

# The Vine

Thornton Methodist  
Church Magazine



FEBRUARY/  
MARCH 2013

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## The Vine – February and March 2013

Welcome to the first edition of The Vine in 2013.

It doesn't seem two minutes since we were celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and during the time of this Vine we will encounter His sacrificial death on the Cross and also the joy of Easter Day.

Also there is Fair Trade Fortnight from the 25th February to 10th of March.

If you would like an article in the April/May edition of The Vine, the deadline is **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. Please let Lesley have your items, or send by email to the Church Office [info@thorntonmethodists.org.uk](mailto:info@thorntonmethodists.org.uk) or they can be taken to the church office, which is open on Fridays from 10.00 to 12 noon.



**Inspire7** is on Saturday 2nd March, and is called "Stories In The Street: Knowing God's story, our story, the church's story & the world's story"

On 2nd March 2013 be challenged to hear God's story in your story, in your family, in your church, in your work or school and in the world. Spend March 2nd with other people who want to know how to meet with God in the ordinary, everyday lives that we all lead.

What will happen?

After registration from 9am, we will all gather at 9:30 for worship, then the various age groups will split into different groups.

Deacon Eunice Attwood will address the adults and call on the Church to recognise the transforming power of God's love story in our stories, the world's story, and in the church's own story.

There will be 40 workshops on the day for adults and older young people. To read more about the 40 workshops, two of which you can choose, check out the website for full information.

Booking forms are in the foyer or book online at [www.lancashiremethodist.org.uk](http://www.lancashiremethodist.org.uk) and click on Inspire link.

Adults £10, under 18s free.

Where is it? At Runshaw College, Langdale Road, Leyland.



### **Rev Mark Hammond**

60 Victoria Road East  
Thornton Cleveleys  
FY5 5HQ

Tel: 01253 855917

Email: [mark.hammond@methodist.org.uk](mailto:mark.hammond@methodist.org.uk)

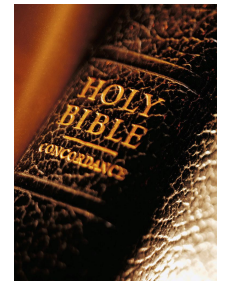
Please try to avoid contacting on Fridays except in emergencies

## **Mark's Letter**

*When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread... Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."*  
[John 21.9 & 12]

This particular edition of *The Vine* covers the entire period of Lent, which is the season of the Church lasting 40 weekdays, during which Christians prepare themselves for Holy Week, traditionally by regular fasting and acts of penitence, such as giving up certain luxuries. This year Lent runs from February 13<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday) to March 28<sup>th</sup> (Maundy Thursday).

This Lent I invite you to get serious about your own relationship with Jesus Christ. I urge you to pick up your Bibles and read one of the four Gospel accounts of his life, ministry and saving work. I encourage you every day to ask God to point out to you how you might be a better Christian disciple. And I ask that you make worship a priority, prayer a habit, and Christian service a practical reality in your life.



We live in a society which tends to view "being a Christian", not as the ultimately-important whole-life-enhancing God-

relationship it is, but as nothing more than “going to Church”, which is perceived to be just another thing you might do during your leisure time. Sadly, as natives of this secularized society, we Christians can all too easily find ourselves going with the flow. We can find ourselves describing our faith in terms of the activities we do in a church building, and overlook the fact that it is actually meant to be an all-embracing relationship with Jesus Christ.

I wonder if part of the problem here has to do with the image of Jesus we have. It seems to me that Jesus Christ can be described as “extraordinary” in two quite different senses:

In the usual sense of the word, Jesus is extraordinary because he is clearly no regular guy:

- He is God’s only begotten Son;
- He heals the sick, and raises the dead;
- One minute he’s walking on water, the next he’s turning it into wine;
- He preaches with unparalleled wisdom and insight;
- He claims for himself such titles as the Bread of Life, the Good Shepherd, the Light of the World, and the Way, the Truth & the Life;
- And, to top it all, despite dying the most horrific death, he is still alive!

**He is alive!**

Anyone who reads one of the four New Testament accounts of his life and ministry is left in no doubt whatsoever that Jesus is no ordinary man. But this presents us with a real problem. How on earth can we, in our secularized society, ever hope to relate to this extraordinary Jesus?

Well, this is where it is vital to recognize that Jesus is not just extraordinary in the usual sense of the word. Indeed, the writers of the four New Testament accounts were at pains to record that Jesus is

also *extra*-ordinary in the sense that he is as down-to-earth as anybody who has ever walked upon it:

- He has experienced life in a family with all its ups and downs;
- He knows what it is like to be hungry and thirsty;
- He loves a good party and the company of friends;
- He knows what it is like to do a hard day’s work;
- He experiences the full range of human emotions;
- And, even in his resurrected body, he enjoys a cooked breakfast!

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we do not follow a Master who is “so heavenly minded that he is of no earthly use”. On the contrary, we follow one who has lived this ordinary human life so well, so fully, so completely, that with him there really is no division between the spiritual and the material. With Jesus, earthly things become heavenly. With Jesus, in the midst of everyday life people receive eternal life. For those who decide to take seriously their relationship with Jesus, ordinary things become extraordinary.

As we prepare ourselves to ponder anew the events of Holy Week, may we also walk so closely with Jesus that we experience in every part of our lives the power of his extraordinary way of life.

*Every blessing*

*Mark Hammond*



**We offer our deepest sympathy to the families of those who have died recently, assuring them of our prayers. In particular:**

We pray for the friends and family of **Mary Jackson** whose funeral took place at Carleton Crematorium on 28<sup>th</sup> November. We especially remember Mary's son Stan together with the rest of the family.

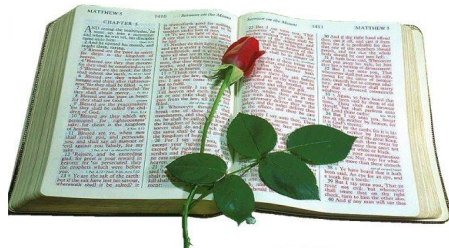
We pray for the friends and family of **June Milnes** whose funeral took place at Carleton Crematorium on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Remembering especially June's son David and the wider family.

We pray for Susan Roylance and her family on the death of her father **Cyril Vick**, whose funeral took place at Carleton Crematorium on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

We remember in our prayers the family and friends of **Les Miles** whose funeral took place at Thornton Methodist Church on 4<sup>th</sup> January. We especially remember Les's companion Marina.

And we pray for the friends and family of **Margaret Houghton** whose funeral took place at Carleton Crematorium on 4<sup>th</sup> January. We especially remember Margaret's daughters Diane, Judith & Andrea.

**Blessed are those who die in the Lord;  
for they rest from their labours**



Since the last magazine went to print we have been blessed to witness two baptisms and a dedication at Thornton Methodist Church:

**Caleb Samuel McGregor Haywood** was dedicated to God on the 25<sup>th</sup> November by his parents Sue & Mandy, & his big brother Aaron;

**Harrison James Woodcock** was brought for baptism on the 25<sup>th</sup> November by his parents Heidi and Darren; and

**Halle Mae Jones** was brought for baptism on 9<sup>th</sup> December by her parents Danielle & Matthew.



We also pray for the family of our good friends Deacon Jo and Revd Paul Critchley of Pilling, whose youngest son **Benjamin Jacob Critchley** was dedicated to God at Pilling Methodist Church on 30<sup>th</sup> December; his big brothers Jacob and Samuel playing starring roles in the service!

We will continue to support these parents as they seek to nurture their children in the love of God.

The Action for Children boxes raised £247.44 for 2012. Thank you to all the box holders for your support. If anyone would like a box please see me. *Shirley Eade.*



## Sunday Worship

### February and March Worship at TMC

At TMC it is part of our Vision that we cater for a variety of worship preferences, which is why we hold two services on Sunday mornings. Our 9.30 a.m. service is led by organ and choir, whilst our 11 a.m. service is led by a Worship Leader and one of our Worship Bands. At 10.30 a.m. between services we all meet together for coffee/tea and fellowship.

Once a month we hold our Tent Service at 7.00 p.m. This is a contemporary worship service led by either our Worship Band or Youth Band and features testimony, prayer and teaching. If you have never been to a tent service before, why not give it a try? You would be made very welcome.

#### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

9.30 a.m. Rev Mark Hammond – Holy Communion  
11.00 a.m. Preacher – Rev Mark Hammond  
Worship Leader – Eileen Harper  
7.00 p.m. The Tent – Rev Mark Hammond

#### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

9.30 a.m. Mrs Lorna Burke  
11.00 a.m. Preacher – Brian Robbins – Family  
Friendly  
Worship Leader – Sally Hammond

#### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

9.30 a.m. Rev Mark Hammond  
11.00 a.m. Preacher - Rev Mark Hammond – Holy  
Communion  
Worship Leader – Rachel Hammond

#### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

9.30 a.m. Rev Geoff Cooke  
11.00 a.m. Preacher – Doug Burke  
Worship Leader – Amy Hurst

#### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent - Fair Trade Sunday**

9.30 a.m. Rev Mark Hammond – Holy Communion  
11.00 a.m. Preacher – Rev Mark Hammond  
7.00 p.m. The Tent – Rev Mark Hammond

#### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday**

9.30 a.m. Rev Mark Hammond  
11.00 a.m. Preacher– Rev Mark Hammond – Family Friendly

#### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Passion Sunday**

9.30 a.m. Rev Paul Ruddick  
11.00 a.m. Preacher – Rev William R Davies – Holy  
Communion

#### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday**

9.30 a.m. Sylvia Clark  
11.00 a.m. Preacher – Brian Robbins

#### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Easter Day**

9.30 a.m. Rev Mark Hammond  
11.00 a.m. Preacher– Rev Mark Hammond  
*[Remember to put your clocks forward an hour, for the start of British  
Summer Time]*

**Holding two and sometimes three services in a day requires a lot of teamwork and support. If you feel you can help in any way, perhaps welcoming visitors, serving coffee, or with sound and vision, please start off by talking to one of the stewards who will be delighted to speak with you. Remember, the more volunteers we have, the greater the spread of our tasks.**

We hold a weekday worship service each week on Thursday morning at 10am. Following the service, everyone is welcome to stay for coffee.

**Midweek  
Worship**

## Prayer diary

### February

- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> We praise you Lord for the work amongst the youth at TMC
- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord refresh & inspire Christine, Ian, Kristina & James as they attend the Soul Net youth leaders retreat.
- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> We pray for our three acts of worship today – Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.
- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Lord guide the Leadership team tonight as they meet.
- Tue 5<sup>th</sup> We pray for the Worship & Prayer team as they meet tonight.
- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> As the stewards meet tonight we thank God for their service and leadership.
- Thur 7<sup>th</sup> We pray for the service this morning – Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
- Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Thank you Lord for all who help with administration and in the church office.
- Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Pray for the Children's Team Vision Morning, may Your word be a Lamp to their feet and a Light to their path.
- Sun 10<sup>th</sup> We pray for our preachers today, for Lorna Burke and Brian Robbins.
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Pray today for Scruffy Club, CCK and GForce.
- Tue 12<sup>th</sup> We pray for our blessing Lord on the Ladies Fellowship as they meet today.
- Wed 13<sup>th</sup> We pray for the homegroups that meet this week – "Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart." Ps 119:2
- Thur 14<sup>th</sup> We pray for the choir that they will enrich the worship they share in.
- Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Pray for the Youth Social that this will become a place where young people will bring their friends.



- Sat 16<sup>th</sup> As we come together today for the maintenance working party let us give thanks for one another.
- Sun 17<sup>th</sup> We pray for Mark as he leads the services today and for Mettle, youth fellowship, who meet tonight.
- Mon 18<sup>th</sup> We pray for the clients at comfort zone that they will know Your love for them through the joyful service of the volunteers.
- Tue 19<sup>th</sup> As we open up our word in Theology school tonight may we be challenged and changed.
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> We pray for Christians in Syria.
- Thur 21<sup>st</sup> We give thanks for the ministry of Boardmates and pray for those who lead and provide such a warm welcome.
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> We pray for school teachers enjoying a half term break, may they be rested and refreshed.
- Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Pray that the tea dance today will be a great time of fun and friendship.
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> We pray for those leading worship today, Geoff, Doug & Amy.
- Mon 25<sup>th</sup> We pray today for the Finance Team & Maintenance Team.
- Tue 26<sup>th</sup> We pray for the lunchtime JAFFA club at Stanah School that the children will continue to enjoy hearing the stories of Jesus and know God's love in their lives.
- Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Today we pray for Christians in North Korea.
- Thur 28<sup>th</sup> In this time of Lent we remember our brothers and sisters at St John's and Christ Church.

### March

- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Today we pray for the leaders and members at St Nicholas Owen and Sacred Heart.
- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> We pray for the Inspire Conference.
- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> We pray for Mark, the worship leaders and musicians who lead worship today – Let all that is within me Bless His Holy name.

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Thank you Lord for the Leadership Team who serve the Body Of Christ at TMC, grant them wisdom and discernment.

Tue 5<sup>th</sup> We pray for the team of worship leaders as they seek to continually develop their skills.

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> We pray for the various worship groups and musicians at TMC. As they meet together to practice and share fellowship – use and equip them for Your service.

Thur 7<sup>th</sup> We pray for the Marriage Course as it starts tonight. In particular we pray for Carey and Daren as they lead.

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> We pray today for the YOYO team and the parents, carers and children who come.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> We pray for the members at the Church of the Nazarene in Thornton.

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Give thanks – His love endures forever! Pray for the services today.

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> We pray today and this week for all those candidating for the Methodist ministry who have their Connexional interviews this week. Lord grant discernment to the committee making important decisions.

Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Loving God we pray for those who are sick and those in hospital.

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Loving God we pray for the bereaved and the lonely.

Thur 14<sup>th</sup> We pray for the pastoral team and all the pastoral carers. Lord fill them with Your Spirit as they carry Your love to those in need.

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> We pray for the community event, Battle of the Bands. Through this event strengthen the links between the churches and the schools.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> We ask your blessing today on the coffee morning that all who attend will be welcomed in Your name.

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you – pray for the acts of worship today and for all who lead.

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Today we bring before You the Youth Team, bind them together in a common vision and continue to equip and sustain them.

Tue 19<sup>th</sup> We pray for the Circuit Passion service.

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> As we meet at Theology School tonight we remember those who do not have the freedom to meet to study Your Word. We pray for the charity Open Doors as they serve persecuted Christians worldwide.

Thur 21<sup>st</sup> We pray Lord for marriages that they will be strengthened and for relationships that are struggling we pray for reconciliation.

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> We pray today for the Outreach and Nurture team, particularly as they make preparations for the forthcoming Alpha course.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> May we share Your love and Your joy with those we meet at the Easter Fayre today.

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Hosanna to the King of Kings – we pray for our Palm Sunday services.

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> We pray for all the children and young people coming to the various clubs tonight. Help us share with them the joy of Easter.

Tue 26<sup>th</sup> Thank you Lord for those who host Homegroups. Thank you for sharing their gift of hospitality.

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Pray today for the work of the Leprosy Mission.

Thur 28<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday – So let us learn how to serve.

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday – “Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice”

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> “Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Saviour” – help us to reflect today.

Sun 31<sup>st</sup> “You’re alive! You’re alive! You have risen! Hallelujah!”  
May we experience the presence of the Risen Christ as we share in worship today.

## 24 HOURS OF PRAYER 6pm FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> - 6pm SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

6pm Friday – Church opens for prayer

8pm – 9pm Friday – Corporate prayer & worship time

Midnight – Church closes

6am Saturday – Church re-opens for prayer including Children's prayer activities

5pm – 6pm Saturday – Informal communion and reflection on the 24 hours



### **TMC Prayer Chain**

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."  
Matthew 21:22

For quite a while now, the idea of a TMC Prayer Chain has been on my mind, so I thought it was time to stop thinking and start doing! With that in mind, the TMC Prayer Chain has been formed – would you like to join?

It's really simple – everybody in the chain has the telephone number for the next person in the chain. When they receive a prayer request, or feel that members of the chain should be praying for something in particular, they simply call or text that person and pass the prayer request on. Then the next person does exactly the same thing. Before you know it, there is a network of people all praying together. And we all know how powerful prayer can be!

To join the prayer chain, just have a word with Christine Girven, email [christineg.tmc@gmail.com](mailto:christineg.tmc@gmail.com) or call or text on 0789 118 3438.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day of Caleb's dedication service such a wonderful day. The service was beautiful - a number of our friends, who are not Church goers, commented on how lovely it was. It was great to share food with so many of you afterwards, and we're sorry if we didn't actually spend much time with you. A special thank you to everyone who helped setting up the tables, setting the food out, and clearing up afterwards. We had a fantastic day.

*Mandy, Sue, Arron and Caleb xxx*

### Caleb As A Car

2012 spanking new brother

Runs on milk, baths and toys;

Beautiful metallic blue paint job

Not yet running,

But makes a lot of noise and can be very lively!

Needs constant rear repair,

Owner found

But not willing to sell for even a pound.

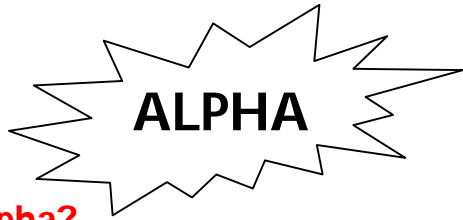
*Written By Arron McGregor*



## Easter Fayre

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm  
Various stalls to include – Craft, Plants, Books, Bric-a-brac, Cakes, Easter Stall, Tombola, Raffle, Refreshments and lots more. See the notices for further details - put the date in your diary.





### What is Alpha?

A typical evening would look like this -

Food,

short talk about the Christian faith,  
share your thoughts.

No pressure, no follow up, no charge

### Is Alpha for me?

Don't believe in God?

Given up on Church?

Just Curious?

### In a word?

**YES!**

**Please come and join Mark, Sally and the team on  
Thursday evenings: 7.30pm-9.30pm for 10 weeks  
beginning on THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013**

Come and try the first session – if you don't  
like it you don't have to come back!

**We look forward to meeting you!**

To sign up or further information email:  
[info@thorntonmethodists.org.uk](mailto:info@thorntonmethodists.org.uk)



## CHILDREN'S TEAM VISION MORNING



**SATURDAY 9TH FEB 9am to 12**

Vision Morning for all those involved in Young Church our Mid Week Clubs and some of our other Children's Activities.

We will explore the Vision for the Children's Team over this next year focusing on where God is calling us to take the Children's Work at TMC and where God is calling each of us.

We will also have some time to have a small business meeting to plan our programme for the next few months including looking at dates for our 2 holiday clubs.

Coffee and Breakfast will be provided also.

If you are involved with the Children's work on a Sunday morning or mid week and have not yet received an email or letter regarding this then do speak to Carey.

Please let her know whether you are able to come or not.  
Contact her on 01253 858267 / 07814973252 or email  
[careyquite@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:careyquite@yahoo.co.uk)

# The Marriage Course

Starts Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Come along and give your  
Relationship an MOT

The Marriage Course gives couples the opportunity to take time to relax, eat, drink and invest in their relationship. The seven sessions take place in a fantastic atmosphere. You will be served with a candlelit meal and coffee/tea and dessert at a romantic table for two whilst listening to practical talks that are informative and fun. There is never any group work and you will never be asked to share anything about your relationship with anyone other than your partner. The course is for any couple who want to invest in their relationship whether you have been together for one or sixty one years whether you feel you have a strong relationship or are struggling and whether you are married or are living together.

Come along to the first session on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7pm. Cost of course is £7 per couple per session plus £2.00 per person for guest manual payable on first session.

Contact Carey and Daren on 01253 858267 or [tmcmarriage@yahoo.com](mailto:tmcmarriage@yahoo.com) for more info or to book a place. For further information visit [www.relationshipcentral.org](http://www.relationshipcentral.org).

## Dates of Sessions:

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May



**THEOLOGY SCHOOL**  
AT THORNTON METHODIST  
CHURCH



Why not commit one Tuesday or Wednesday evening a month to expanding your understanding of the Christian faith.

## **BIBLETRACK**

**Introducing the Bible**

*teaching for all Christians who long to understand their faith more deeply*

**GREAT ATMOSPHERE. GOOD COMPANY. QUALITY TEACHING.**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February**    **Wisdom Literature Part 2**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**    **The Gospels Part 1**

Cost £2.00 per session including handout and coffee

## Women's World Day of Prayer

**"I was a stranger and you welcomed Me"**



On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March over 3 million people world-wide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian women in France.

Our local ecumenical service will be held at St Teresa's Catholic Church, St Georges Avenue, Cleveleys at 2.30pm.

## Monthly Giving: November and December 2012

<b>Nov.</b>	4th	£ 612.76	<b>Dec.:</b>	2nd	£ 387.25
	11th	£ 499.55		9th	£ 637.76
	18th	£ 422.96		16th	£ 428.97
	25th	£ 468.88		23rd	£ 494.67
				30 <sup>th</sup>	£ 261.31
Standing Orders:		£1,838.00			£1,735.00
Total:		£3,842.15			£3,944.96
Average weekly:		£ 960.53			£ 788.99
Total income:	Nov:	£6,279.76	Dec:		£ 7,481.35
Total expenses:	Nov:	£6,412.87	Dec:		£10,414.72

Christingle service offertory was given to Action for children £56.21

The coffee morning in December raised £212  
The coffee morning in January raised £251

## NOTES FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

There will be a united morning farewell service for Mark, Sally and family at 10.30 am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July and a Circuit Service at 6.30 pm. Their final services will be on 21<sup>st</sup> July at 9.30 and 11.00 am.

Julie Porter has resigned as Youth Treasurer and Lesley Butterworth is taking over. Many thanks to Julie.

Beryl Smith has stepped down as Gift Aid secretary and Julie Miller is taking over. Our thanks go to Beryl for not only being our Gift Aid secretary, but Beryl was Fleetwood Road's treasurer for a number of years.

It was agreed to hold quarterly working party days, the first being on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February when we will do "odd jobs" and maintenance etc.

The church hall needs redecorating and it was agreed to do this in the Spring – volunteers will be required!!!.

At Thornton Methodist Church we appoint lay members to take out Holy Communion to our housebound members. We are very grateful to Sylvia Clark who has been doing this for a number of years and it was agreed to appoint David Pickup and Wendy Reeds in addition to Sylvia. The meeting thanked Sylvia and both Brian Robbins and Rev Geoff Cook who have done this previously. We have 25 housebound members who have Holy Communion at home.

## £ FINANCE TEAM NEWSFLASH £

We are now a third of the way through the current financial year and I am pleased to report that at this moment in time we are slightly ahead of our Budget.

All major building work that was authorised has now been completed, but no further large scale work can be undertaken at present as the building fund has very little money left now.

*giftaid it*

Beryl Smith has now relinquished the very important role of Gift Aid Secretary and Julie Miller has kindly agreed to take on this task, so if you wish to join this Tax Efficient scheme please see Julie. Thanks to Beryl for many years of excellent service in this and other roles.

The recent Bi-Centenary Appeal is continuing to gain momentum as several Members have now promised to donate the sum of £200. This Appeal will be closed shortly so if you have not yet pledged your support please do so as soon as possible.

*Brian Watkins*

## **TMC Youth Shout Out!**

2013 is a very exciting year for the young people of TMC and their friends, with lots of fabulous things planned!

Revamped youth socials started again in January with a mixture of events planned each week, including themed meals, movie nights, trips out and lots more fun stuff. We'd love to hear from anyone who might be able to help out on a Friday night... perhaps you could set up for half an hour once a month? Maybe you could run the tuck shop once a quarter, or come with us to the cinema? Or maybe you've got a special skill that would come in handy at one of our other nights? Perhaps you're even brave enough to join us at a sleepover?

Here's the list of upcoming socials. All sessions are 7-9pm, unless we advise otherwise nearer the time. For the most up to date information, make sure you're a member of the TMC Youth Social Group on facebook. If you'd like to help in any way at all, please speak to Krissi or James Wilson, or Christine or Ian Girven.

### **February**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup>: Movie night at the Hammonds  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> tbc: Bowling  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup>: Social @ TMC  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>: TMC à la carte (themed dinner)

### **March**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup>: Movie night at the Guites  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup>: Mums and daughters/sons night  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup>: Battle of the Bands tbc  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>: Social @ TMC  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup>: Good Friday (no social)

### **April**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>: Movie night at the Wilsons  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup>: TMC Café (24 hours of prayer in church)  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup>: TBC  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup>: Social @ TMC

So what else have we been up to? Our Christmas party and sleepover was a great success, with some very entertaining karaoke!

Mettle and G-Force have started again for 2013. Mettle meets on a Sunday at 7pm for aged 14+, G-Force is alternate Mondays for age 11-14ish!

The Youth Forum is also re-forming this year so that our young people can have their voice heard on church matters. It's really encouraging that we have so many young people who want to play an active role in the church – we are extremely blessed.

Please continue to keep our young people in your prayers as exam time approaches.

## **NIMBLE FINGERS**

At the moment the Nimble Fingers group are busy making items to sell at the February coffee morning and also for Easter. They are also knitting knee blankets for the hospice,



Can you knit?

Are you free on Thursdays from 11.00 til 12.00?

Why not come along and join us, the group are knitting squares for make the blankets and it is just basic knitting.

We meet in the lovely warm church foyer, why not pop in for a chat and see what we do.

For further information please contact Pat Gregory.

## COMFORT ZONE

Welcome to the first of our regular reports on the activities at Comfort Zone.

For those of you who don't know, Comfort Zone is a drop-in centre and kitchen for local homeless and needy; run entirely by volunteers and funded by local contributions, with help from Methodist Action. We use the kitchen and foyer at North Shore Methodist Church, Dickson Road, Blackpool.

On Monday evenings we are open 7pm - 9pm and, manned by volunteers mainly from TMC, we serve a hot meal; usually based on a jacket potato with various toppings followed by a hot dog and whatever else we have in stock or have the funds to buy. On Tuesday mornings food parcels are available at Central Methodist Church and on Wednesday mornings, back at NSM, there is breakfast, access to clothes etc. and various support agencies as available.

With all your support we were able to serve a special meal for Christmas. I cannot cook a full roast dinner for 60 people with the limited resources at North Shore but we did make a top quality feast with loads of treats, which went down really well.

With many thanks to all of you who give food and clothing so generously. Items just appear (usually quite anonymously!) in the box in the foyer without any fuss. You do us proud!

Over the next year I will introduce you to some of the volunteers (many of them our own teenagers) and maybe some of our customers.

To work comfortably on Mondays we need 12 volunteers, six or seven in the kitchen and five to wait-on and generally support the customers. If we had more volunteers we could organise a rota, so why not come down one Monday evening and see how we work. Speak to Greg or myself and we will get you there. (I won't promise not to put a tea towel in your hand!)

Please keep your support coming in, every tin of beans, hot dogs, corned beef etc, is really appreciated.

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April there is an open evening at TMC where you can find out more about Comfort Zone.

*Gwen*

To me comfort zone is a window of opportunity through which I see people whom I would never come into contact with ordinarily. It has opened my eyes to the problems in society which seem to be overlooked. I have met some very interesting, friendly people who I enjoy talking to and offering advice. This may sound strange that a 16 year old girl can give advice but they seem to listen to me and react to what I say. It is very upsetting to see girls my age in the comfort zone, sometimes even girls I have been at school with who have fallen on hard times or have taken with the wrong crowd. It is even more heart breaking to close the doors of the comfort zone behind a person who has nowhere to go, nothing to eat and practically nothing suitable to wear. I feel privileged to be able to help these people and hope and pray that they may, one day, find comfort.

*Harriet*



I have felt for a while now that Comfort Zone was a worthy cause to support and therefore decided to become a volunteer. With some trepidation, I went along to volunteer for the first time a couple of weeks before Christmas. The instant warmth which I was greeted with was overwhelming. The fellow volunteers who also dedicate their time and effort provide a constant source of conversation and a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere. By meeting and communicating with the people who we serve, I have learnt a great deal about the reality which some people face in life every day. These people are homeless or destitute, with many suffering from substance abuse problems. Yet these would be the very people who Jesus would serve in his ministry. He sought to care for the marginalised. I felt before I went that this was a worthy cause, but now I am fully aware how worthy the work that is undertaken here actually is. The true love of Jesus is evident here.

*Sophie*



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Friday 1 Feb	7.00 pm	Youth movie night at The Hammonds
Monday 4 Feb	7.00 pm	Leadership Team meeting
Tuesday 5 Feb	2.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship - Carey Guite – “Florence”
	7.30 pm	Worship and Prayer Team meeting
Wednesday 6 Feb	7.00 pm	Steward’s Team meeting
Thursday 7 Feb	1.00 pm	Boardmates meal at Burnside Nursery
Friday 8 Feb	tbc	Youth Bowling
Saturday 9 Feb	9.00 am	Children’s Team Vision Day
Tuesday 12 Feb	2.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship – Alice Jackson – “Something Different”
Friday 15 Feb	7.00 pm	Youth Social
Saturday 16 Feb	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
		Property Maintenance Day
Tuesday 19 Feb	2.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship – Christine Cook – Mission Direct
	7.30 pm	School of Theology
Wednesday 20 Feb	7.30 pm	Worship Band Practice
Friday 22 Feb	9.45 am	Stay and Play
	12 noon	Churches Together in Thornton – Short service for Lent followed by lunch
	7.00 pm	Youth – à la carte (themed dinner)
Saturday 23 Feb	2.00 pm	Afternoon Tea Dance

Tuesday 26 Feb 2.30 pm Ladies Fellowship – Harry Postlethwaite – “Walks in The Lake District”

Friday 1 Mar 7.00 pm Youth movie night at The Guites

Saturday 2 Mar 9.00 am Inspire Conference at Runshaw College, Leyland

Monday 4 Mar 7.00 pm Leadership Team meeting

Tuesday 5 Mar 2.30 pm Ladies Fellowship – Joan Moore

Wednesday 6 Mar 7.30 pm Worship Band practice

Thursday 7 Mar 7.00 pm Marriage Course starts

Friday 8 Mar 7.00 pm Youth Social – Mums and Daughters/Sons night

Tuesday 12 Mar 2.30 pm Ladies Fellowship

Thursday 14 Mar 12.00 noon Pastoral Carers meeting

Friday 15 Mar Battle of the Bands

Saturday 16 Mar 10.00 am Coffee Morning

Tuesday 19 Mar 2.30 pm Ladies Fellowship – AGM – Rev Mark Hammond

Wednesday 20 Mar 7.30 pm School of Theology

Friday 22 Mar 7.00 pm Youth Social

Saturday 23 Mar 10.00 am Easter Fayre

Tuesday 26 Mar 2.30 pm Ladies Fellowship – Easter Service – Mrs Lorna Burke

Thursday 28 Mar 10.00 am Maundy Thursday

Friday 29 Mar 10.30 am Good Friday – Traditional Service in the Church – Rev Mark Hammond

10.30 am Good Friday – Family Friendly Service in the Church Hall.

12 noon Church Together in Thornton service at Thornton Little Theatre




## Meeting Together: People to Contact

<b>SUNDAY</b>			
Young Church	11.00	Sally Hammond	855917
Mettle (Year 10+)	19.00	James & Kristina Wilson	07967 044327
<b>MONDAY</b>			
Quiet time of Prayer	13.30-15.30	Brian Robbins	873625
Scruffy Club	17.15	Carey Guite	858267
Cool Club for Kids	18.15	Sally Hammond	855917
G-Force (Year 7+)	18.15	Christine & Ian Girven	07891 183438
<b>TUESDAY</b>			
Ladies Fellowship	14.30	Joyce Wood	851987
Prayer Meeting	18.45–19.15	Sally Hammond	855917
<b>THURSDAY</b>			
Coffee Morning	10.30	Laurie Faragher	868712
Nimble Fingers	11.00	Pat Gregory	823814
Choir Practice	11.00	Sylvia Clark	857754
Board Mates	14.00	Pat Gregory	823814
<b>FRIDAY</b>			
YOYO Parent & Toddler	09.45	Alison Stevenson	826931
Youth Social	19.00	James Wilson	07967 044327

<b>CHURCH OFFICE</b> <b>(Open Fridays 10 am to 12 noon)</b>		07967 497617 info@thorntonmethodists.org.uk
ALPHA COURSE	Eileen Harper	07979 648348
BAPTISM CO-ORDINATORS	David & Susan Parry	07588 744 575
CHILDREN'S TEAM LEADER	Carey Guite	858267
CHURCH FLOWERS	Vacancy	
CLEANING	Doreen Faragher	868712
FINANCE TEAM LEADER	Brian Watkins	851301
LEADERSHIP TEAM LEADER	Daren Guite	858267
MARRIAGE COURSE	Daren & Carey Guite	858267
MEMORIAL BOOK	Margaret Daniel	826183
NOTICES/COMMUNICATIONS (by 5pm Thursday)	Lesley Butterworth info@thorntonmethodists.org.uk	821957
OUTREACH & NURTURE	Sally Hammond	855917
PARENTING COURSES	Wendy Reeds	594335
PASTORAL	Sylvia Clark	857754
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	Rob Singleton	316176
ROOM BOOKINGS bookings@thorntonmethodists.org.uk		07927 912218
SENIOR STEWARD	Amanda Hale	866218
WORSHIP & PRAYER	Sally Hammond	855917
YOUTH TEAM LEADER	Christine Girven	07891 183438

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