



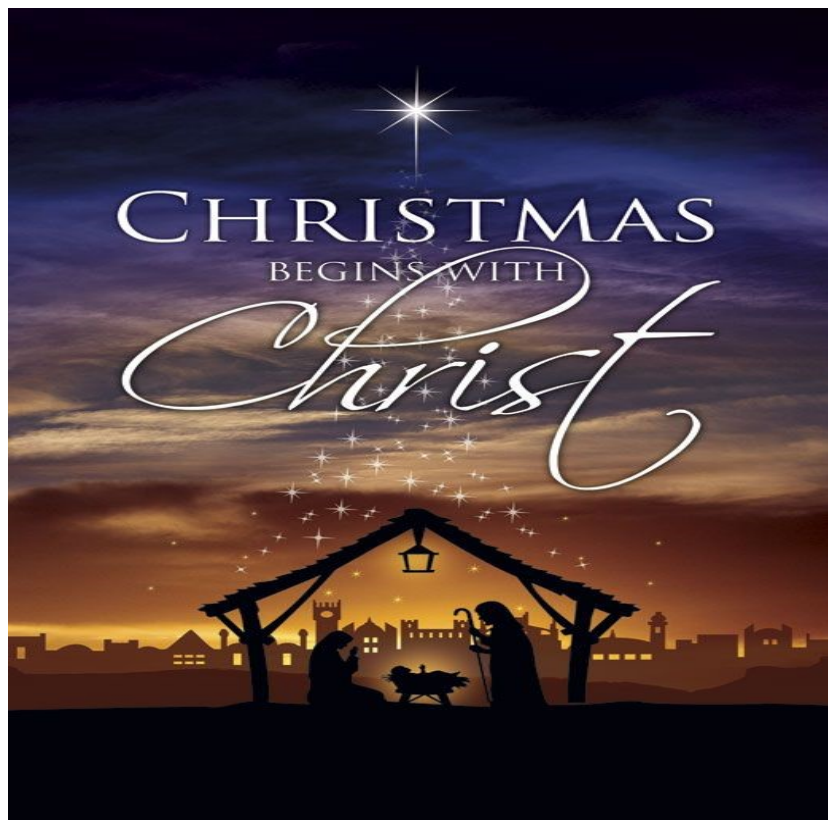
**KIRKHAM METHODIST
CHURCH**



www.kirkhammethodist.org.uk

South Fylde Circuit—Lancashire District

Kirkham Churches Together



December 2021

**The Methodist Church
Kirkham**



Minister:
Revd Stuart Wild
Tel: 01772 715134

Senior Steward:
Mrs Katharine Davies

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 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 .

Dear Friends,

A hymn that I always associate with Advent is “Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown.”

*Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity:*

In some hymn books it is listed as a Christmas hymn because the early verses speak of Jesus' birth

*Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth cam'st Thou, Lord, on earth,
And in great humility:*

But the hymn progresses into Jesus ministry

*The foxes found rest, and the birds had their nest
In the shade of the forest tree;
But Thy couch was the sod, O Thou Son of God,
In the deserts of Galilee:*

And even to the Cross

*Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word
That should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary:*

It concludes with the strong advent theme of Christ's coming in glory

*When heaven's arches shall ring, and her choirs shall sing
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me up, saying, "Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee!"*

It was written by Emily ES Elliott in a collection of poetry Chimes of Consecration in 1875. The niece of Charlotte Elliott who wrote the hymn Just as I am and the daughter of an Anglican clergyman, Emily Elliott was the editor of the Church Missionary Junior Instructor. What I particularly love about Thou didst leave thy throne is the refrain at the end of each verse (slightly varied after the final two verses) which so evidently comes from the heart of the author that its words cry out to be meant by those singing:

*oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for thee.*

Continued over.....

In the preface to her book in outlining its purpose Elliott writes of those, the consecrated path is shaded by bereavement, loneliness, suffering and prays that the music of heaven which she wrote of may herald the dawn which casts away the shadows for them. May this be our prayer this advent and Christmas that the hope which the birth of Jesus brings offer real hope to those who are struggling with pain, poverty and isolation so that 2022 begins with at the very least a glimmer of light in the January darkness.

God bless you
Stuart Wild

PS If you would like to hear a spine tingling version of the hymn by George Beverly Shea follow this link
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oTYRrblwaA>

God in Love Unites Us

Save the Date

Last year the report God in Love Unites Us was passed by the Methodist Conference. This means that it is now possible for same sex weddings to take place in Methodist churches. Whether this is allowed at Kirkham Methodist is a decision for the Church Council. To help in the decision making process there will be a meeting on 3 February at 7pm. This is an open meeting for discussion and no vote will be taken. However it will provide an opportunity to consider the implications.



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.)



Dates for your Diary

Sunday 5th December—Morning Worship—10.30am
Led by Mrs Christine Pierce (Local Preacher)

Sunday 12th December—Morning Worship—10:30am
Led by Rev David Tidswell

Thursday 16th December—Lancashire Sings Christmas
Details to follow—See Church Notices

Sunday 19th December—Nativity Service
Led by Rev Stuart Wild and Sunday School—10:30am
Followed by
Church Christmas Party

Monday 20th December—Carol Service at 6pm
Followed by Refreshments in Church Hall

Friday 24th December—Christingle Service at 4pm

Saturday 25th December—Christmas Morning Worship
Led by Rev. Stuart Wild at 11am

Sunday 26th December—Circuit Service at
The Drive Methodist Church, St Annes at 10:30am
(There will be no service at KMC)

Sunday 2nd January 2022—Morning Worship at KMC 10:30am
Led by Mr David Turner (Local Preacher)
This will be a joint service with friends from
Freckleton Methodist

We look forward to sharing this Special Calendar of events with everyone. Please check Church Notices and Website for updates.

ALLAN KENNETH SANDS MBE

At last (18 months later), we were able to hold a Memorial Service for Allan on Saturday 16th October 2021 at Kirkham Methodist Church. The Church was full and the Service was conducted beautifully by Rev. David Tidswell. Special thanks to him, David Yaxley on the organ and Ian Womersley for the loop photographs on the screen. Many thanks to others who contributed in some way. It was everything I could have wished for and was a wonderful celebration of Allan's life. A friend played the bagpipes outside the Church before and after the Service. He also started the Service with "Amazing Grace" and played "Highland Cathedral" in the middle. Kirsty read the poem "He is Gone". The Scout Leaders present all wore uniform; one of whom read the Reading – John 14: 1-6, 27. The hymns were "Lord of all Hopefulness, O Lord my God When I in Awesome Wonder and Eternal Father Strong to Save. Fittingly, the closing music was the "Dam Busters". Afterwards, a Reception was held at the Lightning Club at British Aerospace, due to Allan's connection there. We raised £675.00 in donations for "The Miles Frost Cardiomyopathy Fund".

The family and I were greatly comforted by this and most grateful for all the lovely messages, cards and support we have been shown at what has been a very difficult time. The Service was well worth the wait and we are most grateful.

Footnote:

2.5 million pounds has been raised for a "Remember Me" Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral, London at the inner portico of the North Transept. It is in remembrance of all those who have died from, or were affected by, Covid-19 in the United Kingdom – be they of any religion or none – headed by Prince Charles. The online Book of Remembrance will be in perpetuity and as Allan was born in Kensington his name has been added, so is most appropriate.



NEW ROOTS
NEW ROOTS

WELCOME ALL

New Roots

Another new initiative that started during lockdown is our work with Asylum seekers. Just before Christmas last year Kristie was put in touch with a young man from Eritrea called Amanuel. She soon realised, that there were lots of things that he needed help with but

wasn't sure how to do that. It very quickly became clear that there were many more asylum seekers living in the area and various people were in touch with them individually.

It seemed sensible to try and pool our resources and we were put in touch with a lady called Siobhan who was employed by Blackpool Volunteer Centre to work with Syrian refugees in the Fylde. She helped us to set up a 'drop in' group where the young men could come and talk to us and tell us what they needed. Revd. Stephen Heath accessed some funding for us and we were able to employ a translator so we could better understand the men's concerns. We've helped the men register with the doctors, taken them to the dentist, sorted out hospital visits and organised opticians appointments and arranged coronavirus vaccinations, as well as providing bedding, towels, warm winter coats and shoes. We've sourced mobile phones to enable them to keep in touch with their families back home and bicycles so they have a means of getting about.

Back in July we met up with a group from St Cuthbert's Church in Preston who are part of Preston's City of Sanctuary work with refugees and Asylum seekers. They encouraged us to start English conversation classes as obviously it is crucial that all those seeking asylum are able to communicate and fully understand English. Many of the men have been able to register at Preston College for ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) classes but these are only for one or two hours per week.

As asylum seekers, the men have no rights to seek employment and earn money. They are provided with accommodation – one room in a house with several others who may or may not speak the same language, and a small weekly allowance with which to buy food but there's not much spare for anything else. Many have been waiting well over twelve months hoping to be given leave to remain. It can be very lonely and demoralising. New Roots is our way of giving them some hope.

Gillian

Take and Make

It is now 12 months since we started the Take and Make free food table in partnership with Wesley's Larder at Church Road. The stall has been set up every week outside in the wind, the rain, the cold and the heat! We were fortunate to receive some funding from Methodist Women in Britain which we used to buy a gazebo which is much easier to erect and offers us some protection from the weather.



There are a group of about ten people who regularly come to the table. They are all appreciative of the extra food which really helps them. Because the stall is outside, it is accessible and no-one needs to feel uncomfortable. The food is free to anyone who needs it or can make use of it. We also encourage pre-school and school parents to take food they can use as otherwise it will be thrown away. We don't judge and each visitor is allowed to take what they choose.

Initially we were fortunate to be given a lot of fresh vegetables and so we made up small goody bags. These were easy to distribute and meant there was no congestion at the stall and less risk of catching or spreading Covid. Now we receive less quantity but more variety of food. We never know what we will have each week. It is surprising the amount of food we receive that is still well within its use-by date. There is a lot of food that is deemed waste and would normally end up in landfill.

Standing outside in all weathers, has been a really good exercise in mission. We've made some good connections with local people. Many are pleasantly surprised that Kirkham Methodist Church does this completely for free and just because we can see there is a need. Are you interested in helping? New volunteers are always welcome. Why not come down and see.

Every Thursday from 2pm.

Gillian



Sunday 21st December 2021

A great day of Celebration for Esther, Millie, Eva, Charlie, Kiti & Vuli on their Confirmation and becoming members of the Methodist Church at Kirkham.

So proud to see their journey through Sunday School.

Also such a joy to share Coffee and Cakes after morning worship with them and their families.





**Methodist Women
in Britain**

Lancashire District

Lancashire District were at last able to commission the new District President Julia Robinson in her home church at Hesketh Bank on the 23rd October.

Gillian, Kristie and myself were able to attend. Rev. Paul Davies welcomed everyone and concluding the Commissioning, led a Service of Holy Communion, a lovely afternoon with delicious sandwiches and cakes to follow.

Our annual district conference is going ahead in February 7/8th with Jill Baker being the key speaker. The title of the conference is 'Pilgrim Spirit' Jill is an excellent speaker and we are encouraging women in our church to attend this wonderful opportunity to hear her. Day Visitors are welcome, but an overnight stay is very good value, booking forms are available from me.

Jennifer Jones or on line jennifer15bam@gmail.com

Appointments from Church Council Meeting of October

Following an action from Leadership Team and via the Pastoral Committee a request went out to the church for help in various aspects of KMC church life.

From this request the following Appointments were agreed by the Church Council in October:-

Alessandra Durham—Church Council Secretary .

Bill Janney and Kristie Legg—Church Stewards (Part of Leadership Team)

Bill Janney also agreed to become part of the Church Property Committee.

Jennifer Jones and Helen Ball become the new flower secretaries.

Va Vatanimoto, Tima Tamiqelo and Marilyn Alger to become new members of the Sunday school team.

Lucinda Baldwin has agreed to become church treasurer (taking over from David Yaxley).

Irene Pugmire to become Action for Children secretary.

This is a very positive result so thanks to them and to all who continue to volunteer for various roles with the life of Kirkham Methodist Church.



LMG

Ladies Monday Group resumed meeting in September, instead of meeting at church we met at the cafe of Dunelm in Blackpool who kindly donate this area free of charge to groups from 5.30 - 7.30pm. It was very successful and we all enjoyed eating and catching up after such a long time.

In October we had in fact booked a speaker to come but decided to use the church rather than the coffee lounge as it was a larger more airy space. Maureen and Michael Hawksworth came along to give us an update on the charity they started and support in Nepal. Now a registered charity under the name LEARN Life changing Education for All in Rural Nepal. During the pandemic when unable to give talks and fund raise they produced gift vouchers which can help to fund education and school uniforms, literacy courses for various prices starting as little as £10. So if your stuck for a Christmas present visit their website at www.learnnepal.org.uk or enquiries@learnnepal.org.uk Also Maureen supports a women's group who make jewellery, so she was able to bring what stock she had to sell. This was their third visit to our group over a number of years and it's always an interesting evening. Thank you to all who came supported them.

Having enjoyed the facilities of the Dunelm cafe we returned in November for another lovely evening. Irene kindly organised a

Christmas craft workshop where after our tea we were encouraged

to decorate a Christmas card in whatever media (paint, crayon, felt tip) we were happy with as you can see it was a very industrious evening and very much enjoyed by all.

Our thanks go to Irene and David (for transporting) all her equipment.

In December we will hold our Christmas Party a little differently as we will again use the church and it will be a finger buffet plus our traditional Candlelit Epilogue.

