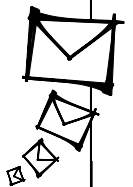
And Romans 5:8; 'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'

So, remember in this month of love

God's amazing love for you; His unconditional love!

Every blessing  
*Sarah O'Halloran*

Our Ministry Team:  
Rev Jane Wild, Mrs Carolyn Hothersall, Mrs Sarah O'Halloran  
Mrs Denise Johnson, Mr Darren Arnold

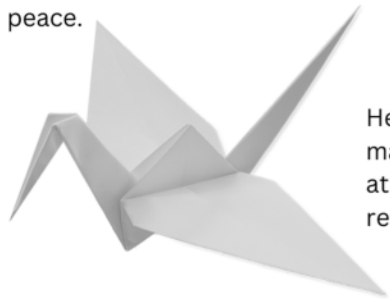


## The Story of Sadako Sasaki

Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the atomic bomb devastated Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945. The blast threw her out of the window and although she survived, she and her mother were caught in the nuclear fallout. Years went by and Sadako led a normal childhood up until November 1954, when, aged 11, she was diagnosed with leukemia and told that she only had a year to live. Leukaemia was highly prevalent at that time along with several other cancers, and it became evident that this was largely down to the effects of the bombing nine years before. In hospital, Sadako's roommate told her of an old Japanese legend, which says that if you fold 1000 paper cranes, you will be granted one wish from the gods. An exhibit at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum states she had achieved her goal by August 1955 and continued to fold more cranes right up until her death on October 25, 1955 at the age of 12. She was buried with all 1000 paper cranes.



Following Sadako's death, her friends and schoolmates raised funds to build a memorial to her and all the other children who had died as a result of the atomic bomb. The story of Sadako Sasaki and the Thousand Paper Cranes has become known internationally as a reminder of the effects of war on the innocent. It is told in many schools on the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing and people all over Japan celebrate August 6th as an annual peace day. Every day children bring origami cranes to Sadako's statue in memory of her and all the other innocent children who have died as a result of war. The crane has long been a symbol of hope and longevity, but in Sadako's memory it has also become known as symbol of peace.



Here at Central Methodist Church, local people have made 1000 paper cranes as a visual prayer for peace at a time when all peoples in our world need reminding of the horrors of war.

## IN THE PRESS.....

### Pope calls for hope and truth in global diplomacy

THE Pope, accusing the world's multilateral institutions of failing to uphold stability and peace, has called for a new "diplomacy of hope" to ensure truth, forgiveness, and justice.

He also urged united world efforts to resolve conflicts in [Ukraine](#) and [Gaza](#), and a final end to all forms of [slavery](#) and exploitation.

"We see increasingly polarised societies, marked by a general sense of fear and distrust of others and of the future, which is aggravated by the continuous creation and spread of fake news. This phenomenon generates false images of reality and a climate of suspicion that foments hate, undermines people's sense of security, and compromises civil coexistence and the stability of entire nations," Pope Francis told diplomats accredited to the Holy See on Thursday.

"A diplomacy of hope is consequently, above all, a diplomacy of truth. If the link between reality, truth, and knowledge is missing, human beings will no longer be able to speak and understand one another, because the foundations of a common language, anchored in the reality of things and therefore universally comprehensible, are lacking."

The Pope said that his annual meeting with ambassadors was intended as a "family event" and a chance "to leave behind the disputes that divide us and instead to find out what unites us".

This was especially important, he said, during the [RC Church's](#) current Jubilee Year, inaugurated on [Christmas Eve \(News, 3 January\)](#), which offered an opportunity to "pardon offences, support the weak and the poor, give rest and relief to the earth", and "re-think relationships" and find ways "to overcome the logic of confrontation and embrace instead the logic of encounter. In face of the increasingly concrete threat of a world war, the vocation of diplomacy is to foster dialogue with all parties, including those interlocutors considered less 'convenient' or not legitimised to negotiate.

"Only in this way is it possible to break the chains of hatred and vengeance that bind and to defuse the explosive power of human selfishness, pride, and arrogance, which are the root of every destructive determination to wage war."

He said that there was also an "urgent need" for good news at a time when humanity had gained "progress, development, and wealth" but also felt "lonely and lost", and when the natural human search for knowledge was being undermined by the "denial of self-evident truths" and manipulative misuse of media.

In his address, the Pope welcomed the renewal of the Vatican's 2018 accord with [China](#) on the appointment of bishops, saying that he had tried to "meet and engage in dialogue with different peoples, cultures, and religious traditions" during visits to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Singapore, as well as to Belgium, France, and Luxembourg.

He was saddened, however, that 2025 had begun with "heinous acts of terror" in Germany and the United States, as well as with continuing conflicts from Syria and Lebanon to Sudan and Mozambique, Myanmar, Haiti, Bolivia, Colombia, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

He also condemned "growing expressions of [anti-Semitism](#)" and anti-Christian persecution, which, he said, was also occurring in "more discreet forms" inside Europe.

[www.churchtimes.co.uk](http://www.churchtimes.co.uk)

### Vicar of Dibley given stamp of approval

The award-winning BBC TV series The Vicar of Dibley is being immortalised in a set of Royal Mail stamps.

The 12 stamps include photographs of actress Dawn French playing Rev Geraldine Granger along with fellow cast members including James Fleet who played Hugo Horton and Gary Waldhorn who played his father David.



The series, which was written by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer, ran for three series from 1994 to 2000. Four special episodes followed between 2004 and 2007.

The stamps show memorable scenes from the sitcom, including a Dibley parish council meeting and an image from the wedding of Hugo and Alice, played by the late Emma Chambers.

The series, which was written after the Church of England's decision in 1993 to allow the ordination of women was named Britain's third-favourite sitcom of all time in a BBC poll in 2020.

