



Welcome to Leigh and Hindley Methodist Circuit Good News!

October 2018

News from Kingsleigh

KINGSLEIGH CIRCLE (previously known as the Thursday Circle) started in 1968 with a group of young ladies meeting every Thursday evening.



Fifty years on, the Circle is a strong, caring and lively group of 'older' ladies who still meet every week (now on a Wednesday afternoon). Our members also include ladies from other Churches in the area. At our meetings we enjoy hearing a vast range of speakers, along with other activities and outings, as well as supporting the fund raising events of the Church. Donations are also given each year to the Church and other charities, including Methodist Homes for the Aged, Samaritans Purse and Rainbow House. The 15th and 16th September 2018 took the form of celebration for the Circle, with 97 people in the Community Centre enjoying a buffet meal together, followed by entertainment from the Phoenix Ukulele Club Band. Lots of chatter, reminiscing and renewing old friendships! The following day a service with the theme of 'Friendship and Fellowship' led by Rev'd Vivienne Smith concluded a very happy and rewarding weekend.



Barbecue and Re-Enactment of the Civil War in Lancashire

Saturday 4th August proved to be a lovely summer evening for Kingsleigh members and friends to enjoy a barbecue followed by a most informative presentation on the Civil War in our area. Little did we know but our Church virtually stands on the site of quite a battle! So much information and facts which certainly made us aware of the life and trials of that period in history.

Rev'd Mary's Farewell Service

On the 22nd of July many gathered at Culcheth Methodist Church to celebrate with Mary as she stood down (again!) from her active work.

Mary has served in the Leigh and Hindley Circuit wonderfully for a good few years and truly deserves a well earned rest. We wish Mary and Brian every happiness in their new found freedom!



Wigan Road News

At our afternoon tea last July we raised £66 for Guide Dogs for the blind. At the end of this month we're having new windows fitted in the church hall. These have been boarded up for some years now due to vandalism so we're looking forward to seeing daylight in the hall once more. And in November we're looking forward to a visit from the Rev'd Andrew Pratt who used to be our minister some years ago. It will be good to see him again.

Bag Lane



We had our usual Strawberry Tea over the summer, which was well attended. Also, more recently, our "Harvest Tea" when a lady from Warrington had seen it advertised and decided to come along! She enjoyed it so much that she brought her daughter and granddaughter along to our Sunday Harvest Service and even left a lovely card and her address for us to inform her of our future events! It's wonderful to have new people join us!

Atherton Central

In July Atherton Central held their second "Afternoon Tea" event which was thoroughly enjoyed by over 80 people. One of our members regaled some interesting anecdotes about tea through the ages, followed by entertainment by 50s/60s vocal guitarist Gerry Sandon, who took us back to yesteryear! He was brilliant!

Atherton Central tries to work alongside and support community groups. In August members worked together with our local art group - Atherton Arts, in order to host an exhibition of their paintings and drawings. As always we were amazed by their talent!

Many members of the art group attended a very special Sunday service led by Rev'd Sue Whitehead, with paintings displayed around the church to enhance our worship. Several art group members now support many of our other events and are beginning to join us occasionally for Sunday worship.

Saturday 1st September saw church members again working alongside the "Guardian Angels" local Dementia Charity Fundraising Day which was held in our church building. A good day was had by all!

Our last two events in September were firstly, like hundreds of others around the country, a Macmillan Coffee Morning when our small church managed to raise over £400! Our social event in September was our annual "Proms Night" led by Coppull and Standish Brass Band. This has become an ever increasingly popular event with well over 100 people coming along this year; a complete "sell out"! I think it is fair to say a wonderful night was had by all.

Events from Astley & Tyldesley

For our annual Church Anniversary we invited Terry Wynn to be our preacher, knowing that he would be both interesting and stimulating. He didn't disappoint. The service was followed by a pleasant lunch, rounding off a very rewarding morning. Each month we have a Bible Group on a Monday morning. This is excellently led by Rev'd Sue Whitehead, assisted by her husband Neil and Alan Eaves. Up to 20 members regularly attend.

In summer our theme centred around the Psalms. At the end of our sessions Sue and Neil invited us to their house for a superb buffet lunch.

For the next four months we are using a York Course entitled "Making Room". This covers making room for the Newcomer, The Stranger, What Really Matters and for God. Each session begins with a CD and we have booklets explaining the subject with Bible references and questions. The course was devised by Rev'd David Gamble (ex President of Conference). It is proving interesting and provoking much discussion.

News from the Schools' Chaplain

At Bedford Hall School we hit the ground running at the start of term with our Harvest Messy Church on Monday 17th September with around 25 children and their carers enjoying themed crafts, learning about Mary's Meals to the soundtrack of 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams and then a delicious pasta-Bolognese tea topped off with cake! The team excelled themselves once again. Thank you to you all.

Also, at Bedford, the Reception class visited the Chapel to find out about how we belong to God's family through baptism and the Nursery 3's heard the story of how a dad, full of love, welcomed his lost son home. The builders and teachers at Westleigh worked so hard through the summer to make sure the school was ready for start of term and how fantastic it is! The new classrooms are all very smart and there is much more space now that the new office wing is open.

It is great to have everyone back in the lunch-hall eating together each day and I find this is a good place to have informal chats with the children to get to know them better. In the summer, as a Trust, we became partner schools of 'All We Can' (Methodist Development and Relief Fund) and this harvest-week we have welcomed two visitors from the charity who have taken assemblies and run workshops for Years 6 and 2 in both schools. We look forward to developing this relationship in the coming months.

Hindley Green Events

On The 18th August we had a very enjoyable lunch when Hindley Green was able to say farewell to Rev'd Mary Jones, who has served as our minister for six years.

Members were able to share their memories and show their appreciation for all the work, dedication, care and friendship she has brought to us during that time. The following day was Mary's final service with us, which was a service of reflection and thanksgiving. We have been blessed with Mary's ministry.

The weekend of the 15th/16th Sept was our Harvest Weekend. On the Saturday afternoon we watched a recorded performance of Andre Rieu's 'Magic of the Movies' followed by afternoon tea.

The Harvest Service on Sunday was an opportunity to welcome our new minister Rev'd John Fisher and his wife Susan and we look forward to many more opportunities of worship and fellowship with them in the future.

The Circuit 'Reflection' Weekend

On the 29th of September the Venerable Rodger Preece led a Circuit 'Reflection' Day. Roger Preece is Archdeacon in Liverpool Diocese for St Helen's and Warrington, responsible for developing leadership and discipleship across his area. It was a good day with much "food for thought" (and some fantastic home made cakes for a treat!). Rodger focused on 'The DNA of a Growing Church' with reference to Philip Schnase's book "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations". It really was an excellent day and God willing, there will be more to come!



On the Sunday morning, we met for our first united morning Circuit Service. Over 150 of us gathered at Kingsleigh and the singing was truly wonderful. The hymns included "To God Be the Glory" and "Blessed Assurance" to name but two. Many of the local preachers took part and what they had to say was really inspirational. Rev'd Len looked after the children's table and did a great job. We then shared communion together. 120 glasses had been prepared. However there weren't enough and so the chalice was needed. John and Viv worried that there might not be enough bread but thankfully there was...just! We thank God for a wonderful, inspirational and uplifting weekend.

The Circuit Picnic & Big Sing



On Sunday 9th September Bedford Methodist Church hosted our Circuit's first "Big Sing" event, accompanied by an indoor picnic – we could rely on the great British weather to let us down on the day after such a long, hot spell over summer!

This didn't deter us though and once we all gathered in chapel and started to sing the first hymn, "How Great Thou Art", our spirits were truly lifted...and to add to the excitement, the whole event was recorded to produce a CD (which will be available to purchase in the near future – watch this space!).

It was wonderful to see so many faces there from our churches within the circuit and Rev'd Viv led the event with her usual infectious enthusiasm. This will hopefully be an event we can repeat in the future.

Our autumn 'Messy Church' was once again a success with the theme being harvest. Around 25 children accompanied by parents, grandparents and carers gathered after school to begin the session with crafts and activities about harvest, focussing on things they were thankful for and using texts from the Bible to reflect on whilst working on their crafts. One of the activities was a Thanksgiving tree which is on display in the church and which is pictured below. Everyone became engrossed in these activities and it wasn't an easy task to take them away to congregate in the church for their God spot led by Catherine and Revd Vivienne. They came bouncing back into the hall ready for a hot meal with cakes and fruit juice and both children and parents shared in the food. Thankfully we had a good number of volunteers who, after clearing everything away, also shared in a meal, giving thanks to God for bringing the children into our building and sharing the good news of Jesus.

We were pleased to welcome young people from our Guides and Brownies to our Harvest Festival service on the following Sunday and we were delighted to welcome some of the families who had attended Messy Church.

We started the festivities with continental style breakfast to which everyone was invited. Our service was somewhat different this year as one of the themes we focussed on was a charity called 'Mary's Meals', a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Malcolm Ross from the charity came along and gave a presentation, with video films, to highlight some of the situations where they help. Along with our gifts of fruit and vegetables for the Hospice and supplies for the Food Bank, we donated items to Mary's Meals to make 'back packs' for for the children to take to school which included pens, writing pads and other school accessories. As is usual at our special services, the Ladies' Choir participated in the service and a mum from school and her daughter read the Bible passages for the day. It was a very moving and thought provoking service.

Bedford's Shell Group which meets every other Friday, continues to flourish following the summer break, with an average of 20 young people attending. They have a varied programme of activities and events finishing with a God spot in church. As an incentive to develop our daily prayer life in line with the Circuit's initiative for a growth in prayer, each member household at Bedford received a gift of the new Methodist Prayer Handbook during the Harvest Service.



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Forthcoming Events

Astley/Tyldesley

Tuesday 30th October - Domino Drive
Saturday 1st December - Band Concert by Astley Unlimited Band
Sunday 9th December - Christingle

Atherton Central

Wednesday 17th October Fashion Show with Fizz Fashions.
Light refreshments at 7.15pm, fashion show starts at 8.00pm. Tickets £3.50
Saturday 20th October Three Towns in Concert
7.30pm. Tickets £6 including light refreshments
Saturday 3rd November "Tinsel and Turkey Fair" 11.00am till 3.00pm.
Lots of stalls, light lunches and refreshments including Lily's famous
homemade soup!
Saturday 17th November "World War 1 Remembered" Centenary
Concert 7.15pm. Tickets £7.00 including light refreshments (please
note earlier time). Concert to include a variety of music from the era and will
be provided by a brass ensemble, Scottish piper, pianist and Leigh community
singing group "All Singers Great and Small"
Wednesday 12th December A Christmas Concert with Carols
7.30pm. Tickets £6.00. The Bolton Millennium Gospel Choir will lead this
evening with some carols which we can all join in and sing!
Sunday 16th December 6.00pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve 6.30pm "Christmas Eve Communion Service by
Candlelight"

We also hold our regular coffee mornings on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month 9.30am-11.30am

Bag Lane

Wednesday 31st October Fancy Dress for all ages
Saturday 10th November "Bag Lane's Got Talent" show

Culcheth

Sunday 4th November Annual Memorial Service at 3pm.
All welcome. For further details ring John Gregson on 01925 762715.
Saturday 24th November Christmas Fair. Stalls in the church hall,
children's craft activities and other festive stalls around the village. It
culminates in carol singing and switching on of the Christmas lights.

Glazebury

Sunday 28 October Car Treasure Hunt.

We invite entries from anyone interested within the circuit and their families and friends. The final destination is a North West tourist attraction, with free entry, which closes at 4pm therefore to enable participants to enjoy the facilities there the first team will be due to set off at 12 noon from Glazebury Church car park, soon after the end of our Sunday Service. As on previous occasions the route will be in the region of 25 miles and take around 90 minutes to complete. There is a cafe at the destination for refreshments that closes at 3pm.

Please contact Alan or Janet on 07860 561797 or 07836 721964 or by email alancpds@hotmail.com or janetcrozier@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

Monday 5th November Bonfire. 6.30pm for 7.00pm start
Massive bonfire and superb display of fireworks.

If you are going to a bonfire, why not make it a Methodist event?

Kingsleigh

1914 – 1918 A Hundred Years On ... We Will Remember Them.
By a casual conversation with a member of an Anglican Church in Kent, an idea was born. Church members there were knitting large poppies, further thought of what we could do at Kingsleigh and, as a result of this, a number of members and friends are busy knitting and crocheting poppies. Our display will be attached to the front wall of the Church and with a cross, which will be highlighted behind a net with poppies attached.

Saturday 10th November Christmas Market

10.30am to 2.30pm in Church - many stalls including books, crafts, cards, jewellery, art work, homemade cakes, Christmas decorations, tombola etc. Free admission- ALL WELCOME

Saturday 8th December 10am – 2pm Angel Festival

How quickly time passes! After the success of last year's Angel Festival we are once again looking for everyone's help to make this year's event even bigger and better. This year we are encouraging all churches and groups in the area to join in and make it a truly 'angelic' experience! Refreshments and other angel themed activities will be happening on the day. Any kind of craft or talent can be used, just think outside the box! Entry fee will be: Groups £3 and individuals £1. Closing date for entries will be 16th November. Forms can be returned to Kingsleigh or emailed or phoned through to Kate or Bev (07946 745457 / 07810 567533). Entries can be delivered to church on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th December (times to follow). Entry forms and posters will follow shortly in the post. There will also be a public vote on the day and judging. Winners will be announced on the day. We would love the angels to stay in church until our Carol Service on Sunday 16th December at 3pm. COME AND JOIN US AND SING CAROLS AMONG THE ANGELS!

Saturday 8th December Extravaganza