

The Vine

Thornton Methodist
Church Magazine



JUNE/
JULY 2013

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The Vine – June and July 2013

Welcome to this edition of The Vine.

If you would like on article in the August/September edition of The Vine the deadline is **Friday 12th July**. Please let Lesley have your items, or send by email to the Church Office info@thorntonmethodists.org.uk or they can be taken to the church office, which is open on Fridays from 10.00 to 12 noon.

The next edition we will be saying farewell to the Rev Mark Hammond, Sally, Joseph, Tom and Rachel and looking forward to welcoming Rev Stephen Dunn, Sarah, Grace and Eve.



PLEASE HELP US TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

Name.....

Telephone.....

Address.....
.....

Tick here

- I am new to this church
- I would like someone to call
- I would like to receive this magazine regularly
- I would like further info about.....

Please cut this out and hand / post it to the Minister, or give to one of the Stewards.



Rev Mark Hammond
60 Victoria Road East
Thornton Cleveleys
FY5 5HQ
Tel: 01253 855917
Email: mark.hammond@methodist.org.uk

Please try to avoid contacting on Fridays except in emergencies

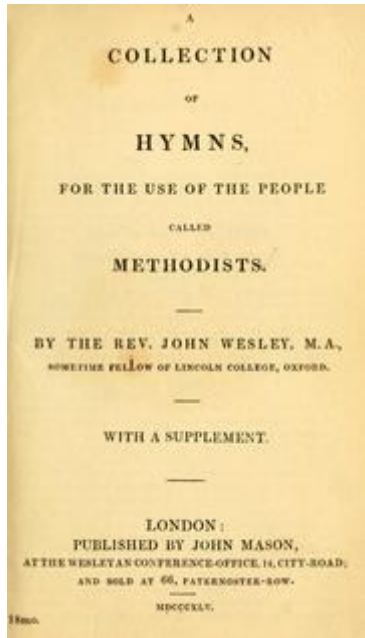
Mark's Letter

Not long ago I shared with our Thursday morning congregation how I had recently had one of those private "Wow!" moments that you want to share with someone but which, on reflection, may suggest to the average share-ee that the share-er has totally lost the plot! In the event, it appeared to me that no-one in the congregation raised their eye-brows, tut-tutted or sent for the men in white coats. So I thought I'd risk sharing the very same thing with you; the dear reader of this magazine.

My "Wow!" moment has its roots in our recent visit from AG & Kate, who as many of you will know are a remarkable Christian couple who have for more than four decades travelled far and wide to share the good news of Jesus in prisons both here and in the United States. They do this through telling stories and gospel singing in their own unique country-and-western style. Over the years they have put their own slant on many of Charles Wesley's hymns, including many that are no-longer found in any of our Methodist hymn books. It was they who introduced me to one particular Wesley hymn that I immediately loved the moment I first heard them sing it.



My "Wow!" moment itself came when I recently found the words to that hymn and paused to ponder them more deeply.



These are the very words that John Wesley taught our spiritual ancestors; the fledgling Methodist societies that sprung up in the 18th Century following his open air evangelism must have sang these words with gusto. They knew the truth of them with all their hearts. To my amazement, they are words that didn't even make it into the much-loved "red" Methodist hymnbook of 1933. But there is no-doubt that John Wesley himself loved them dearly, as he printed them as hymn number 5 in his original 1779 '*Hymns for the use of the people called Methodists*'. Here they are for you yourself to ponder deeply upon:

**Thy faithfulness, Lord, each moment we find,
So true to Thy word, so loving and kind;
Thy mercy so tender to all the lost race,
The vilest offender may turn and find grace.**

**The mercy I feel to others I show,
I set to my seal that Jesus is true:
Ye all may find favour who come at His call;
O come to my Saviour! His grace is for all.**

**To save what was lost, from heaven He came:
Come, sinners, and trust in Jesus's name;
He offers you pardon, He bids you be free, -
If sin be your burden, O come unto Me!**

**O let me commend my Saviour to you,
The publican's Friend and Advocate too!
For you He is pleading His merits and death,
With God interceding for sinners beneath.**

**Then let us submit His grace to receive,
Fall down at His feet and gladly believe:
We all are forgiven, for Jesus's sake;
Our title to heaven, His merits we take.**

Think of the impact of such a direct and simple communication of God's gracious invitation on those who had taken in with their working-class mother's milk an understanding that the institutional church had nothing to say to them except maybe an implicit: "Stay away 'cos you're not good enough."

It got me thinking, how might we be more Wesley-ish for our own age? What would Methodism look like today if we fully and wholeheartedly shared Wesley's focus and drive to go to the spiritually disaffected of our own generation solely seeking to commend our Saviour to them?

On 26th April 1772 John Wesley wrote a letter to his hymn-writing brother Charles in which he said this: "Your business as well as mine is to save souls. When we took priests' orders, we undertook to make it our ONE BUSINESS. I think every day lost which is not (mainly at least) employed in this thing. *Sum totus in illo* (I am completely committed to this)". John Wesley's journal proves this no lie. I really do wish the same could be said of my own diary. How about you?

Every blessing

Mark Hammond

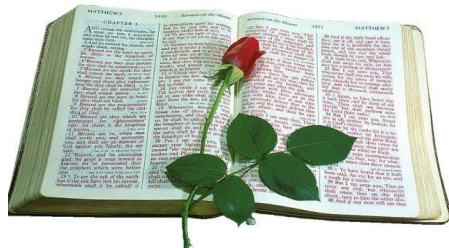
We offer our deepest sympathy to the families of those who have died recently, assuring them of our prayers. In particular:

We pray for the family of **Vera Crossfield** whose funeral took place at Carleton Crematorium on 27th March. We especially remember Vera's daughter Joyce and son-in-law John.

We remember in our prayers the family and friends of **Doug Howarth** whose funeral took place at Poulton New Cemetery on 28th March. We pray for his wife Mollie and sons Guy and John. Surround them with your love.

We pray for the family and friends of **Paul Metcalfe** whose funeral took place at Carleton Crematorium on 2nd April. We especially pray for his mother Jean, wife Paa and his children, Nick, PJ and Boss. Please continue to remember Jean in your prayers.

**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 one baptism at Thornton Methodist Church:

Alexander Tommi West was brought for baptism on 14th April by his parents Carol and Nicholas and sister Mia.

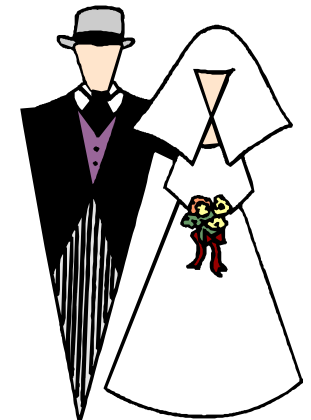
We will continue to support Carol and Nicholas as they seek to nurture Alexander in the love of God.

Since our last Magazine, we have had the privilege of witnessing the weddings of:

Sheryl and Daren Ewart who were married on the 30th March.

Lucie and Henry Dorrans who were married on 6th April

We wish these newly-weds God's richest blessing upon their marriage.



Sunday Worship

June and July 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 2nd June

- 9.30 a.m. Rev John Harris – Holy Communion
- 11.00 a.m. Preacher – Rebekah Spinks
Worship Leader – Bianca Burke
- 7.00 p.m. The Tent – Deacon Jo Critchley
Worship Leaders – Carey and Christine

Sunday 9th June

- 9.30 a.m. Rev Mark Hammond
- 11.00 a.m. Preacher – Rev Mark Hammond – Family Friendly
Worship Leader – Sally Hammond

Sunday 16th June

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

Saturday 23rd June

- 9.30 a.m. Rev Mark Hammond
- 11.00 a.m. Preacher – Rev Mark Hammond
Worship Leader – Christine Davies

Sunday 30th June

- 9.30 a.m. Janet Blewitt
- 11.00 a.m. Preacher – Reece Slater
Worship Leader – Amanda Hale

Sunday 7th July

- 9.30 a.m. Rev Mark Hammond
Worship Leader – Eileen Harper
- 11.00 a.m. Preacher – Rev Mark Hammond
Worship Leader – Rachel Hammond
- 7.00 p.m. The Tent – Rev Mark Hammond
Worship Leader – Sally

Sunday 14th July – Farewell Service

- 10.30 a.m. Rev Mark Hammond
Worship Leaders

Sunday 21st July

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


Sunday 28th July

- 9.30 a.m. Rev Joyce Butcher
- 11.00 a.m. Preacher – Deborah Spinks
Worship Leader – Bianca Burke

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.

Prayer diary

June

- 
- Sat 1st We pray for all the young people taking GCSE's and Alevels.
- Sun 2nd We come to worship today with expectant hearts to meet with You Lord.
- Mon 3rd We pray for Local Preachers that they would continue to grow in love and knowledge of God.
- Tue 4th We pray for the ladies fellowship today as they hold their coffee morning in aid of the bicentenary.
- Wed 5th We pray for homegroups and those who lead.
- Thur 6th We thank God for all those who have been on the Alpha course and pray that they will continue their faith journey.
- Fri 7th We pray for the parents, children and helpers at YOYO.
- Sat 8th Lord we pray for our community on Gala day, Lord help us to serve with glad hearts.
- Sun 9th We pray for Charlie's family as they bring him for baptism this morning.
- Mon 10th We pray for the Leadership Team as they meet tonight, grant them wisdom.
- Tue 11th We pray for the Circuit meeting tonight that you would pour out Your Spirit and give them fresh vision for the circuit.
- Wed 12th We pray for the ecumenical It's Your Move Team working in Thornton Primary today.
- Thur 13th Thank you for our pastoral carers, continue to equip them we pray for the work they do.
- Fri 14th We pray for the fathers and teenagers youth night tonight.
- Sat 15th Be with us Lord at our general Church Meeting and Gift Day. May we renew our commitment to being a community of people focussed on God to grow disciples, relationships & community.

- Sun 16th We pray for Carey, Bianca, Amy & Rachel who have their worship leaders recognition service today. Pour out Your Spirit upon them as they respond to this calling upon their lives.
- Mon 17th We pray today for Scruffy Club, CCK & GForce.
- Tue 18th We pray for those we know in hospital. We also pray today for our health service.
- Wed 19th We pray for the witness of Churches Together in Thornton.
- Thur 20th We pray that the news of Love Thursdays will be spread out to the wider community and pray that more will come and join in.
- Fri 21st We pray for the finance team.
- Sat 22nd Pray for the Prayer Ministry team and for a growing confidence in praying with one another.
- Sun 23rd We pray for Hannah's family as they bring her for dedication this morning.
- Mon 24th As the Holiday Club team meet tonight we pray they would be inspired and guided by You Lord.
- Tue 25th As we meet in Theology School tonight, open our hearts to the power of your word.
- Wed 26th We pray for the worship group, organists and all age band. We give thanks for their musical gifts and we ask that You would bring more musicians to join them.
- Thur 27th We pray for those we know who are living out their Christian life and witness in the work place.
- Fri 28th We pray for all those who undertake administration for TMC.
- Sat 29th We pray Your blessing on Andy and Vicki as they are married today.
- Sun 30th We pray for all who preach and lead worship today.

July

- Mon 1st We pray for children coming to the end of a school year, we pray for them as they face changes ahead.

Tue 2nd We pray for the work of Trinity Hospice.
 Wed 3rd We pray for the work of NCH Action for children.
 Thur 4th We pray for those facing redundancy and for those searching for work.
 Fri 5th We pray for the Methodist Church as the Methodist Conference gathers to meet.
 Sat 6th We pray Your blessing on James and Christine as they are married today.
 Sun 7th We pray for those being ordained into the Methodist Ministry this weekend.
 Mon 8th We pray for the church council who meet tonight.
 Tue 9th We pray for the lunchtime JAFFA clubs in Stanah and Baines.
 Wed 10th We pray for all those who take the Gospel into Millfield School and for those young people who are searching for answers.
 Thur 11th We pray for tonight's circuit farewell service to The Hammonds.
 Fri 12th We thank you for opportunities to enjoy music and friendship.
 Sat 13th We thank you for Your faithfulness.
 Sun 14th As we give thanks today be present with us and to You be all the glory honour and praise.
 Mon 15th We pray for all the volunteers and users at Comfort Zone.
 Tue 16th We pray for the Leprosy Mission.
 Wed 17th We pray for those who grieve
 Thur 18th We pray for the prayer and worship team.
 Fri 19th As we begin our 24 hours of prayer – Lord teach us to pray.
 Sat 20th You are the Alpha and Omega – we praise You for all that is past and trust You for all that is to come.
 Sun 21st As we share in communion with Mark and Sally today may your presence fill this place.

Mon 22nd Holiday Club begins today, we pray for all the team that you would equip them with all the gifts they need.
 Tue 23rd Today we pray for the children at the holiday club. May they experience Your love through the stories they hear and the care they receive.
 Wed 24th We pray for the leaders of holiday club – Lord strengthen and refresh them.
 Thur 25th We pray for the whole community who we serve through our holiday clubs.
 Fri 26th We pray for the families of the children who will come tonight to the family fun evening as we celebrate the end of holiday club.
 Sat 27th We pray for the youth and their leaders at Soul Survivor this week. May they meet with You.
 Sun 28th We pray for all who preach and lead worship today.
 Mon 29th Lord bring to mind today the needs in our world.
 Tue 30th Lord increase in us a desire to study Your Word.
 Wed 31st As the young people return home from Soul Survivor protect and guard them.

TMC PRAYER CHAIN

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

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



24 HOURS OF PRAYER 6pm FRIDAY 20TH - 6pm
SATURDAY 21ST JULY
Alpha & Omega

6pm Friday – Church opens for prayer
8pm – 9pm Friday – Corporate prayer & worship time
Midnight – Church closes
6am Saturday – Church re-opens for prayer
10.00-11.00am Children’s prayer activities
5pm – 6pm Saturday – Informal communion and reflection on the 24 hours

The Traffic Light Prayer by Douglas Burke

Each morning going to school, my family prays for people. At my 12 yr old son's turn, the traffic light turned to amber.



My son prayed for amber light Christians who didn't know if they should go or stop. They hadn't made up their mind yet.

He then prayed for red light Christians who had stopped still & going nowhere. They were soon to be rolling backwards.

He then prayed for green light Christians. They had made up their mind & were all out to do Christ's work. They were all GO! Full ahead.

What colour are you?

Diaconal Ministry

Over the last 12 months I have been on an amazing journey testing what I felt was a call by God to the Diaconal ministry. Many people have asked me, “what is a Deacon?” and “what is Diaconal ministry?” Well this is what the Methodist Diaconal Order says:-

“Diaconal ministry is incredibly varied, so it is not easy to give a definitive description of what a Deacon does. However it is likely to be people-centred, encouraging, enabling, supporting and pastoral in nature.

The role may be public – leading worship, facilitating groups and being actively involved in the life of the Church, or less public – dealing with people one to one, or out in the community. Deacons are committed to working collaboratively and building community wherever possible.

Deacons try to live out in their personal and spiritual lives what they do in their practical work. They are committed to offering a model of Christian service as they seek to support and fulfil the needs of the church and community they are appointed to serve.

Diaconal ministry can be a catalyst to exploring dreams and visions for the church and community. Deacons can enable the gifts and graces of the local people to be released and encouraged as together they discover, explore, share, enable and seek to understand their faith journey and their part in the kingdom of God.”

Deacons, as well as being an order of ministry, are part of a Religious Order (The Methodist Diaconal Order). As a religious order, we recognise the unconditional love of God as known in Jesus Christ.

Out of this springs our calling to the sacrificial servant ministry of Christ and to be a dispersed community living by a rule of life. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we seek to be: careful stewards of God's gifts, faithful in all relationships and willing servants.

Fortunately I am not embarking on this on my own! God is with me and His Spirit strengthens and guides me. I also have wonderful people like you praying for me and for that I am very grateful.

At my final stage of the candidating process, the connexional interview, I had to speak on "My favourite Bible text". I would like to share what I said with you as I believe this has also been a text for TMC over recent years.

The Bible text I have chosen as my "favourite" is one I can't escape from. Throughout my faith journey, at different times, and in various circumstances, it keeps cropping up:

- *It was given to me as a teenager when I first left home;*
- *It was put to music and sung on my wedding day;*
- *And throughout this candidating process – in sermons, in daily devotions, and in the homegroup I attend, it keeps on being quoted.*

I suppose this has become my life text, and it is found in Proverbs 3:5-6:

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him
and He will make your paths straight."*

I believe that trying to apply these verses to my life is a lifetime's job.

This text speaks to me of a wholehearted absolute dependence on God and it's how I would love to live my life.

These verses are a challenge to me and I am regularly being drawn back to them. I know for myself there is always a risk that I will not be trusting in the Lord and I will trust in my own understanding or skills and abilities.

When I have looked back on those times when I have exercised ministry in my own strength I see that by the grace of God it hasn't been a complete disaster. And at times I have kept going in my own strength with even some apparent success.

However, the experience has often left me feeling hollow and pride has often crept in, and I have often found both myself physically drained and my relationships with others emotionally strained.

These times when I have journeyed trusting in my own strength have nearly always correlated with times when I have neglected spending time with God. Such experiences have shown me that I need to keep a regular time set aside for prayer and reading scripture to help me keep in step with God.

My life text is a reminder to me to commit each day to God and to practice the presence of God throughout the day. When I am putting God first and seeking Him in all things I strive less and enjoy being His child more and find it so much easier to serve Him.

In this text the command to "Trust in the Lord " comes with a promise: "And He will make your paths straight." In my life I have seen this played out; I have experienced the Lord make a crooked path straight.

Perhaps the biggest example of this has to do with our oldest son Joseph. Joseph is autistic. Praying for him and committing him to God we put our trust in the Lord as we searched for the best way to help him break out of his isolated little world and into the amazing universe of relationships. After researching all sorts of therapies we discovered the Son Rise program and felt it was right for us.

But the path had many obstacles, such as: The obstacle of finance; The obstacle of recruiting and training volunteers; The obstacle of continuing to care for our two younger children, Thomas and Rachel.

And one by one, we believe, God either: removed the obstacle; or equipped us to overcome it; or in one form or another provided for our needs.

I know that – every step of the way, - with every twist and turn of the path, - both when the road felt smooth and easy and when the road felt rough and hard as we trusted and acknowledged God we experienced that God kept his promise.

Now I am trying to apply these same verses in my present situation. I have taken what I believe to be a step of obedience to test a call to the Diaconal Ministry. I am trusting God with all my heart and leaning on Him. The path has already had many obstacles and I still cannot for sure see the final destination clearly but I am trying to trust God whatever the future may hold.

Although I do not know how all the changes and potential changes ahead of me are going to play out, I am confident of the truth in these two verses of scripture: Which is that, so long as I seek to wholeheartedly trust in the Lord, I will be on the right road, even if that road may not always be easy.

Through it all I will continue to ask the Holy Spirit to help me: to trust in the Lord with all my heart and not to lean on my own understanding, to acknowledge Him in all my ways, giving constant praise and thanks to the One who promises to make my paths straight.

Now since writing the above presentation “my present situation” has moved on. The Methodist Church has discerned that I am called

to the Diaconal ministry and have accepted me for pre-ordination training. I now know that I will be training part time over three years out of Queens College Birmingham, however the details of what that training will look like are not yet clear.

I share this word of testimony that as we together face the changes that will soon be upon us, we may stand together on the Word of God.

“Trust in the Lord with all Your heart”

Love Sally xx

COMFORT ZONE

Those of you who came to our open evening in April will have had a ‘taster’ of our work down in Blackpool among the homeless and needy. We had a wonderful response, with thirteen people interested in getting involved on either Monday evenings or Wednesday mornings. We need twelve volunteers every session so it is good to see our bank of helpers growing. They are currently going through the safeguarding procedures and learning what is involved in our work.

Our customer numbers are growing, sometimes nearly 70 people sitting down to be waited on with a two course hot meal and drinks. In the limited space we have available, both in the room and in the kitchen, it can be a tight squeeze but somehow we always manage.

There is direct access into the Church itself and we often use it when we are asked for prayer or a listening ear. Thank you all for your continuing support.

Gwen

**THE TMC VISION DAY including
Gift Day and General Church Meeting
Saturday 15th June – 10am to 3pm**

This is a fun-packed day when our whole church prayerfully and enthusiastically gathers to consider such things as:

What has God achieved through us this year?

What is God calling us to do next?

What should be our priorities for the next 12 months?

In addition to tweaking our TMC Vision and agreeing our TMC Priorities, our Vision Day incorporates our Gift Day and the business of our annual General Church Meeting which includes the election of Church Stewards and members of the Church Council. Any member of Thornton Methodist Church may nominate a fellow church member for election to the church council (3 vacancies). The nomination should be given in writing, by Saturday 8th June, either to our Minister or to our Church Council Secretary, Lesley Butterworth. All nominations must have the previous consent of the persons nominated.

We ask that all nominees to the Church Council be involved members of Thornton Methodist Church, and as such will be people who at the time of their nomination are regular and active participants in the worshipping life and fellowship of Thornton Methodist Church.

Q. When is £1 worth £1.25? There are envelopes available for your gifts, which this year will be used for **training, mission and development**. Please remember if you are a tax payer to Gift Aid this as we receive an extra 25p for every £1 donated, at no cost to yourself.

A. When you gift aid it!



TO BOLDLY GO.....
TMC 14th Summer Holiday Club
Space Academy

Space Academy is a holiday club that explores the early chapters of Daniel. The story of Daniel is one of challenge, danger, courage and facing the unknown. Daniel is plunged against his wishes and as a result of violent conflict, into an amazing adventure where he has to make difficult choices, combat enemies, understand dreams and work miracles, all the time living boldly for God in a world that appears completely alien to him. (...almost like being on another planet!) Each day in Space Academy, the children will discover how much Daniel loves God and wants to live and behave in a way that pleases him.

We are looking for all potential Lieutenants to come and help lead our astronauts through this fun filled week. We will be led through the week by The Captain and The Space Commanders and kept fit by Super Nova!

If you would like to join us on our spaceship please give your name to Carey, Bianca or Sally before the 16th June.

There are two team meetings for everyone involved in the holiday club:

Monday 24th June 7.00pm

Thursday 18th July 7.00pm

Looking forward to an exciting voyage!



Registration forms available
from the church office open
10am-12pm Fridays; phone
07967497617 or email
info@thorntonmethodists.org.uk
Register by Mon 10th July

Thornton Methodist Church
Summer Holiday club
Primary School Children
Mon 22nd, Tues 23rd, Wed 24th,
Thurs 25th July
10.00am - 12.30pm

Friday 26th July
5.00pm - 7.00pm
Family Fun Evening
Cost: £2.50 per child per
day/evening

(£1 per adult for family fun day includes food)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THORNTON EVENTS

Quiet Day at Hynning, near Carnforth

Tuesday 9 July

Travel by car (lifts may be available), to arrive about 10.30am

Take packed lunch, drinks provided

Cost: £10 per person, plus a small donation for the speaker

List to sign up for this will be provided nearer the time and
will be advertised in the Weekly Notices

2 Cathedrals visit to Liverpool

Wednesday 25 September

Travel by coach

Guided tour of Anglican Cathedral

and visit to RC Cathedral

Cost approx £10 per person

More details later - put the date in your diary

Hannah's Dedication

Andy and Vikki will be having Hannah dedicated to God on
June 23rd. They would be delighted if all their church family
could join them during the 11 o'clock service and afterwards in
the church hall for a Jacobs join. They are asking you to please
bring food to share instead of gifts. Lots of love

Andy, Vikki & Hannah

A message of thanks from Mandy and Sue

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support over
recent months. It's meant a lot to us. Sue is approaching the
end of her chemotherapy. It appears to have helped reduce
her symptoms. Please continue to pray that she remains
symptom free for as long as possible to allow us to spend
some precious time together as a family.

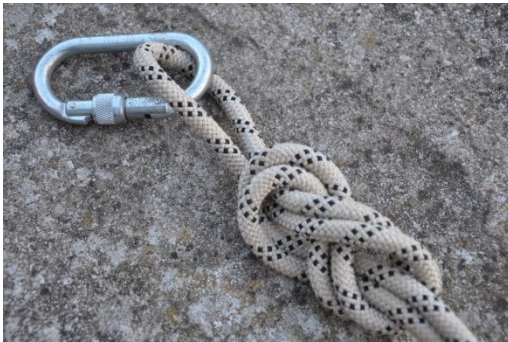
With love from Mandy, Sue, Arron and Caleb xxx

The figure of Eight Knot

Mountains inspire me, even climbing them solo, I never feel alone. A lady in our home-group, who is terrified of hospitals, said lying on a hospital bed awaiting a major operation, she felt the utmost of peace – she wasn't alone.

A friend, Stephen and I were once exploring a very deep pot-hole in the Yorkshire Dales. It is 360 feet deep, nearly three quarters of Blackpool Tower. You abseil 120 feet down the entrance shaft in mid-air plummeting rapidly into the darkness; the cave is called Rumbling Hole. You then force yourself down through a narrow slot, sideways, squeezing down, where four further deep, dark abseils await you. You finally can't go any further and you stand on loose shale in a small chamber, looking at water running down the grey walls all around.

As I watched my friend sliding down the rope through a pencil beam of light from my helmet, piercing the deepest blackness; thick steam ascending up from heat and adrenaline off me. I heard the Spirit clearly say: **"Tell him about me!"** So I did. Stephen dropped alongside me and replied, "So if you are tying off a figure of eight knot at the top of a deep shaft, God is watching you." I said, "Put that way ... yes! You might do it wrong, but he is still watching you." He shook his head watching the water disappear out of sight through the shingle.



The next week, out caving on the moors with several others, another friend **Nigel** starting singing, "Every breath you take, I'll be watching you." Recognising the Spirit's presence, excited, I blurted out: "That is God talking to you!"

Stephen said, "Oh no! Don't set him off again; you know what he is like." I looked down, and Stephen was on his knees, tying off a

figure of eight knot, ready to descend down a cave entrance shaft. What I suspected, God confirmed to me before my eyes.

Whether on a mountain top, a hospital bed, or deep down in the blackness of the earth, there is nowhere, absolutely nowhere you can go to get away from the presence of God.

Douglas Burke

Psalm 139, v7

"Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there:
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
Even there your hand will hold me fast."

Matthew 28, v20 "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



Year of Evangelism 52 Ways to Share Your Faith

(Weeks 1-4)

Each week the Lancashire District will publish one way in which we can share our faith with those around us. Please feel free to share this with anyone else. If you want to receive this electronically then go to the 'Lancashire Methodist Year of Evangelism' page on facebook (click the like button) or '@YrofEvangelism' on twitter and it will be sent to you. Why not arrange to meet up with a couple of

people from your church to encourage each other and share stories. To see previous ideas log on to www.lancashiremethodist.org.uk. To share a good news story with the district email Nick Moxon at nickmoxon@btinternet.com

Week 1 - 20th May

Meet up with a friend/work colleague.

Arrange to meet up with a friend over the next two weeks. Go & spend time with them. Find out what's going on in their lives and allow them to hear what's going on in your life. Enjoy it!

Week 2 - 27th May

Pray for a friend each day for the week.

Spend time each day praying for a friend/work colleague. Ask God to be very real to them and bless them. If you feel confident enough let them know you are praying for them and ask if there is anything they would like you to pray for.

Week 3 - 3rd June

See What God is Doing and Join in.

As you walk around this week see what God is doing in your family's / friend's / colleague's lives or in the wider world and see if there is anything you can do or say to help them experience God even further.

Week 4 - 10th June

Sharing Answered Prayer.

Think of a time when God has answered your prayer. Keep it at the forefront of your mind, and ask God to send you someone who you can share this story with.

('50 Ways to Share Your Faith' iPad app)

LANDS END TO JOHN O'GROATS

I will be cycling solo from Lands End to John O'Groats, with campervan support from my wife Anita, starting on 11th August and finishing by 23rd August 2013. The traditional distance by road is approx 874 miles but having decided to avoid some of the major A roads for safety reasons and the opportunity to visit some more interesting places along the way the eventual total distance is likely to be nearer 1000 miles.

I will be cycling to raise money for Cancer Research as my way of saying thank you for the friends who have beaten cancer through the fantastic work this charity performs. Sadly, the ride will also be in memory of some who have lost that fight. Donations can be made via the JustGiving site on my account <http://www.justgiving.com/DavidRangeley05010>

Many thanks
Blessings

Dave & Anita Rangeley

SINGING THE FAITH

An Opportunity to journey through the
New Methodist Hymn Collection!

3pm: Workshop – A Chance to Sing!

Led by Revs Ian Worsfold & Paul Wood

Members of the Music Resource Group

5pm: Bring and Share Tea

(Hot Drinks Provided!)

6pm: Worship

SATURDAY 8th June 2013

POULTON METHODIST CHURCH



RAG BAG

We now have a new Rag Bag bin in the car park. The contents raise funds for our church.

We can accept the following items:

- All men's, ladies and children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together)
- Handbags, bags, ties & belts
- Soft Toys
- Blankets
- Underwear to include socks, tights, pants and bras etc...
- Household textiles to include towels, bed linen, curtains etc...

We cannot accept the following items:

- Duvets both synthetic and feathered
- Carpets
- Rugs
- Soiled or wet clothing

To put items in the bin please pull the flap down and insert your items, and remember to push the flap back up to avoid the rain getting in. Many thanks.

Monthly Giving: March and April 2013

Mar.	3rd	£ 358.03	Apr.	7th	£ 396.73
	10th	£ 460.19		14th	£ 481.54
	17th	£ 357.48		21st	£ 414.36
	24th	£ 597.08		28th	£ 376.30
	31st	£ 417.66			
	Standing Orders:	£2,098.00			£2,229.00
	Total:	£4,288.44			£3,897.93
	Average weekly:	£ 857.68			£ 974.48
	Total income: Mar:	£6,923.79		Apr:	£ 6,073.05
	Total expenses: Mar:	£6,032.50		Apr:	£ 6,312.38

The coffee morning in April raised £253

The coffee morning in May raised £271

The Easter Fair raised £713

The Voce concert raised £544

Network Easter offering envelopes £134.38

The Train Day raised £327.28

The Rossall Choir raised £151.00

£ FINANCE TEAM NEWSFLASH £

We are now nearing the end of another Financial Year and currently our finances are slightly better than expected.

Support for the Bi-Centenary Appeal is growing and many Members are finding innovative ways to raise money for this event. Donations will be received at the Gift Day on June 15th and if you wish your name to be recorded in the donors book please complete the appeal form previously circulated or obtainable from myself. Remember that all donations will be recorded irrespective of the amount donated but we are suggesting a target of £200 per family.

You will have noticed that a considerable amount of re-decoration has been carried out recently and further planned improvements to the buildings will be carried out when funds permit.

Brian Watkins

THEOLOGY SCHOOL

AT THORNTON METHODIST
CHURCH



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Tuesday 25th June
Tuesday 23rd July

The Catholic Epistles Part 2
The Prophets Part 1

Cost £2.00 per session including handout and coffee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday 4 th June	2.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship – Coffee Afternoon for the Bicentenary Appeal
Saturday 8 th June	10.00 am	Coffee Morning – proceeds for St John’s Church Roof Appeal
Monday 10 th June	7.00 pm	Leadership Team meeting
Tuesday 11 th June	7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting at TMC
Thursday 13 th June	12 noon	Pastoral Carers meeting
Friday 14 th June	7.00 pm	Father’s movie and pizza
Saturday 15 th June	10.00 am	Vision Day, General Church Meeting and Gift Day
Sunday 16 th June	11.00 am	Worship Leaders Recognition Service
Tuesday 25 th June	7.30 pm	School of Theology
Monday 8 th July	7.30 pm	Church Council
Thursday 11 th July	7.30 pm	Circuit Farewell Service for Rev Mark Hammond and family
Friday 12 th July	7.30 pm	Thornton Cleveleys Operatic Society Concert
Saturday 13 th July	2.00 pm	Afternoon Tea Dance
Sunday 14 th July	10.30 am	Farewell Service for Rev Mark Hammond and family followed by Faith lunch
	5.30 pm	District farewell service for Rev Stephen Poxon at The Drive Methodist Church, St Annes

Monday 15 th July	7.00 pm	Finance Team meeting
Friday 19 th July	6.00 pm	Start of 24 hours of prayer
Saturday 20 th July	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Monday 22 nd July	10.00 am	start of Holiday Club
Tuesday 23 rd July	7.30 pm	School of Theology
Friday 26 th July	5.00 pm	Family Fun evening
Saturday 27 th July	10.00 am	Trinity Hospice Fair at TMC

CONCERT BY THORNTON CLEVELEYS OPERATIC SOCIETY

We are very pleased that Thornton Cleveleys Operatic Society will be performing again at TMC on **Friday 12th July** at 7.30 pm. Tickets will be available shortly

AFTERNOON TEA DANCE

Saturday 13th July, 2- 4pm Dancing of all types, to suit all. With refreshments £3.50 Adults and £1 Children Tickets available from Jean Casson, Laurie Faragher, Betty Beasley or the Church Office



THE HAMMOND’S FAREWELL SERVICE AT TMC

On **Sunday 14th July** at 10.30 am there will be just one morning service where we can give thanks for the Ministry of the Rev Mark Hammond and all the family. After the service everyone is invited to share lunch together (Jacob’s Join – **please only bring cold food** – drinks will be provided)

The Circuit farewell service is on **Thursday 11th July** at 7.30 pm

REV STEPHEN POXON’S FAREWELL SERVICE

The District Farewell service for the Rev Stephen Poxon is on **Sunday 14th July** at The Drive Methodist Church, St Annes at 5.30 p.m.

WELCOME SERVICE FOR REV STEPHEN DUNN

Thursday 29th August at 7.30 pm (please put date in your diary)

Meeting Together: People to Contact

SUNDAY			
Young Church	11.00	Sally Hammond	855917
Mettle (Year 10+)	19.00	James & Kristina Wilson	07967 044327
MONDAY			
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
TUESDAY			
Ladies Fellowship	14.30	Sylvia Clark	857754
Prayer Meeting	18.45-19.15	Sally Hammond	855917
THURSDAY			
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
FRIDAY			
YOYO Parent & Toddler	09.45	Alison Stevenson	826931
Youth Social	19.00	James Wilson	07967 044327

CHURCH OFFICE

07967 497617

(Open Fridays 10 am to 12 noon)

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	Mansel Jones	
ROOM BOOKINGS		07927 912218
		bookings@thorntonmethodists.org.uk
SENIOR STEWARD	Amanda Hale	866218
WORSHIP & PRAYER	Sally Hammond	855917
YOUTH TEAM LEADER	Christine Girven	07891 183438



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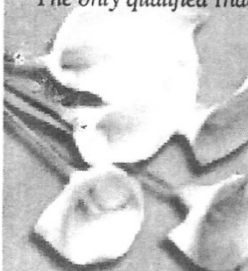


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