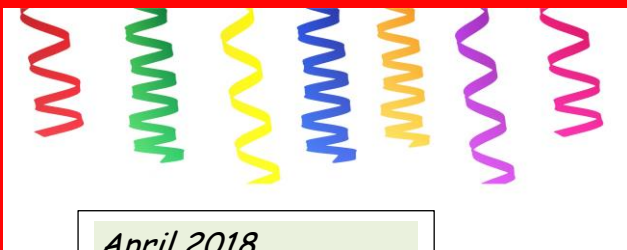


Welcome to the Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit Good News Sheet!



April 2018

Kingsleigh Methodist Church



Neighbour Leigh news

December 2017

The 'Angel of the News' proves a 'write' winner!



When Jan Eckersley was searching for celestial inspiration for her submission for the Angel Festival competition run by Kingsleigh Methodist Church, she found it in her local herald of good tidings... The Leigh Journal.

Using old copies of the paper and lashings of PVA, Jan created an angel in life-size proportions.

And lo! The heavens were clearly smiling upon Jan as her 'Angel of the News' was declared the winner!

Jan, vice chair of Leigh Neighbours, explained: "I was wracking my brain for inspiration when I finally settled on the idea of creating an Archangel Gabriel. What better way is there of representing God's messenger than through the traditional medium of modern news - the newspaper.

"I'm thrilled that 'Angel of the News' impressed the judges, particularly given the high quality of the other submissions. I was overwhelmed by the creativity and imagination on show.

"Projects such as the Angel Festival are great opportunities for bringing people together. Kingsleigh Methodist Church plays a vital role in our community, offering both spiritual and practical support and it's a delight to take part in their events and activities."

Rev'd Vivienne Smith of Kingsleigh Methodist Church added:

"The Angel Festival invited people to create an image of an angel which resonated with them, and it clearly struck a chord, attracting an array of submissions using a wide variety of materials, from wood and paper to business cards and plastic cups. We even had a traffic cone 'Parking Angel'.

"It was lovely to see so many people engage with the project and I was delighted that Jan's very imaginative 'Angel of the News' was declared the winner. All the judges agreed that, as well as being visually striking, the principle underpinning it was inspirational and fitting. Well done, Jan!"

Kingsleigh Methodist Church Christmas Services
10am Sunday 24th and Sunday 31st December.



Good News at Bedford!

What better news could there be than a full church on a Sunday morning?! Well, that is what happened at Bedford on the 4th February when we were joined by staff, children, families and friends from Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School to celebrate "Education Sunday". Revd Vivienne welcomed everyone before handing over the proceedings of the morning to the staff and children. The Headteacher, Mrs Burkes, gave an introduction on the theme of the morning - 'Christian Values' - explaining one aspect of how the school promotes their Christian ethos by each class having a "Reflection Area", giving the children access to a quiet space, which encompasses a reading area, a prayer space and activities around their class Christian Value. Starting with the 2 and 3 year old Nursery through to Year 6, the children, guided by their teacher, gave wonderful presentations of some of their work on the Christian Value they had been studying. These values included love, team work, forgiveness, equality, thankfulness, peace, generosity and justice. Some had recorded singing - others had written some very touching and meaningful prayers. There was artwork, class presentations and conversations by video and views on how to tackle world peace. The school had chosen two Christian songs and we all joined in with the actions and the school choir was there to guide us and contributed two of their own songs. The head girl and boy read bible passages. Another aspect of good news to share is that this was an opportunity to be introduced to the newly appointed Schools Chaplain, Catherine Preece, who had been invited to come along to the service where she ably assisted Revd Vivienne who, in her closing words, showed us all how NOT to bake a cake! This caused a great deal of hilarity with the children joining in to mix the ingredients, but the message was clear.

This was a most joyous occasion, truly reflecting the Christian Values taught in school and we pray that our relationship between school and church continues to grow and strengthen.

Hindley Green Methodist Church

Sunday the 7th January 2018 was the 40th Anniversary of Hindley Green Methodist Church.

A Methodist Church has been a significant place of worship in Hindley Green since 1855 when our forefathers had a vision to build a church on Leigh Road. This was Brunswick Methodist Church, Day School and Sunday School and was built on land across the road from the present building. In 1906 a red brick church (Brunswick) was erected on the current site, with the Sunday School and Day School remaining across the road. On its demolition in 1977 it was decided that a new church be built on this site and re-named Hindley Green Methodist Church, to unite the former Brunswick and Bethel Churches. Hindley Green Methodist Church was dedicated on the 7th January, 1978. To commemorate our anniversary, we held a Celebration Service and invited past members and friends to attend. Revd Mary Jones led the service and Revd Derek Heritage, former superintendent of the Hindley Circuit, took part in the service as did Mrs. Joan Shaddick, wife of one of our former ministers.

Ms Phoebe Atkinson, our most long-standing member shared reminiscences of the Brunswick Church and

Stuart Sephton shared memories of Hindley Green Methodist Church, which he had attended all his younger life, together with his parents Mavis and Ken. His 12 year old daughter, Olivia also read a lesson. It was lovely to have new members of our congregation and their families present to take part in this joyful occasion. This rich service of worship, memories, thanksgiving and hope for the future and to see the church so full again with so many Christian voices singing in praise, was such a wonderful experience.

A buffet lunch was shared after the service and photographs of the many events were circulated as well as being shown on the new AV system and this provoked so much fun and laughter. It really was an anniversary to remember but one which encouraged us to look forward to our future in God's hands.

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Christingle at Astley and Tyldesley Methodist.

The Christingle Service was held on December 10th 2018. It was well attended by all ages and was a joint event with St. George's Church. Bible readings and the story of Christingle were read by children of the two churches. It was a very up-beat Christingle with emphasis on music and fun. We sang traditional songs to pop tunes and accompanied them with percussion instruments. After making the Christingles we lit them, turned out some lights and all sang "Away in a Manger". The afternoon ended with us sharing mini decorated Christmas logs and juice (or coffee and tea). As one teenager remarked "I came to please my Granny but have to say - it wasn't half bad" Praise indeed from a thirteen year old. It is safe to say that everyone enjoyed the afternoon both young and old.

Upcoming Events

