



## Welcome to Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit Good News!

July 2018

# Bedford Events

Once again we had a very successful **MESSY CHURCH** on Wednesday 21st March, the theme for this session being **EASTER**.

Children and their families gathered in the Community Hall after school and started the afternoon with various craft activities. There was a great 'buzz' in the hall as the children got stuck into making Easter Gardens, Huge Daffodils, Creative Crosses with beads and ribbons, colouring an Easter story book to take home, and a hand painted banner depicting the events of Holy Week, which has been displayed in church. After a short time they left their activities in the hall for a God spot in church which was led by Rev Vivienne and Catherine, our Schools Chaplain. Then it was back into the hall for a hot meal of spaghetti bolognese, garlic bread, cakes and a drink which the grownups and children seemed to enjoy.



When all the clearing up was done, it was time for the team of volunteers to sit together and share in a meal, thanking God for bringing the children and families in to Bedford to share God's love and explore and demonstrate together ways of discovering Jesus.

There is a lot of work involved, not only on the day but with preparations and planning and it was great to have some new faces joining us as volunteers for which we are grateful. It's a very rewarding, worthwhile and enjoyable time!

## Church & Sunday School Anniversary

Sunday 20th May



What a wonderful occasion!

It was actually the 234th Anniversary and was even more special because we were also able to celebrate the fact that we have been in our current building for 30 years. Where has the time gone?!

It was a beautiful morning and it was great that our own Minister, Rev Vivienne, was able to lead this act of worship and thanks. We started off by saying why we thought Bedford was great and what it meant to us to be a part of this church— and there are lots of reasons.

The singing was amazing, and we were blessed by the fact that our Ladies' Choir had a major part to play. The organ/piano duet rendition of 'And Can it Be' was also particularly appropriate as it was also Aldersgate Sunday and John Wesley is how we all began! Vera Nelson summed up the thoughts of many of us in acknowledging all the hard work from a lot of people in getting us to this wonderful place of worship we have today.

Being Methodists, we had to end the celebrations with food. What a wonderful lunch! And that cake! Thanks to Vera for making it.



Our eldest member at Bedford, Irene McIntyre, cut the cake and thanks was given to everyone who helped in any way at all for making this a fantastic day.

We really appreciate the fact that Rev Paul Martin came later to join in the celebrations after leading worship in Bolton. It was great to see him.

**All in all....IT WAS GREAT... and  
WE LOVE BEDFORD!**



# Wigan Road News

We recently held two baptisms when the church was full to the doors. The service was conducted by the Rev Andrew and was very much appreciated by all concerned.



In May we had one of our regular Domino evenings which was enjoyed by all.

On 21st July we be having a Summer Tea with a speaker from Guide Dogs for the blind and part of the money raised will be donated to that organisation. This follows on from a visit to the headquarters at Atherton by a group of people from the church.

# Atherton Central

Atherton Central has finally achieved its twin goal of having both a new boiler fitted and a completely new floor covering throughout most of the building. This has been achieved through much fundraising, individual kindness and generosity from a number of people and successful grant applications. The church has had a face lift (but there is still much to do be done!) and our building is now so much more welcoming.

Our Strawberry Fayre this year surpassed all expectations with more than 100 folk passing through our doors. There was a wonderful atmosphere and the vintage and classic cars added another dimension.



Three other recent events were also very successful – our annual “Good as New Sale”, a local community choir event with “All Singers Great and Small” and a church outing to Llandudno were all extremely well supported and warmly received – a good time was had by all!

# Kingsleigh's May Market & Gift Day

What a great weekend for Kingsleigh!

Our Annual May Market and Gift Day was held on Saturday 12th May.



The sun shone, stalls were on the lawn, plenty to buy (and eat!) and it was lovely to see so many friends supporting this event. Thank you to those who came from other churches in the area and the circuit. We hope you enjoyed yourselves! We had also invited groups who use the Community Centre during the week and were pleased to hear how well they had done for their particular group and charity. We hope even more of the groups will join us next year. The following day was our Youth Service taken by Rev Luke Smith. This was also an occasion to recognise the Long Service Awards of our Brownie Guiders and to say thank you to our Guide Guiders who have had to close the unit due to low numbers.



Refreshments followed the service and again we were pleased to welcome many friends who had been involved with both the Brownies and Guides through the years. Certainly a weekend to remember with fun, laughter and fellowship!

# Astley & Tyldesley

In late April, some of our church members enjoyed a retreat weekend away in Llandudno. Friday evening was spent relaxing after the journey, meeting together for prayers at 9pm. Saturday was our main 'working' session and after a brief period of worship we began to examine the strengths and weaknesses of our church. Everyone thought the discussions had been worthwhile. On Sunday morning we all went to St. John's Church and enjoyed a good service led by a local preacher. It was felt that such events can only have a very positive effect on our church.

In May, church members and friends enjoyed a day trip to Shrewsbury. A town tour guide, who was very knowledgeable, told us some amusing accounts of this lovely town whilst pointing out places of interest. This was followed by a cruise on the River Severn. Tea and biscuits were enjoyed whilst taking in riverside views and listening to a commentary from the captain.



The Pet Service in June was a great success. People were invited to bring their pets to this special café style service. Pets included dogs, cats, hamsters and chickens! All pets were blessed and those who didn't have a pet, brought a favourite cuddly toy. A talk from a lady working with a local greyhound rescue group proved informative. After a very enjoyable service, refreshments were served to all animals and humans!

Monthly coffee mornings are still proving very popular and a donation of £50 is given to a chosen charity from profits made. Recent recipients have been Methodist Relief Fund, Leigh Homeless Support Group and Westleigh Junior School following the recent fire, the money being used for prayer and reflection spaces.

We continued our outreach in the community by serving a Strawberry Tea on June 30th. There were a variety of stalls selling cakes, jams, plants and home-made cards etc. Music of yesteryear was played whilst enjoying scones with jam, cream and strawberries – and tea of course, all served by church members.

## 70th ANNIVERSARY



It's worth mentioning that that two members of A&T are going to be celebrating their Platinum Wedding Anniversary (that's 70 years!) this month. Congratulations Eric and Hilda Holiday! Such a momentous occasion shouldn't be overlooked - there can't be many couples who reach this anniversary!

*Happy Anniversary!*

## Bag Lane

Own Arrangements are proving really popular – we invited families of those children who were baptised at Bag Lane to join us at an Own Arrangement and we had an overwhelming response!

We told bible stories, the little ones marched around church with instruments and we had one that involved sermons "Jesus loves everybody".

Children even came back to church in the afternoon, with two children attending our "Songs of Praise" in the evening! We really felt inspired...

Our Walking Day was very well participated in. The band was wonderful and intermittently, children sang "salty songs". An extremely uplifting day!



## Good News From St John's

We have a new group meeting on a Friday evening calling themselves Unite.

They consist of families meeting together for fun and games, crafts and food. They finish their evening with a short devotional.

Churches together in Hindley choir meet every Wednesday evening in our church and we have an evening of fun and very rich fellowship, as we prepare to perform the Roger Jones Musical "Angel Voices" in the near future along with "The Gift and Rumours of Angels" from Graham Kendrick at Christmas.

The coffee mornings have finished now until Sept, but they have been well attended and meet a need in the community and are a blessing to both the customers and staff. We have had baptisms of church family members recently, and a marriage blessing - a joy for us all to join with the families in their special days! We have seen new faces joining us for worship and that is always good news.

Our toddler group is flourishing and we are getting on with some much needed updating of our refurbishment programme in the schoolroom.

## Events at Glazebury

### Men's Breakfast

On the last Saturday of every month a growing number of local men meet to share breakfast and listen to an invited speaker. Topics have varied from local history to music and charities. Organiser Janet Crozier reports that speakers are now volunteering to take part.

### Rob Bell

Ten people are booked to attend the Theatre Royal in St Helens on 6th July to hear the American evangelist Rob Bell.

They have been meeting regularly to discuss his Noona videos and felt it was a great chance to to see him in person on his UK tour.

### Annual Church Camp

At the end of July a group of regular campers will spend the week in Silverdale. Many years ago there were around 50 campers but now numbers are down to 15. It is a good opportunity for grandparents and grandchildren to spend special time together.

## Hindley Green Events

We have a Coffee morning on alternate Thursdays which is attended regularly by about a dozen friends and members. However, we are blessed to have three or four children brought by pastoral staff and a parent from Westleigh Methodist School, to each coffee morning during term time. They are shown around the church and then join us for cheese on toast!

The children are a delight and bring a new dimension to conversation. This experience is a great blessing to us and is much valued by the school. We have had a new family worshipping with us for several months and will formally welcome two of them into membership by transfer on the 8th July.

## Forthcoming Events

### Astley/Tyldesley

Saturday 30th June - **Table Top Sale**

9.00am – 1.00pm Free entry and Refreshments available. Please support us!

Monday 23rd July - **Afternoon Tea**

From 2pm with guest Speaker Stephen Sanders, guitarist / vocalist, - Gerry Sandon with music from the 60's.

Admission by ticket only in advance (£7.00) from 07811 050537 or 07803 627676

Sat/Sun 11th/12th Aug - **Atherton Art Weekend.**

An exhibition of work by our local art group. Saturday from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Admission free. Refreshments available. Special service on Sunday at 10.00am led by Rev. Sue Whitehead when we welcome the art group members.

Sat 22nd September - "**Last Night of the Proms**" 7.30pm with Coppull & Standish Brass Band.

Tickets - Please contact 07803 627676

### Bag Lane

Saturday 28th July - **Flower Weekend** from 2pm followed by Strawberry Tea & entertainment at 4pm

Sunday 9th Sept - **Circuit Picnic** at Bedford commencing at 3pm followed by the "Big Sing" at 4.30pm. All welcome!

16th September - **Harvest**

29th/30th Sept - **Circuit Weekend** at Kingsleigh led by Roger Preece 10am til 4pm on the Saturday with a circuit service on the Sunday morning. Looking at the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" by Robert Schnase...Over the past 10 years thousands of church leaders have successfully transformed congregations with principles from the original five practices: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk Taking Mission and Service, Extravagant Generosity. However, much has changed in the world and the church. Leaders have discovered new ways to implement the five practices in settings that were not imagined and we are looking at trying to use these ideas in the Leigh and Hindley Circuit.