

Welcome to Leigh and Hindley

Methodist Circuit Good News!

October 2019

Astley and Tyldesley Methodist Church

On Saturday 29th June we joined together for a Strawberry Tea. This included a variety of stalls and was very well attended. The event raised £320 for church funds.



Robert Schnase is Bishop of the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church in the USA and the author of the bestselling “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations”. At our weekend in Llandudno we studied his approach and reached our own conclusions as to the way forward. On Saturday 14th July we shared our thoughts with the whole congregation and asked for their views on

the future of our church. A buffet concluded the morning.

We welcomed Olwen Baker at our celebrations for our Church Anniversary. The service was followed by lunch.

Following our circuit away weekend in 2018, we had a follow up conference and lunch on Saturday 13th July. This was led by Rev Sue Whitehead and looked at how we can take forward the ideas from Robert Schnase’ book, “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.” Thirty five people attended and there were wide ranging discussions in the groups, focusing mainly on worship and outreach. As a result two groups have been set up, a planning group to look at how to take the ideas forward and a worship group, looking specifically at new approaches to worship. As a result, the first of our morning cafe services will take place on 27th October.



Our monthly Bible Study continues to flourish. It is held on Mondays from 10-12 and attracts up to 20 people. We have just concluded an inspiring study of The Acts of the Apostles and are embarking on another of the York courses for Advent, entitled, “So what are you waiting for?” Anybody from across the circuit is welcome to join us. Contact Alan, Sue or Neil for more information. Recently Rev

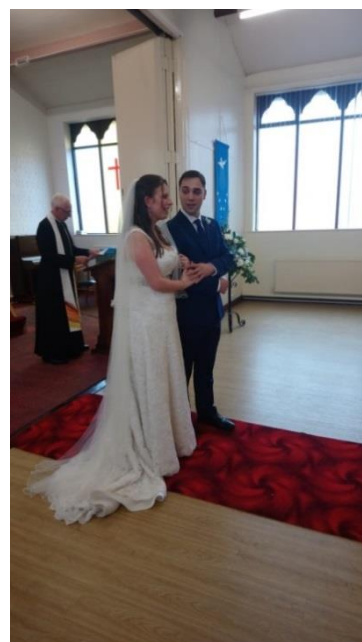
Len & Rev Sue have met to talk about re –establishing our ecumenical links in Tyldesley and particularly with St George’s. Len has met with Rev Martin, the Vicar and on Len’s return from sabbatical, he and Sue will meet with Martin again to look at how the links can be developed.

Atherton Central News

Our events during April, May and June were sell outs and I am delighted to say that our Strawberry Fayre wasn't hampered by the strange summer weather!!

During our supper club which we called a "Lancashire Night" we enjoyed homemade Manchester tart which was well received as we have a very good cook in our midst and know how fortunate we are. Our Easter breakfast and service were led by Rev John and Susan Fisher and Abigail was making herself very useful along with mum Nicola. what a delightful breakfast together followed by a lovely service, worship and fellowship, Thank you all. We held a very successful Afternoon tea in July

August we enjoyed celebrating a wedding of a member of our church, what a privilege to share such a special event.



Wigan Road News

Work on the 'garden project' at Wigan Road is moving along and there is fruit on the trees.

We recently were given a grant of £2100 from Brighter Boroughs towards the work and Councillors Susan Greensmith and Dane Anderton came to the church for a photo shoot with the 'workers'. This means that along with the grant from the Circuit we can now purchase the more expensive items needed and work should progress more quickly.

Wigan Road have an Indoor Bowling Club and have recently purchased a new mat. Being new they found it difficult to handle but thanks to a grant from Age UK they have been able to buy a handling unit which makes life much easier. Susan and Steve received the grant at a presentation at Leigh Miners' along with other organisations within the community.

'Good News' from Catherine, former School Chaplain

We are blessed to have two Methodist Primary Schools in our Circuit. Over the past few months, both schools have received recognition in different ways for the remarkable educational, social and nurturing environments they provide.

On Thursday 9th May, Bedford Hall was inspected by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) which focusses on assessing the effectiveness of the school's distinctive Christian vision in enabling pupils and adults to flourish. The report was published after half-term and the school has been awarded 'Excellent' - a tribute to the hard work of all staff and the senior leadership team as well as a reflection of the strong links school has with members of Bedford Methodist Church. Soon after the news from Bedford, it was announced on 19th June that Westleigh Methodist has been chosen as one of five schools from around the country to receive 'Silver' - Primary School of the Year, Pearson Teaching Awards 2019. A number of the stories heard by the judges demonstrated the support given by Hindley Green Methodist and our Circuit to individual families in crisis as well as support shown by the wider community following the fire at school in March 2018.

The 'Gold' winner from the five shortlisted schools will be announced in October at a televised ceremony in London. Watch this space!





Kingsleigh Events

Trip to Llandudno

Saturday 22nd June - What a super sunny Saturday , making our day just great!

We arrived in Llandudno at 11 am and everyone dispersed to go either shopping, walking around, doing a more energetic planned walk, or just sitting on the promenade to enjoy the sun. Late afternoon we arrived at Maenan Abbey Hotel, Llanrwst, for a superb meal. This was

certainly a very successful ecumenical trip with friends from our fellow Methodist Churches along with other local Churches in Leigh. We enjoyed good company, plenty of laughter and much chattering. We arrived home with happy memories and thankfulness for such a lovely day.

The annual May Market at Kingsleigh was the best ever – everything depends on the weather! This year we were lucky and although there was a cold wind, several people had their stalls on the lawn at the front. There were more stalls than usual and certainly more members of the Community came. The soup and sandwiches in the Community Centre were as usual a roaring success. Everyone agrees the quality of the plants is exceptional and being able to pre-order makes life easier for Julia and Barbara. Let's hope next year the sun shines !

Bedford Events

Bedford celebrated its 235th Church and Sunday School Anniversary in May, led by Revd Vivienne. As we reminisced on anniversaries gone by when the old Bedford Methodist Church on Chapel Street was full to the rafters on each of the three services, we were reminded at how far we had come and how the Spirit is still moving amongst us today, albeit fewer in number. Our celebrations continued as we shared lunch together and enjoyed a time of fellowship and shared memories.

Our young people aged 7-11 continue to meet every other Friday evening at Shell Group with a range of fun activities, a God spot and on occasion a guest speaker. They were recently visited by a lady with a 'hearing dog' which they enjoyed very much. Work is in progress seeking to employ a youth worker to work with older children who show an interest and who, at the moment, come along to assist as junior helpers. Our 'SMILE' family event once a month on Sunday at 3pm continued with bible stories, games, crafts and lots more – finishing with jelly and ice cream! We are currently having a break to reflect and plan for future services. This is open to anyone who wishes to come along, not just Bedford folk, so spread the word. Dates will be listed in the Preaching Plan. During the summer months we have been gathering for a different form of worship once a month on a Sunday evening. This has become popular as we spend time in prayer and hymn singing and spend some reflective time sharing our thoughts over a bible passage or on any recent event or topic. Our relationship with our school is flourishing both practically and spiritually and we have been delighted to share their good news of an EXCELLENT result from the recent SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection.

Harvest was once again a special time with the preparations and thanksgiving service. We started our celebrations with the prayer corner in the church porch when children from school came along to prepare the display. They thought about those things they were thankful for and we said a short prayer of thanks at the end. Then followed our Harvest Messy church with the usual craft activities and God time ending with a hot meal for all. On Harvest Thanksgiving Day we started with sharing breakfast together before our service led by Revd Vivienne with singing by the Ladies' Choir. We were pleased to welcome some of our brownies to our morning worship.



On 20 September we enjoyed a concert given by Simeon Wood, an amazing musical instrumentalist. Apart from being a very talented musician, he kept us all entertained with his humorous anecdotes and experiences during his career. He had also given a concert in the afternoon to the children in school who were fascinated with his performance.

Bedford was once again delighted to host the Circuit Big Sing and the time of fellowship with the 'picnic' afterwards. There's nothing like being prepared for Christmas! What a great afternoon it was with the Salvation Army Band accompanying us. I am sure we will all look forward to the CDs.

AMPLEFORTH – FRIDAY 28th to 30th JUNE 2019

Four cars and occupants – there was 13 from Leigh and Hindley Circuit - set off, at different times, in happy anticipation of their week-end at Ampleforth Abbey. Three cars arrived without incident, however the fourth car was involved in an unforeseen and dangerous drama with the driver, Joyce, emerging as the Heroine of Sutton Bank – the details of which would take up the whole of the Circuit Newsletter !!

Ampleforth is huge with Abbey, school (although quite separate) and extensive grounds, but the overall atmosphere is one of quiet and unworldliness, which had a calming effect on everyone.

The group, who had arrived, met for refreshments with a welcome and introduction by Father Christopher, who was friendly and informative about facilities available. Vespers were at 6.00 p.m. in the Abbey followed by a substantial supper and everyone went to Compline (which was now referred to as Complan) at 8.15 p.m. Before the main services bells *boomed* out for 10 minutes, quieter bells rang for shorter services. Quiet was encouraged from 10.30 p.m. and as bedrooms were very comfortable, most of the group were ready for a good night's sleep.

Saturday – Matins at 6.00 a.m. followed by Lauds 7.30 a.m. There was an extensive breakfast at 8.00 a.m. and Little Hour at 8.45 a.m. with some of the services in Latin. At 10.15 a.m. there was a session on Benedictine Spirituality by Father Paul. Everyone attended and were delighted as he proved to be extremely funny and bore no resemblance to the austere monk who was first seen at the previous services. Father Paul gave the history of Ampleforth and the Benedictine Order with enthusiasm and humour which was captivating. After coffee there was a session by Vivienne on the theme of Grace. Another service in the Abbey and then lunch !

Saturday afternoon was scheduled as 'free time' however everyone agreed we should ask Father Paul for a tour of the Abbey – which proved every bit as entertaining and informative as his previous talk. Vivienne showed us round the Crypt as she had been to Ampleforth several times. Refreshments then Vespers at 6.00 p.m. Supper at 6.30 p.m. followed by Evening Reflection and 'Complan' at 8.15 p.m. There was now a chance for the group to relax together with nibbles etc.

Sunday – a repeat of the services on Saturday with breakfast at 8.30 a.m. The group joined Vivienne for a session at 9.30 a.m. and then Mass and Holy Communion at 11.00 a.m. in the Abbey with members of the general public also attending. The Monks were in white robes, quite different from the black habits their usual garb. The Abbot conducted the service which was very affecting, with an air of reverence and a great deal of incense. There were three hymns and we Methodists thoroughly enjoyed the final hymn 'For all the Saints'.

Following the hour long service everyone was invited to join the Monks for coffee, they had reverted to their black habits and chatted happily to



everyone. Vivienne conducted Holy Communion, in the lounge, as the group had not taken Holy Communion during Mass but had received a blessing from the Abbot. Roast dinner at 1.15 p.m. The group then began to disperse - the Heroine of Sutton Bank had to remain, with Maureen, till Monday to collect her car with new clutch ! Everyone agreed that Ampleforth had been a wonderful experience, friendships had been made and strengthened, and all hoped the overall calming effect of Ampleforth could be carried forward into the busy week ahead.

A repeat of the visit in 2020 is already being discussed!

Glazebury News

On 14th June members from both Glazebury and Culcheth Methodist Churches went away for a wonderful weekend at Abbot Hall in Grange. This year's theme was "Pilgrimage", where we looked at where people go, why, how we would prepare ourselves and what we would take. Then Rev Andrew Bradley gave an update on his sabbatical/retreat and how valuable it is to take time to be alone with God and actually listen to what he is trying to say to us.

On 20th July Glazebury church plus others went away for a week in static vans and tents at Silverdale. These events plus the regular dominoes & scrabble, quiz nights, men's breakfast, film nights, Saturday lunch club, craft evening, treasure hunts and breakfast church are always well attended but everybody is welcome to join us.

Fresh Expressions - please pray for a new exciting venture that David Clifton has proposed called Fresh Expressions and is to be based at Glazebury and which, although still in its early stages of development, has the backing from church leaders inside and outside the circuit. Possibly to be held on Sunday afternoons, it is looking to encourage new people to try worshipping in a "cafe style" setting that would include food, a fellowship band playing new lively music/hymns/songs, possibly a testimony and short message. This would then be supported with a web site and social media, daily Bible studies plus daily prayers, life/group classes to discuss the previous Sunday's Bible passage.

Quiz Night 3 August 2019

On Saturday 3rd August we held our third Quiz Night at Glazebury. We hold them every six months. We make a point of not charging an admission fee so we are open to anyone who may not be fortunate enough to afford to pay. We offered light refreshments and a raffle. From the raffle and donations we were able to give the Church £47 after expenses. This shows that God will provide if we only trust him. There were nine teams taking part and a total of 33 people attended. The winning team was "The Quizzicles" comprising Glenys and Graham Borg with their neighbours Maureen and Anna. A good time was had by all and we are looking forward to the next one which is planned for 8th February 2020.

Mens Breakfast

Nearly two years ago the Church Leadership decided that it would be a good idea to offer something for the men of our community who may be lonely or looking for some type of interest or interaction with other people. A men's breakfast was organised where a basic breakfast would be available and a speaker on a topic of interest offered. Timings were on the last Saturday of each month breakfast at 9.30am then the speaker from 10.00am to around 11.00am. To date we have had presentations on The History of the Moss, Jazz, the Shoulder to Soldier Charity, the History of Bents, Blacksmithing by Keith Sharratt our local blacksmith, Atherton and Leigh foodbank and night shelter, the Panama Canal, Prison Fellowship, Glazebury Community Garden, Glazebury Cricket Club, Tommy Thompson on road haulage, from the local Scooter Club, Bedford, Bunyon and Me, Restoration, historic cars

and Model Aircraft. On a couple of occasions, between Christmas and New Year and near Bank Holidays, we have just had breakfast and a chat to preserve the momentum for everyone who looks forward to the monthly meeting. We have welcomed men from local Churches in Glazebury and Culcheth together with others who have no connections with any faith organisation to our breakfasts. All men are very welcome to join us, there is no barrier whatsoever to any man who wishes to attend. We will welcome any men who just want to turn up and enjoy the breakfast, speakers and fellowship.

Forthcoming Events:

Astley / Tyldesley On Saturday 26th October at 7pm, Phil and Glyn, (aka GRAM will entertain with an evening of music, reminiscing and laughs. Tickets are priced at £6 and will include a supper. We will be supporting The Parkinson Society with the profits from this event.

Saturday 30th November at 7.30pm Astley Unlimited Brass Band will entertain. Tickets priced at £5. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday 15th December at 3pm is our Christingle service. All welcome – especially children. There will be themed refreshments.

There will be a Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December at 6pm. Come and enjoy singing carols with mince pies to follow.

Atherton Central The 40s night event is now finalised PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE to Friday 25th October. Please call 07593856470 for more details and tickets are £7 each. This is proving very popular and includes two acts with songs from the era.

November commences with our Tinsel and Turkey shopper on 2nd November 11am to 3pm. Many Christmas stalls and refreshments, please come along.

Thursday 13th November coffee 9.30 to 12noon

Wednesday 20th November we are holding a supper club with All Singers Great and Small. Info and tickets from 07539 852470

Thursday 28th November coffee morning 9.30 to 12noon

Wednesday 11th December we will host a Christmas concert with singers from Bolton. Please call 07803 627676 for tickets.

Thursday 12th December - festive coffee morning 9.30 to 12noon

We finally prepare for Christmas with our Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December at 6pm

Bedford Friday 18th October – Family Beetle Drive 7.30pm. All welcome

Wednesday 23rd October 10am til 3pm a talk by Sandra Goodwin (former President of MWiB). Stalls including books, jewellery, Fair Trade. All welcome. Please bring a packed lunch.

Saturday 26th October 7.30pm Three Towns Operatic Society in concert. Price £6 (Tel 01942 676538)

Saturday 23rd November 2pm Christmas Fair

Saturday 7th December 9.30am-11am. Breakfast with Santa Price £1 which includes breakfast and a gift for the children.

Saturday 23rd November - Christmas Fayre 2pm

Kingsleigh Christmas Market on Saturday 9 November 2019 in Church 10.00 am until 2.30 pm. Lots of stalls. Refreshments all day in the Community Centre and lunches 12 noon until 2.00 pm. Free admission and all very welcome.

"Angel Festival and Coffee Morning Extravaganza" at Kingsleigh

on Saturday 7th December 10am til 2pm

Wigan Road Domino Evening on Saturday 2nd November at 7pm. £4 entry including light refreshments and prizes

Articles for the July issue of the newsletter to be submitted no later than Monday 23rd December please – thankyou.

