



KIRKHAM METHODIST CHURCH



www.kirkhammethodist.org.uk

Blackpool and South Fylde Circuit
Lancashire District



Spring 2023

The Methodist Church **Kirkham**



Minister:
Revd Stuart Wild
Tel: 01772 715134

Senior Steward:
Mrs Gillian Womersley

Website— www.kirkhammethodist.org.uk

Our Calling

Our Vision

That every person has a relationship with God through Christ.

Our Mission

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

Our Goals:

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.

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We aim to be a church that is inclusive to all.

Dear Friends,

"On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame."

Thus begins, probably, the most popular hymn not to make the cut for an official Methodist hymn book.

And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Every year in Pokagon Michigan Old Rugged Cross Day is celebrated because George Bennard was staying in the Methodist parsonage at Pokagon, Michigan when he finally perfected his song and wrote down the words and music. The event is commemorated on a large plaque near the church.

Bennard was born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1873 and spent his childhood in Iowa. His father was a tavern owner and later, a coal miner. When he was 22 he was converted through the evangelistic ministry of the Salvation Army in Canton, Iowa. This led to his ordination and commissioning as a travelling evangelist in 1898.

In 1910, stepping out in faith, Bennard resigned and began his own itinerant ministry. He traveled throughout the Midwest, holding revivals until his retirement in Reed City, Michigan, more than 30 years later.



Michigan, more than 30 years later.

Today, a twelve-foot high wooden cross stands on a roadside near Reed City, Michigan, honoring the composer.

On it are the words 'Old Rugged Cross.'



In the early years of his ministry Bennard had spent many hours praying for a full understanding of the Cross and its plan in Christianity. He later recalled, "I seemed to have a vision . . . I saw the Christ and the cross inseparable."

He traveled throughout the Midwest, holding revivals until his retirement in Reed City,

Continued over.....

To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share
**So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown**

May you have a blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter

Love
Rev Stuart Wild

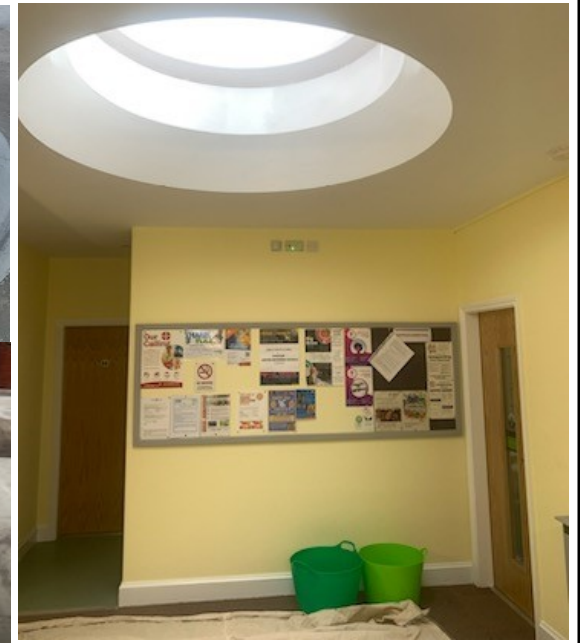
Church Building Project

At long last we have managed to get the final part of the Structural work completed on our Building Project.... Being the new DOME in the Crush Hall.

I think we have all been amazed at the difference this has made to the amount of light now entering the Crush Hall.

I have passed on our thanks to Dennis Parr construction for the excellent standard of finish to the whole project and also to Bill Janney for the work he has put into re-ecorating the Crush Hall.

I attached a few photos so that you can see the final result:-



Being an inclusive church

We have recently become part of the Inclusive Church network (statement below). They have a range of resources on their website to help us be as welcoming and inclusive as possible.

The whole of the Methodist Church is committed to being inclusive. There is lots of information here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/the-inclusive-methodist-church/>

It includes links to training if anyone would like to learn more about equality, diversity and inclusion, or unconscious bias. The training is mandatory for some people in the church but freely available for anyone who is interested. If you'd like to know more or have any questions, ask Kristie (who wrote it!).

For example, recently it was Celebrating neurodiversity week. This video from the Youth president is worth a watch: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/the-inclusive-methodist-church/disability/how-to-help-neurodivergent-people-in-church/>

More on the inclusive church network here: <https://www.inclusive-church.org/>

We believe in inclusive Church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on the grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

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.)



LMG

Our new year programme began in January with an evening of nibbles and chat, catching up after the busy Christmas season.

In February four of the Goup were attending the MWiB conference at the Glendower Hotel in St Anne's, for the rest of the group Linda offered to do a craft evening making cards, which was enjoyed very much.

In March our invited speaker was our own Ian McCondiche with a talk about the history of Methodism in Kirkham, we felt this was a good opportunity to open up our meeting to the church and yes, it proved to be, as others joined us to hear this very interesting history of the beginnings of Kirkham Methodist Church to present day. Especially interesting was the fact that Ian being a local lad had been a boy when our present church building was built and therefore was able to give a good account of the people involved in bringing it to fruition.

Ian's presentation included pictures of the original church on the present site to the church as we know it today, also lots of club day pictures of past and present members. A lovely evening, and grateful thanks to Ian for sharing all that knowledge.

Our next meeting is on Monday **3rd April 7.45pm** when Rev David Tidswell is with us, as it is the beginning of Holy Week we will gather for a service of Holy Communion. Please note our date for the **May** meeting, it is **Monday 15th** as the two bank holidays at the beginning of the month make it difficult to keep to our normal schedule.

Irene Pugmire is doing a craft evening, entitled Zen paper weights, for those wishing to participate the cost is £2 plus £1 subs as normal. **5th June AGM.**

Jennifer

The image is a screenshot of the easyfundraising website. At the top, the "easyfundraising" logo is on the left, and navigation links "How it works", "Find a cause", "Register a cause", "Register a business", "Log in", and "Sign up" are on the right. The main content area has a teal background. On the left, it says "Kirkham Methodist Church" with a location pin icon for "Kirkham, Preston". Below that, it shows "£1,728.87 raised" and "33 supporters". A yellow button says "Sign up and support this cause". On the right, there is a photo of the church building. Text next to the photo says: "Please consider supporting Kirkham Methodist Church through easyfundraising when purchasing items online at...". Below this, the URL "https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kirkhammethodistchurch/" is provided.

KIRKHAM METHODIST



**Our Easter Messy Church will be on
on Friday 31st March 2023 5-7pm
Theme—Easter and New Life
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*

The Methodist Church 
Kirkham

(Nelson Street—Next to Library)

Every Thursday
Take and Make

A food store where the groceries are Free!
Good quality surplus food from local supermarkets

**Open 1:30pm—3:30pm
(or until its all gone)**

Welcome Hub

**Do join us for Free Hot Drinks and a chat
Open from 1:15pm—3:30pm**

For further information go to:-
Kirkhammethodist.org.uk
or Tel:- 07927410240

In association with Wesley's Larder at
Church Road Methodist, St Annes.

Like the Methodist Church, MWiB are considering restructuring. There are currently 31 Trustees, who each represent one of the Districts, plus the 5 Executive Officers, and plus a World Day of Prayer representative. The proposal is to move from having a Trustee from each District, to having a

Trustee for 12 larger geographical areas, which will reduce the total number of Trustees and hopefully make it easier to recruit replacements. This proposal was agreed at the October Forum, but there are a few more details that need to be sorted before the proposal is ratified.

If the proposal is agreed, Lancashire will combine with Bolton and Rochdale. The Trustee for this area will attend more frequent meetings with the Executive to make decisions regarding the work of MWiB. Within the area several Ambassadors will be recruited to ensure good communication around the area.

Meanwhile, within our Lancashire District, the following events have taken place or are planned:

- **District half Day held at Kirkham Methodist Church on 22 October**

The District day was organised to give people a taste of the 14th World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women. We were introduced to the WF theme for the next 4 years which is based on the bible verse John 15:16 'Go and bear fruit – fruit that will last'. About 35 women came to the District Day. The Blackpool and South Fylde circuits have recently merged and it was lovely to welcome several ladies from Blackpool who have not previously been to any MWiB event. Kirkham Methodist Church were also proud to show off their new Welcome Hub (Kitchen and café area) serving drinks and homemade cakes at the end of the afternoon.

- **District Conference 6th and 7th February at Glendower Hotel Lytham St Annes**

The Theme is 'Let There Be' and our keynote speaker is Jude Sims, who is a writer, proofreader and editor. Jude has served the Methodist women's movement in various capacities, including Connexional president of Women's Network (2008/9), and most recently (2016-2021) as Communications Officer for MWiB. There are 28 residential attendees and a further 9 day visitors. The title is intriguing, but Jude's creativity suggests an imaginative and thought provoking time.

Continued over....

MWiB continued.....

'Voices in Harmony' MWiB Swanwick Weekend 14th to 16th April

Keynote Speaker Pam Rhodes. A weekend of faith, friendship and fellowship

Circuit Afternoon Strawberry Tea

a fundraiser for the President's District project of Medecins Sans Frontier. Details to be confirmed

Fortnightly Coffee Morning via Zoom

for further information please contact our District Secretary Jennifer Jones jennifer15bam@gmail.com

Easter Services

Palm Sunday—2nd April at Kirkham Methodist

10:30am led by Deacon Kim Gabbatiss

Good Friday Service—7th April at Kirkham Methodist.

10:00am led by Rev Stuart Wild

Easter Sunday—9th April at Kirkham Methodist

08:30am Early Morning Communion led by Rev Stuart Wild.

09:00am We share an Easter Breakfast together.

There is a list in the church porch please put your names on the list so that we know how many to cater for.

10:30am Easter Sunday worship—Local arrangement

A full list of services can be found at :-
<https://www.kirkhammethodist.org.uk/calendar>



Introducing.....KMC Youth Group!

We started back in January (2023) with a bit of fun & fellowship, exploring themes such as; Mental Health, Peer Pressure & Social Media (cyberbullying). These discussions included how faith (or if our faith) could assist with these themes.



MENTAL HEALTH

We looked at how our mental health (negative or positive), can be impacted by God, With Jesus' teachings on 'Love thy neighbour' & how we should treat others like how we want To be treated. We also looked at how the church is discussing how Christianity can

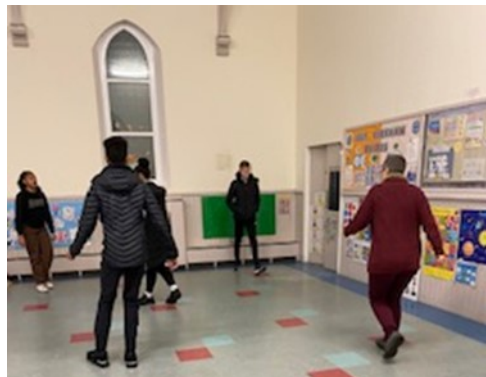
Help with Mental Health:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/mental-health-resources>

PEER PRESSURE

The next session was on Peer Pressure - how it can affect our daily lives and can our faith Help or impact how we say "NO". God teaches us that true friends would not pressure us to do something we don't want to do (1 Corinthians 15:33). We found some good websites

(<https://yfc.co.uk/thought/peerpressure/>)



KMC Youth Group.... continued

SOCIAL MEDIA

This month's (March 2023) session on social media platforms and the impact it has on our daily lives. We discussed cyberbullying and how it affects our outlook on life.

Does our faith help us with the pressures of social media? Jesus' parable on the good Samaritan helps us understand how our power (online & Offline) can be used to help those in need. To speak up, to advocate and to be a Role model. Also, we explored how it can be ok to be at odds with others who share the same faith, but like Paul the apostle (who had many disagreements with fellow members of the church), we should always say "Finally brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be good of comfort, be one of mind, live in peace and the God of Love and peace will be with you" (2 Corinthians 13:11).



We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has volunteered with setting up activities & sessions!



TAKE & MAKE PROJECT—Free food Table



The Take & Make free food table continues to run every week on a Thursday afternoon. We now have a core of regulars who visit every week and really appreciate the extra food which helps to supplement their strained budgets.

The food and other items come from the twice weekly pickup from Aldi @ Mill Farm through the charity Neighbourly, and the collection from Wesleys at Church Road. It means that we never know from one week to the next just what items we will be given. In the run up to Christmas we got boxes and boxes of mince pies from Aldi. They were obviously last year's stock which was coming up to its sell by date, but they were very popular with our clients. We get lots of broken chocolate eggs, bunnies and other speciality chocolate items; it is still chocolate and still very edible and always goes very quickly!

Through the free food table, we've built up some strong relationships with people who live around the church. Many now come into our warm hub, which has also proved very popular. We open the Church Welcome Hub and offer free hot drinks, free Wi-Fi and lots of chitchat. The warm croissant, which we offer if we have a glut on the food table, are very popular. As were the warm mince pies at Christmas!

This started as a 'Warm Welcome' initiative, following many people's concerns about the cost of running their home heating over the winter period. However, I believe that this should continue as the community engagement is invaluable. Recently we received a visit from Anna, our local Community Police Support Officer, and Jane, the Co-op community Champion. Both were very impressed and were keen to support us in whatever way they could.

Continued over.....

Our Take & Make project was set up with the support of Wesleys at Church Road and is a great way for Kirkham Methodist Church to give something to the community, and that aspect is regularly commented on by those visiting the free food table, and people obviously appreciate what we are offering. It has also been great seeing a number of the 'clients' joining us for some of our church services.



**Gillian Womersley
Take & Make
Leader**

FLOWER MISSION

Jennifer and Helen would like to thank everyone who have helped Sunday flowers to be so successful.

We have a team of 10 who, each week, display the flowers so beautifully, but if there is anyone who would like to join us please contact either Jennifer or Helen (don't worry there will not be an interview). It only means you joining our team and displaying flowers in Church once every few weeks.

If you would like to donate for flowers, maybe for a loved one's anniversary or a date that means something to you, all gifts would be greatly received and used for your particular date or as near to the date as possible.

Thank you to the following for your donations over the past few months:

Gillian & Ian Womersley, Katharine & Kevin Davies, Diane McCrae, David Bird, Chris Scragg, Wendy & Alan Pate, Ian & Hazel McCondichie, Irene Pugmire, Michael King, Barbara Milne, Karen Wolstenholme, Eric Wolstenholme, Linda Brown, Spinks Hairdressers, Jennifer Jones, Ann Heywood, Va Vantanimoto, Tima Tamaiqelo, Helen Ball

APRIL ROTA FOR FLOWERS

2nd April	Diane McCrae
9th April	Lesley Nicholl, Jennifer Jones & Helen Ball
16th April	Wendy Pate
23rd April	Karen Wolstenholme
30th April	Va Vantanimoto

Gift Day
Saturday 29th April **The Methodist Church**
10am—12noon KIRKHAM

Our Gift Day, your Christian giving

We are very fortunate at Kirkham Methodist Church that we have a fantastically generous congregation that has consistently risen to the challenge of keeping the church running, raising money for projects and special collections to support important causes around the world. As we approach our Gift Day which this year will take place on April 29th from 10 to 12.00, we would like to ask you to take this opportunity to think about your giving.

Previous gift days have helped us to fund things items such as a new electric organ when our original one, sadly, had to be decommissioned. They have also paid towards the building work which has resulted in our fabulous new Welcome Hub.

This year, we are conscious that the cost of living crisis is placing an ever-heavier burden on the church in terms of paying for energy, insurance premiums, maintenance work and so on. So, we would like to use any gifts this year to help us manage these challenges. This money can go even further if we claim any Gift Aid that is due on it. Where a donor pays tax, we can reclaim tax so that, say, £10 given is worth £12.50 to the church. We are required by HMRC to advise you that for your donations to be eligible for gift aid you must pay at least as much income tax and/or capital gains tax that all charities and/or community amateur sports clubs reclaim on your donations in the same tax year. If you need help in understanding this, please talk to Lucinda Baldwin. Gift Aid can also be claimed on money paid through the blue envelope scheme.

For those of you who already make regular contributions to our funds in cash we would like to remind you that you can contribute directly from your bank account to the church every month. The advantage to you is that you don't have to remember to have the right change available each Sunday morning. It also means that, as with the blue envelope scheme, the church can benefit from your giving even when you are unable to attend church in person.

We will be issuing an envelope which can be used on gift day. However, if you are unable to attend on the day please do still consider whether you are able to make a one-off donation. The envelope can be given to any of the church stewards or your pastoral visitor.

Continued over.....

For those of you who can drop in on Gift Day, we look forward to welcoming you in the Hub where we will be providing teas, coffees and cake. Meanwhile, if you would like any further information on Gift Aid, weekly offering envelopes or standing order contributions, please ask one of us or Gillian Womersley.

Stuart Wild—Minister
Katharine Davies—Senior Steward
Lucinda Baldwin—Church Treasurer

Kirkham Methodist Church
Gift Day
Saturday 29th April 10am—12noon



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