

Worship at Central	
Sun 1st	Morning Worship at 10:30am
Wed 4th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Carol and Henry Rose
Sun 8th	Morning Worship at 10:30am Rev Barbara Pettitt, Holy Communion
Wed 11th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm
Sun 15th	Morning Worship at 10:30am Carole Spencer
Wed 18th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm - Ash Wednesday
Sun 22nd	Morning Worship at 10:30am Carolyn Hothersall
Wed 25th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Rev Mike Grimsley
Sun 1st March	Morning Worship at 10:30am

The Lords Prayer

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 and ever. Amen.

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, Roberta Malone and Alison Pettitt **Safeguarding Officers:** Sarah O'Halloran & Geoff Tyson
Coffee Shop Tel (01772) 881851 WiFi Password Ezekiel37



CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Gateway



February 2026

Loving God, Serving People, Changing Lives

Circuit Office (01772) 713743
www.centralmethodist.org.uk



Our annual weekend away to Grasmere in the Lake District is
booked for 22 - 24th May 2026

The cost will be £225 per person which covers accommodation and full board.
We would love to see as many go as possible to enjoy a relaxing and fun
weekend in lovely countryside with friends!

**Please pay a deposit of £100 by Sunday 1st March to Paul
(in an envelope marked Grasmere / Name)**



Let us
WORSHIP
Together
On Zoom

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

<https://bible-month-training-2026.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Central's Diary Dates....

**The Church Council planned
for 28th Jan will be
rearranged**

**Resources Group Meeting
23rd February 6:30pm at
Church**

14 March 2026 | Live from
10am-3pm Cliff College

**Philippians
Training Day**

methodist.org.uk/biblemonth



**After the Flood, Saturday
7th February, Fulwood
Methodist Church, 2-4pm**

The Circuit are hosting a screening of the film After the Flood, which explores the church's historic involvement in the transatlantic slave trade and how we can respond today. All adults welcome to attend this free event, which will include a gentle time of prayer and discussion after the film. Light refreshments and free childcare available during the event, please email Sonia to book childcare, or for more information:

pr_adm1n@outlook.com.

Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit
Film Screening and Discussion Event

AFTER THE FLOOD

The Church, Slavery and Reconciliation

Saturday 7th February, 2-4pm

Fulwood Methodist Church, Watling Street Road, PR2 8EA



"Powerful, insightful, thought provoking, educational, challenging, empowering and inspiring. A film that simply must be seen."

Rebecca Hemmings,
Race Issues President,
Ascension Trust

"If you're really serious about the anti-racism journey, this is a movie you HAVE to watch."

Rebecca Hemmings,

"Challenges the Christian Church to go beyond talking, sermonizing & box quoting and start walking to pursue reconciliation in its fullness."

Rev'd Tim Hobson, Minister, AME
Church, Settrington

Everyone welcome, free to attend. Light refreshments provided. Please get in touch to book free childcare during the event if required, or to let us know your access needs.



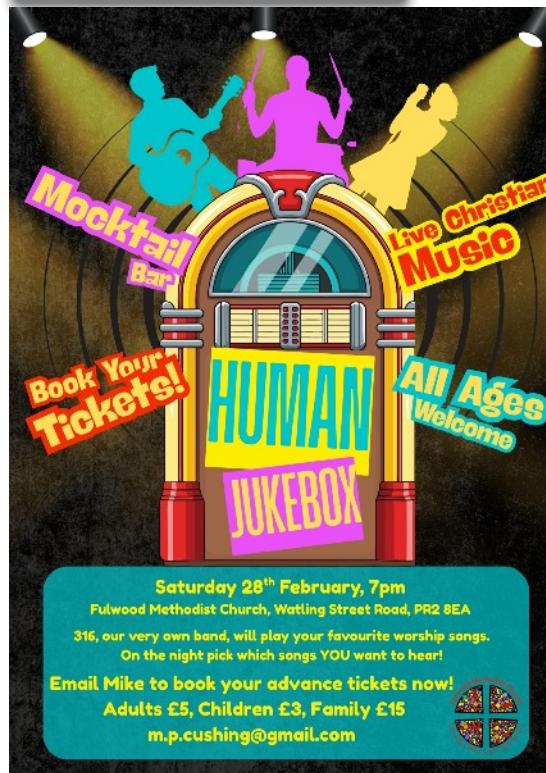
For more information contact
Sonia: pr_adm1n@outlook.com



Human Jukebox

**Saturday 28th February,
7pm, Fulwood Methodist
Church.**

316, our very own band, will play your favourite worship songs. On the night pick which songs YOU want to hear! Email Mike to book your advance tickets now! Adults £5, Children £3, Family £15
m.p.cushing@gmail.com



	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd
Today the flowers have been given by... 	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse in memory of Ivy Jackson	Pete and Kate Maurice Dean	Walter French in memory of Margaret	Stella Swift



Do you have WhatsApp on your phone?

Why not join the Church Chat to keep in touch during the week!
Please let a Steward know and they can arrange for you to be added

‘Salvation is a gift

“By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”

Ephesians 2:8 NKJV

Jack Welch, who guided the General Electric Company through some of its most profitable years, wrote a book called *Winning*. Compiling many of the different questions people had asked him along with his answers, he wrote a book of management principles. One question was this: ‘Do you think you will go to heaven when you die?’ In response, Jack listed some of the mistakes he had made in business and in life, including two divorces. Then he said, ‘So as far as heaven, who knows? But if there are any points given out for caring for people with every fibre of your being and giving life all you’ve got every day, then I suppose that I might have a shot!’ But going to heaven is not about caring for people or giving life all your energy every day. It’s about putting your trust in Jesus Christ – and in Him alone. Maybe understanding this truth is harder for successful business people than for others, due to their own drive, vision, and energy that have helped them attain success. But when it comes to heaven, those traits don’t count. No one earns heaven; it is a gift. ‘For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (Romans 6:23 NKJV). Hebrews 6:4 calls it ‘the heavenly gift’. And the apostle Paul writes, ‘By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast’ (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV).

www.ucb.co.uk



Dear friends

Spring has sprung! I’m sure most people have noticed that the days are getting longer and that we’re moving out of those dark weeks of seemingly little change into the rapidly differing days of spring. As we enter into the new season, we are already seeing signs of new life brought by the early bulbs which have lain hidden for the last few months. Familiar flowers greet us from borders and tubs while bushes and hedgerows are gradually brimming with swollen buds of potential.

For those who have waited eagerly for winter to pass, the excitement of new life emerging from the depths of darkness is a joy fulfilled. Curiosity for the new and unexpected along with the comfort of patterns of familiarity help to lead us into the coming days.

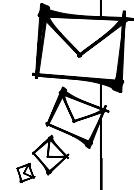
The ever-quickenings changes of spring mirror the ministry of Jesus, the calling of the disciples, the increasing numbers of followers eager to experience the life-changing opportunities for healing, the crowds gathering to hear his interpretations of the scriptures and the questioning of the current order. But it also reflects the rapid intensity with which the authorities hastened to quell the support for Jesus, by seeking to find a reason to stifle his challenges to their leadership. As we journey through Lent, we follow Jesus explaining the authority with which he spoke, his efforts to make clear what the future holds and the journey he must make, whilst recognising the struggles in bringing a message too difficult for his followers, and even his disciples, to understand.

In the words of Jesus, ‘No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’ Unlike the spring bulbs which return year on year, as Jesus’ followers we are called to something different, a new way of life, indeed a new life altogether. As we journey through Lent, may we be open to ways in which we may experience life in Jesus anew. May we be spiritually reborn with fresh insight, a new enthusiasm to share our stories, freshly and vibrantly entering a new season.

Carolyn Hothersall

Our Ministry Team:

**Rev Jane Wild, Mrs Carolyn Hothersall, Mrs Sarah O’Halloran
Mrs Denise Johnson**





Pause. Breathe. Make space for God.

Lent is bigger than giving up chocolate. It's about letting go of what weighs us down and being open to what lifts us up. The benefits last longer than 40 days – it's a way of life, and we do it together.

Sign up to receive a short email each week during Lent, as well as daily emails throughout Holy Week. At

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/lent/>

Weekly themes

- 22 February, Lent 1: Let go of idols, make room for God
- 1 March, Lent 2: Let go of the form, embrace the spirit
- 8 March, Lent 3: Let go of scarcity, embrace abundance
- 15 March, Lent 4: Let go of appearances, and embrace what's inside
- 22 March, Lent 5: Let go of despair, embrace 'respair'
- 29 March, Palm Sunday: Let go of violence, embrace gentleness
- 3 April, Good Friday: Let go of certainty, embrace mystery
- 5 April, Easter Sunday: Let go of fear, embrace joy

ALTERNATIVE CHURCH

Alternative church is hosted by Fulwood at the Black Bull on the third Monday of every month at 6:30pm.

Please join us at the Black Bull pub for food or just a drink, to share in fellowship and topical conversation. If you would like to know more, please contact Wendy Bennett.

Request for Volunteers - 17th March

On 17th March, Fulwood Methodist Church are hosting the presbyteral synod for the North West England Methodist District and The Revd Richard Andrew (President of Conference). We are looking for a few volunteers to help serve drinks, as well as a few communion stewards. Please get in touch with the Circuit Office if you are able to support this event.

IN THE PRESS.....

Committed Christians in the UK give over four times more than the national average in monthly charitable donations, according to a new report from Christian charity Stewardship.

The Generosity Report 2026 highlights the link between faith, trust, and giving. The research, carried out by Whitestone Insight, surveyed over 6,000 UK Christians and included in-depth interviews with 15 committed believers.

It found that committed Christians, defined as those practising their faith at least weekly, give an average of £326 a month; equivalent to over 10 per cent of their income. This compares with £72 per month donated by the average UK citizen to all charities.

Daniel Jones, chief purpose officer at Stewardship, told Premier Christian News: "This is the third year we've been running this generosity report, and each year we see the connection between the depth of Christian practice and what that means for who they give to.

"The further people engage with church and the Bible, the more their giving increases. For committed Christians, £326 per month is four and a half times the average of the wider public."

Younger Christians proved to be the most generous. The 18-34 age bracket gives the highest proportion of their income at 11 per cent, with 40 per cent expecting to increase their giving over the next year.

Jones said: "There's something with this emerging generation, and one of the theories that we have with this is that, to be a Christian under the age of 30 requires a different level of commitment. It's now a very active choice that 18- to 34-year-olds are taking to follow Jesus.

"They're saying 'if I'm a Christian, and if I'm pursuing that authentically, then that means I also need to be pursuing that faith with regard to what I choose to do with my money.' Giving is a significant way of demonstrating that faith in a very practical and tangible way."

The report emphasises the role of trust in the local church. Of all givers to Christian causes, 74 per cent said they trust their church "a lot," and almost 90 per cent of those give regularly to their local congregation. **Premier Christian News**

First female Archbishop of Canterbury pledges to challenge misogyny

Dame Sarah Mullally has been formally confirmed as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, becoming the first woman to lead the Church of England. Speaking after a historic confirmation ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral, Most Rev Sarah Mullally said she is committed to addressing misogyny within both the Church and society. "It is fair to say that I have, both in my secular role, as well as in the Church, experienced misogyny at times," she said.

"I'm conscious that being in this role, it's important for me to speak of it [misogyny], because there are some that don't necessarily have the status or power of this role, and feel more hesitant to do it. I commit myself to making an environment where all people can flourish and which is safer for all."

The new Archbishop also addressed opposition to her appointment from some within the Anglican Communion.

"I have always understood that people may find my appointment as a woman difficult in the Church. I would, above all, want them to understand that I do hear their concerns and where they're coming from," she said.

The ceremony combined centuries-old legal and religious traditions, marking Dame Sarah's transition from Bishop of London to Archbishop of Canterbury. Formerly England's chief nursing officer, she said she feels both the weight of responsibility and strong public support.

"There's a sense of the weight of office that I feel, but I've also been very conscious of the huge support that I've had from people either writing [to me] or passing me in the streets," she said.

Her appointment follows the resignation of Justin Welby amid criticism over safeguarding failures. Archbishop Sarah acknowledged scrutiny of her own record and reaffirmed her commitment to safeguarding reform.

"All of us should be open to having the light shone on what we do, and I recognise rightly that there is greater scrutiny on me and the actions that I have undertaken, and I reiterate my commitment to safeguarding. I also commit to ensuring that we have independence," she said.

Reflecting on her leadership style, Archbishop Sarah said: "There's an African proverb that says, 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together' and so my desire is to go far and together." **Premier Christian News**