



KIRKHAM METHODIST **CHURCH**



www.kirkhammethodist.org.uk

South Fylde Circuit—Lancashire District

Kirkham Churches Together



November—December 2019

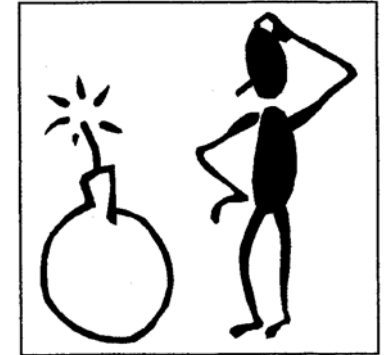
Dear Friends,

We are fast approaching the time of the year when family and friends descend on us in order that we might celebrate Christmas and all that it entails. When families that have been apart for the better part of the year are suddenly together under one roof tempers can get frayed very easily, and one thing leads to another. At times like this I often ask myself whether we really stop to think.

So here goes:-

Do you ever really wonder
About the angry things you say?
Could you try and make them better,
Or even turn and walk away?

When you are feeling cross and know it
Turn it over in your mind.
Try a different way to say it,
You don't have to be unkind



When you feel your temper rising
You should always be on your guard.
Keeping calm is not easy,
Being cross is not that hard.

When you really feel like shouting
Stop and count to ninety - two,
Then you'll have time to wonder,
Would you like it done to you?

As we approach advent, I would like to echo Jesus when, in answer to Peter's question how many times must I forgive my brother or sister? he replies not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven!

"Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven."

Continued over....

To truly forgive our friends and families seventy times seven we would need to keep count of each event. The truth is that very few people can do that. That aside I think our Lord was asking us to forgive regardless of how often we are hurt by the same person or by anyone and not keep count .

Advent is about the anticipation of our Lords Second Coming, so as we await His Coming let us try to honour Him and each other by forgiving each other and keeping anger at bay.

Have a Blessed Advent

A Glorious Christmas

A Peaceful and anger free Christmas

And a wonderful New Year

Shalom
Sylvester

A prayer for the people who died in the lorry found in Essex

A prayer from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

for unknown people who have died in a lorry
for unknown suffering to family and friends
we pray with heartbreak and sorrow

because

we know this should never happen
we know that behind the headlines there is an unheard story of despair
we know that we have overlooked things we should have seen
we know that as individuals and a society we need to change

for God's sake
bring us to our knees in contrition
and to our feet with outrage

Amen (Shared from Methodist.org.uk)



ADVENT
Four week study course
Details in this magazine

The Season of Advent



Live your faith

**Read, pray,
reflect and live your faith during Advent**
An Advent journey covering

- 1. From past to present, travelling hopefully**
- 2. Repent and bear good fruit**
- 3. Acknowledging doubt and despair**
- 4. Changing your mind**

Following on from the successful
'Talking Jesus' course we will be
holding a four week study over Advent:-

Sundays 6:00pm—7:00pm

24th Nov, 1st Dec, 8th Dec and 15th Dec

Feeding the ‘n’ thousand

Woodstock to me, was a village I’d passed through many times on the way to Reading, on the A44 in Oxfordshire; lush green meadowland, poppies in the cornfields, rolling, wooded hills passing Blenheim Palace, Winston Churchill’s ancestral home. But there’s another Woodstock I’d heard of vaguely, without much interest, as it was to do with a pop festival, and which seemed to carry some kind of mystique. Then, a few weeks ago I saw there was a programme on BBC 4 about this other Woodstock, so I switched on and was soon drawn in, not so much by the music in the background, but by the story which unfolded.

August 2019 was the 50th anniversary of an event which took place in the USA. Two young Americans with an enthusiasm for the music of their day, decided to quit their professional jobs and work to realise their vision of a large open-air gathering, over two or three days, where people could enjoy an arts and music experience in a relaxed and super-friendly environment. The organisers would provide the venue, book the artists, bands and singers (the best in the business) and arrange staging and sound systems. There would be space to park and camp and onsite facilities for feeding, washing, toilets, first aid, communications, and security and ticketing would be organised.

But where to stage it all? The organisers had contacts and settled on a site in the State of New York. Work began and at first it went well – site clearance, fencing, stage and sound preparations went ahead, acts booked, and tickets marketed. As the scheduled weekend drew near, however, there arose a massive setback – a change of mind on the part of the local community around the site, and the local council withdrew approval for the event. However, the organisers refused to give up and with the minimum of time available, managed to negotiate an alternative site at the opposite end of New York State – Woodstock. Preparations were transferred to this new site and work continued apace.

However, the grand idea was rapidly becoming grander and despite all this happening well before present day instant communication systems, people from near, far and farther learned of the event and began to descend on the area, driving, hitch-hiking, walking. The organisers had always recognised the difficulties of estimating, let alone controlling the likely response to their project, but it far exceeded their expectations. Facilities at the site

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were greatly stretched; approach roads were gridlocked; food ran out and was difficult to transport in; communication to the “outside world” was difficult, and the festival’s commentary and broadcasting service was use for contacts with festival-goers’ homes. Ticketing was abandoned and it became a free event. Policing was provided by a voluntary group calling themselves the “Peace Force” and the local community came to the rescue with meals and by opening up their homes.

The TV programme gave an impression of a huge, happy, innocent, friendly get-together of mainly young people, enjoying a programme not always able to keep to its planned schedule. Top-line performers had sometimes to take the least popular slots (Jimi Hendrix played at 9 am on Monday morning).

I don’t know to what extent this was a new concept at the end of the 1960s, whether it was the biggest of its day or since, or what precisely has made the name Woodstock legend. No doubt someone reading this will be able to tell me. Perhaps I should learn how to Google it! But it all seems so wholesome and idyllic. As to present-day festivals, they seem to me, never a participant, to be testament to the intention and ability of very large groups to get on in (very loud and muddy) peace and harmony with like-minded strangers.

Another thing - I can’t help thinking of that other account of the feeding of the five thousand, their needs being unexpectedly but miraculously met – but with a welcome tidying-up job at the end!

Eric Wolstenholme

Christians Against Poverty

Our new mission statement, which you can see at the front of this magazine, challenges us to be a *voice of and for hope by responding to the needs in our community*. The results of our Easter survey, indicated that financial difficulties was one of the greatest needs in Kirkham. Christians Against Poverty is an organisation that is experienced in working with vulnerable and desperate people to help sort out their debt problems. They work in partnership with churches to provide services such as Debt counselling, job clubs and dealing with addictions.

At our recent Church Council, it was agreed that we should partner with CAP to provide Life Skills courses which give people help and advice to enable them manage on a tight budget. CAP provide full training for the life skills manager and coaches and also supply all the course materials.

Gillian, Lisa and Lucinda have volunteered to be our manager and coaches and will attend CAP Head Office for training next month. For further information see www.capuk.org

The Methodist Church Kirkham



Minister:
Rev'd Sylvester Deigh
Tel: 01772 635858

Senior Steward:
Mrs Katharine Davies
Tel: 01772 684673

Website— www.kirkhammethodist.org.uk

Our Calling

Vision statement:

That every person has a relationship with God through Christ.

Mission statement:

To live as a people of **faith**, to share **God's love**, and to be a **voice of hope**.

Missional Goals:

To be a voice of and for hope by responding to the needs of our local community.

To encourage every person through the missional activities of our church to develop their relationship with God.

To encourage and enable every person to develop their faith through Christian interaction and the study of the bible.

The **Methodist** Church 

Join us this Christmas

Christmas services at your
local Methodist Church



www.methodist.org.uk Facebook | Twitter | YouTube | Instagram | Flickr | Google+

Dates for your Diary at Kirkham Methodist Church

- Chapel Anniversary—Sunday 1st December—10:30am
- Nativity Service and Church Christmas Party—Sunday 22nd December
- Christmas Carol Service—Wednesday 18th December—6:30pm
- Christmas Day Service—Wednesday 25th December 11:00am
- Joint service with Freckleton Methodist at Kirkham—
Sunday 29th December 10:30am
- KMC Covenant Service Sunday 19th January 2020—10:30am
- Education Sunday and All Age Worship—
Sunday 9th February 2020 10:30am

Help The Foxton Centre raise £50,000 to buy a house in Preston and sign up to the Big PNE Sleepout!

The night is approaching fast, one night under the stars to raise funds for such a good cause

If anyone can spare even a couple of quid it would be much appreciated!



On Friday 15th November, Preston North End will play host to an event with a difference with a sponsored stadium sleepout with the goal to raise enough money for The Foxton Centre to buy a house for rough sleepers in the city.

It all coincides with The Foxton Centre's 50th anniversary. As people are encouraged to get in their sleeping bag for the night and bed down at Deepdale to raise the funds needed.

The event will give an insight into what it's like to be a rough sleeper in Preston with just a piece of cardboard for comfort for the night whilst raising vital funds for the charity's housing scheme which helps to give the city's homeless somewhere safe and secure to live.

My Daughter Alex will be sleeping rough this night to help raise money for a good cause. If anyone would like to support her she has started a total giving page or you can pass on any donations to myself who will pass them across.

Many thanks for supporting such a worthwhile cause.

Go to :- <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/alexandracartwright/donate>

Flower Mission

Flowers Donated by

3rd Nov	—
10th Nov	Freda & Barry Hall
17th Nov	Doreen & David Bird
24th Nov	Gillian & Ian Womersley
1st Dec	McCondichie Family
8th Dec	Michael King
15th Dec	Irene Pugmire
22nd Dec	—
29th Dec	Karen Wolstenholme & Kath & Kevin Davies

Flowers Arranged by

Irene Pugmire
Gillian Womersley
Dominique
Lesley Nicholl
Karen Wolstenholme
Va Vatanimoto
Tima Tamaigelo
Wendy Pate
Diane McCrae

Donations received from:-

Helen & Peter Ball, Tamaigelo Family,
Vatanimoto Family.

Many thanks to everyone for their kind donations and also to the

Ladies who arrange the flowers in church week by week.

If you would like to donate or feel as though you could help by arranging the flowers in church then please see Lesley Nicholl.



Messy Church

At our October Messy Church we explored the theme 'God's Armour of Light' based on the passage from Ephesians 6: 10-20

Paul writes from his prison cell expressing his love of God, by showing that even in these circumstances one can still find inspiration. Paul does this through his writings, prayers and talking to the guards about God, therefore encouraging others to do the same.

Paul's advice comes also from his observations, his guard's armour and weapons also became an inspiration, this again relates to us, in that each of us can be filled with God's light and can challenge darkness when we meet it.

When putting on the armour of God, we too can feel confident when under attack and fearlessly proclaim the gospel of Christ to the world 'Let's get ready'

Our first activity was to build a prison cell which was led by Carolyn, and an enthusiastic Jack. Others joined in as they arrived, it proved to be a very popular activity and as you can see a very well constructed prison cell was born. This was to give those who ventured inside the feeling of being enclosed and isolated.

After a meal of chicken, rice and bread, followed by waffles and maple syrup, everyone was then ready to visit the four work stations.

Tasty Armour, Cross Helmets, Prayer Pots and Still Standing. Parents, Grandparents and children all enjoyed these craft activities relating to the theme.

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Gathering in church for our final act of worship led by Carolyn, the story was told by a screen video, we sang 'Our God is so big' and 'I may never march with the infantry' we said our prayers and thanked God for all he has so freely given us.

It was a lovely time of fellowship and learning together, and I would really like to thank all of you who support Messy Church and come together each session, to make it the success it has become. Over thirty parents and children are now coming along.

Christmas Messy Church is on Friday 20th December 5pm - 7pm we look forward to seeing you there.

Jennifer



Volunteers wanted!

One2One Listening are currently looking for volunteers to fill two positions. Preston's growing Listening Service is looking to expand into local churches and community hubs - would you like to be involved?

Secretary. An important position on the Management Board requiring communication skills and attendance at up to 4 evening meetings a year.

Publicity. A non-board role but required to grow our social media presence and answer any messages arising from these channels. Meeting attendance optional but regular monitoring and posting time required. Contact :- info@one2onelistening.org.uk

Volunteers wanted!

The **Olive Grove Community Coffee Shop** in Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston needs more volunteer staff to serve during the busy morning open hours.

Volunteers can work behind the scenes or at the counter, whatever they feel comfortable with. Have a chat with the Project Manager, Sarah Steele on 881851 or email olivegrovemanager@gmail.com if you are interested, even if available only once a week!

The cafe is a place where people meet and everyone is valued.



Methodist Women in Britain

We held a district half day event at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church on the 12th October. There is always a lovely welcome at the church and we started our day with drinks and biscuits provided by the ladies there.

Our invited speaker was Helen Noble

from Action for Children. This is the charity that our District President Jane Harper has chosen to raise money for during her two year term as President. Action for Children are celebrating being 150 years old and Helen gave us a potted history of the charity from its birth in 1869 when a Methodist Minister Thomas Bowman Stephenson started the work of NCH as it became known, until it changed its name in 2008 to what we now know it as Action for Children. (For more information go to Google)

There is indeed plenty of action with 552 projects / services around the UK helping 301,000 children, teenagers, careers and parents each year.

Action for Children have a staff of 5,000 and there are 2,000 volunteers all working together to provide the right care for the person or family in need.

Helen told us that the organisation do a lot of campaigning and lobbying of the government for better provision when children reach the age of 18 and having to leave the system of care. This would give them a better start and hopefully help to prevent them turning to crime. In Wales they have successfully campaigned to keep young people in care to the age 21 and have then set them up with an ISA of £200 to help them get started.

It was a very interesting talk and made us all much more aware of the work of Action for Children in the 21st century.

I'll end as Helen did by quoting a poem a twelve year old boy wrote who came in a very disturbed state of mind, to yet another foster family.

‘ My Sky changed from black to blue,
The day I came to live with you’

It's very heartwarming to know such work goes on around us, we do support Action for Children here at Kirkham, it is part of the Methodist Church, so if you would like a collecting box to take home and throw some loose change into, there are some in the church entrance to pick up, Ray Jones is the contact and will empty it for you when full.

As ever our MWiB events are poorly supported these days but both Ann, Gillian and myself enjoyed our morning at Bamber Bridge.

Jennifer

Used Postage Stamps

Please continue saving postage stamps for Huntington's Disease (HD) and pass onto Gillian Womersley.

This is a simple but effective fundraising activity.

(**Huntington's disease (HD)** is a neurodegenerative genetic disorder that affects muscle coordination and leads to cognitive decline and dementia. It typically becomes noticeable in middle age.)



Organ Fund

Just a reminder that Alessandra Durham is still collecting for the church organ fund. So any loose change would be very much appreciate.

LMG

The group met in October and we were looking forward very much to hearing all about Abbie Legg's great scouting jamboree adventures in America and Canada. Unfortunately Abbie took poorly that day and had to take to her bed. A very distraught Kristie rang to tell me, obviously I told her not to worry the main thing was that Abbie got well and we would be fine at our group.

In fact we were, and had a hurriedly put together Beetle Drive, which everyone enjoyed, there was lots of exclamations and laughter, chatting and drinking tea and coffee.

As it turned out there were a few of our regular ladies who couldn't make the meeting that night and were very disappointed to miss Abbie's talk, so hopefully for them they can come in the New Year on the rescheduled date.

Our next meeting is on the 4th November when Carolyn Hothersall is the speaker. 7.45pm in the coffee lounge, all ladies welcome.

Our following meeting is our Christmas Party, including a buffet and the traditional Candlelit Epilogue. Note we start at 7.30pm and the cost is £6

Jennifer

KIRKHAM METHODIST



**Our next Messy Church will be on
on Friday 20th December 2019 5-7pm
Tea Provided**

**Families welcome, all children need to be
accompanied by an adult
Mums & Dads,
Grannys & Grandads
Let's make it a family affair.**

***Please let us know if you are
coming for catering purposes.***

***Further information will be issued in the
Church Weekly notices nearer the date.
Contact Tel: 01772 499543***

325th Anniversary of the Foundation of The Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh 14th September 2019

I was surprised and delighted to receive an invitation to The Mary Erskine School's 325th Anniversary Celebrations, which was held at the **National Museum of Scotland** in Chambers Street, Edinburgh on 14th September 2019. This was combined with a tour of the National Museum itself and before we left, we visited "T Rex" on the ground floor! We were located in the Board and Bute Rooms within the Museum with lovely views of the Castle, where a delightful programme had been arranged and a constant Buffet available to all.

There was a fantastic **archive display** of materials and papers from the **Foundation** of The Mary Erskine School in the Old Town right up to **recent school publications**. A **guided walking tour** of the former sites of The Mary Erskine School, from its first home in the **Cowgate** to its last south-side home at Lauriston.

Mary Erskine was born in 1629 and died in 1708. She was a Scottish Businesswoman and Philanthropist who donated money to set up The Mary Erskine School – one of the oldest schools in the United Kingdom – which produces outstanding academic results. The 9 values which are instilled in its pupils are kindness, respect, commitment, enthusiasm, responsibility, grace, appreciation, confidence and integrity. I am very proud to have had the good fortune to be part of this wonderful establishment.

I remember joining the Kindergarten School in 1943, which was then housed at Ravelston. Such fond and happy memories of lifetime friendships made. My best friend and I joined on the same day, but sadly she died last year after 76 years' friendship. The Choir of the School now performs in the Edinburgh Tattoo and has done so for the past seven years.

Mary Erskine was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard. This is the same cemetery where the famous Greyfriars' Bobby guarded his master's grave when he died for 14 years. This faithful little dog was presented with a collar with the inscription "Greyfriars' Bobby from the Lord Provost 1867 licensed". This can be seen in the Museum. His master, John Gray, was a Nightwatchman in the Edinburgh Police Force. His faithful companion was a Skye Terrier called Bobby and they had trudged the old cobbled streets together. Many books for children have been written about him. This was a true story that I loved as a child and I frequently visited his statue on my way home from school – now a magnet for visitors from around the world.

Norma Sands