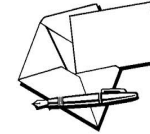




**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

September 2019 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

I'm writing this in the short gap between returning from Sabbatical and going on Holiday with the family. There's been time to try and catch up on emails, and drop in on events at each church, but not much more.

One thing that's worth remembering - for me, and for you - is that things haven't fallen apart in my absence! I am not an irreplaceable part of the life of St. Johns, and you - the people of this church - are more than capable of continuing our work, worship and witness.

Now, however, I'm preparing to return to you, refreshed and with maybe some different ideas to discuss. It could be an exciting year ahead, and I look forward to sharing with you over the coming months.

On a personal note - not everything has gone according to plan on Sabbatical. In particular, I picked up an injury while running, and while it isn't too serious - I'm not in great pain - it has stopped me running since June, and so I won't be doing the Great North Run after all. Still - there'll be other runs!

God Bless

Rob

Steward's Letter

Dear All,



A New Year

By the time most of you read this, we will be into a new Methodist Year. Most of the time we think of a year, as being a calendar year. For our younger members, they have a school year, changing classes/schools. We also have a Tax year, those in business — they have their own year end. In my accountant days, about 70% of businesses had the 31st March or the 5th April as the year end.

In the last Methodist year, St. John's has had its most significant change in the building in 140 years, with the much improved ACCESS. Changes in the people who attend our church is gradual and it is only when you stop and think, can you recognize the changes.

BEING A MEMBER.

If you are one of the newer people and would like to learn more about becoming a member of this church, please can you speak to Hazel Nimmo (Pastoral Secretary), one of the Stewards or our Minister. If you have been coming for some time and are unsure of whether you are a member or not, just talk to us. What I must emphasise is that 'all are welcome'. Our Communion Table is open to all. Our meetings are open to all. All of you are part of our Church Family.

Challenges.

This new church year brings with it new challenges, some of these we as Stewards, will be sharing with you as the year proceeds. Most organisations experience the words that Jesus spoke in Matthew Ch 9 v 37 "the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few". It will soon be our church Harvest (6th October), see the details of this in this Newsletter.

Later this month we will have invitations available for you to invite family, friends and neighbours along to our Harvest.

Moses, when asked by God to go to none other than Pharaoh the ruler of the land, said “who am I that I should go to Pharaoh” (Exodus Ch 3 v11 & 12). God responded and said “I will be with you”.

The invitations which I hope you will use, are unlikely to be for Pharaoh! However, if you feel you lack a little confidence in giving one out, remember God says he will go with you. Jesus also said to his disciples “I will be with you always”.

Have confidence in God, who you INVITE can only say no!

Brian Faulkner.

Flowers Rota for September

1st. Brenda Aumeer
8th. Dorothy Faulkner
15th. Nancy Millington
22nd. Hazel Nimmo
29th. Lynn Fowler
October 6th. HARVEST



TEA & COFFEE ROTA for September

1st Eileen & Lynn
8th Brenda & Helen
15th Ruth & Einwen
22nd Fiona & Rachel
29th Nancy & Chris



HARVEST WEEKEND



Saturday 5th October 10am – 4pm.
View the church displays.
Stay for Coffee and a chat.

Sunday 6th October 10.30am
Harvest Festival Service
Speaker: Mrs Sharon Mayer,
(Rural Chaplain in Cheshire)

Monday 7th October Toddler Harvest
All welcome to come and join in.
6.30pm Harvest Supper

Messy Church

Messy Church took place on the first Monday of the school holidays and an amazing 43 children attended with their parents, grandparents or carers! We used the whole of the church premises with constructions being built and games being played in the main church isle, the story being watched in the children's corner, and drinks and biscuits consumed sitting on the floor in the open area near the new door. Crafts took place in the long room and babies were in the guild room playing with their toys. The story this time was 'The Feeding of the five thousand' and we talked about how little actions can make a big difference in the world. It was a happy time and everyone seemed to have enjoyed it. Thanks to the whole Team of helpers who made it so successful.

Spick and Spanners for September 2019

5th Joan & Gordon & Eileen

19th Ros & Sue



Safeguarding

On Wednesday 11th September we have a safeguarding course at St. John's Church in Whitchurch. If anyone needs to be on the list please let me have your name. Safeguarding comes into its own when we hear about goings on in Haiti by Oxfam Workers. An official warning is not sufficient. Why have heads not rolled? These people were warned and did not take any action and are paid huge salaries.

Maurice Latham

(We do not just need to look as far as Haiti — Ed)

In England and Wales:

- 9% of adults experienced psychological abuse during childhood.
- 7% suffered physical abuse in childhood
- 7% suffered sexual assault in childhood
- 8% witnessed domestic violence or abuse in the home during childhood

More than one in ten women and 3% of men in England & Wales were sexually assaulted during childhood. Traumatic life experiences can have a significant impact on people's lives, increasing the risk of poorer physical and mental health and poorer social, educational and criminal justice outcomes. Source: ONS Crime Survey for England and Wales, March 2016

It is estimated that only one in eight victims of sexual abuse come to the attention of statutory authorities. Source: Children's Commissioner 2015

JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE –
Saturday 12th October 10am-12

Following the success of our jumble sale in July which raised £480, we are holding another one on **Saturday 12th October at 10am**. Please clear out your wardrobes and cupboards and bring your Jumble and Nearly New items of clothing, bric a brac etc to the church on Friday 11th October between 9am and 11am. Everything and anything is welcome including shoes, bags, toys, books and small electrical items in working order. Please let us know if you have any clothes rails or spare hangers we could borrow. If you need anything to be collected, or if you can help to set up or assist on the day please speak to Briony or Lyn.

EXTRAORDINARY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING –
17th September 2019

There will be an Extraordinary Church Council Meeting on **Tuesday 17th September at 7.30pm** when the Acting Superintendent Rev Jeremy Tresise and David Priaulx, a circuit steward, will be coming to talk about our financial contributions to the circuit. Anyone is welcome to attend but only Church Council Members will be able to vote if a decision is required. The next regular Church Council meeting is on Wednesday 9th October at 7pm.

REMINDER: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

People from our Church Family are needed to fulfil the following roles:

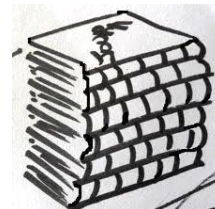
- **Safeguarding Officer This is vital** (see Hazel Nimmo)
- A volunteer for the **Hospital Chaplaincy** team (see Avril Bradfield)
- Volunteers to help at **Parents & Toddlers** (see Janet Lees)

A new team to review the next stage of the refurbishment work and consider how to use the new spaces we have created inside and outside the church.

Please consider if you may be able to help in any way.

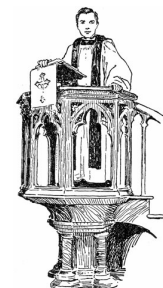
Book Stewards for September

1st	May Arthan
8th	Sarah Lunt
15th	Nancy Millington
22rd	Susan Davies
29th	Sheila Walwyn



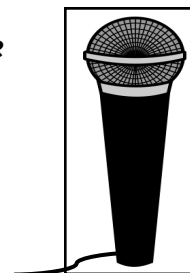
SEPTEMBER SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S

1st	Heather Staniland
8th	Rev. Jill Taylor (Baptism)
15th	Rev. Rob Weir (Baptism)
22nd	Brian Faulkner
29th	Rev. Rob Weir



Sound System Operators for June

1st	David Whiteley
8th	Gordon Davidson
15th	Mike Nimmo
22rd	Andrew Fawcett
29th	Jim Walwyn



Stewards

1st September	Avril Bradfield
8th September	Maurice Latham
15th September	Maurice Latham
22nd September	Pete Shingler
29th September	Brian Faulkner

Worship Leader

1st September	Lucy Chidlow
8th September	
15th September	
22nd September	Rachel Dimelow
29th September	Rachel Dimelow



The **Methodist** Church



People, Protest and Politics – Methodists, Mow Cop and social change

**Saturday 7 September 2019
11am – 3pm**

In 1807 Hugh Bourne inspired thousands of people to gather on Mow Cop and helped to change society. Join the National Trust, Mow Cop Methodist Church and the Museum of Primitive Methodism to explore how the Primitive Methodist movement began on Mow Cop with poetry, song and talks as we recreate the spirit of the camp meetings.

**Performances will run throughout the day
and refreshments will be available at Mow Cop Methodist Church.**

**Please park at Life Stream Church, Newpool Road, Knypersley ST8 6NN
and catch the free shuttle bus which will run continuously between
Knypersley and Mow Cop 10.30am – 4.30pm.**

*Limited car parking is also available at Mow Cop Community Church, Close Lane ST7 3NY.
Please note that both the Mow Cop car park and the Mow Cop Methodist Church car park
will be closed for the day to allow this event to take place.*



Pray, Think Act Group – Update

The Pray, Think Act (PTA) group met on 11th July and here is a summary of the meeting to keep you all updated.

Prayer Initiatives

There was an opportunity for everyone in the church to be part of a prayer triplet or prayer chain (you may remember a box being placed at the back of church). There are 3 prayer triplets and 9 people have signed up to the prayer chain. We are currently speaking to each person individually to check permission for sharing contact details in the newsletter. This is a great opportunity to collectively pray for specific needs and circumstances as and when they arise. If you would like to take part, please let us know.

Book Review – Celebration of Discipline

The Tuesday Fellowship Group have almost come to the end of the Richard Foster book on spiritual growth, which Jenny Marston read and summarised in a series of newsletter articles in 2018. It would be great to see some other perspectives and reflections shared in the newsletter over the next few months as we bring the book review to a close. Jenny will collate her articles into a booklet and place at the back of the church for anyone who would like a copy.

Healthy Churches Questionnaire

A questionnaire with the congregation was due to take place on a Sunday in September, but unfortunately this has not been included in the forthcoming plan. We will therefore need to delay the questionnaire until sometime in 2020.

Café Church

Following the summer break, the next Café Church will take place on Thursday 26th September at 7.30pm at St. John's. The session will be led by our former superintendent minister, Rev. Malcolm Lorimer. It's a lovely opportunity to chat – very informal, with lots of tea, coffee and cakes! We look forward to seeing you there.

Worship Review

The worship review has continued over the summer. Jenny and Lucy

have visited St. Alkmund's and The Beacon as we prayerfully consider the worship offer at St. John's relative to the other churches in the town, and develop a vision for the future.

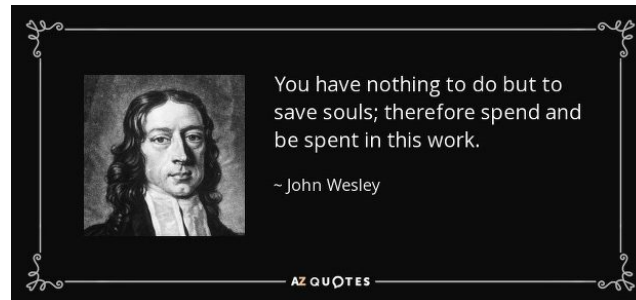
The review is considering the style of worship, practicalities of the worship space and projected content, amongst other things. Please do speak to us to share your views and importantly pray that the conclusions of the worship review reflect God's will and purpose for St. John's.

Bring & Share Lunch

The next Bring & Share Lunch will be on Sunday 17th November. Further details will be shared nearer the time but please put the date in your diary!

Date of next meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday 19th September at 7.30pm at Glebe House (home of Michael & Ruth Mulliner).



Christian Aid

There will be a Christian Aid Coffee Morning at 169 Wrexham Road in September but the date is not yet confirmed. See Pew news for further details on the 8th.

FUTURE EVENTS AT ST JOHN'S

There is an orange flyer at the back of the Church showing future events at St John's over the Autumn. Please take one for your friends and neighbours and encourage them to come along. Please note that the Auction of Promises has been postponed until the spring.

PRAYER REQUESTS



Thank God for the many ways He continues to bless and encourage us at St John's. Give thanks that we can bring our prayers to Him, knowing that He will hear our prayers and answer them according to His great love and mercy. Pray for those known to us personally who are in any kind of need: particularly members of St John's who are ill, housebound, in care, lonely or bereaved.

St John's

Give thanks for all those serving St John's on the various committees/Church Council and pray that, as they meet during the near future (the Worship Committee meets on 3rd September and Junior Church leaders/helpers meet on 24th September) they will seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Pray for the extraordinary Church Council meeting on 17th September, that wise decisions will be made, especially in regard to our finances.

Pray for the Pray-Think-Act meeting on 19th September, that ideas and resources will be discussed that will help us all to be more intentional in our discipleship.

Pray for our children and young people as they begin a new academic year, that they will be helped to fulfil their God-given potential.

Ask God to bless the various groups that meet at St John's – Parents and Toddlers, Network, the Music Group, the Tuesday Fellowship Group, the prayer meeting, Cafe Church – many of which will be starting up again after the summer break.

Pray for a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit to help us become a praying church, a church that seeks God's will and purpose, a church that is mission-minded rather than maintenance-minded.

Our nation

At this time of confusion and turmoil, let us bring our nation before God in prayer:

Continue to pray that MPs be given fresh vision and unity, that they may work together for the good of our nation rather than from selfish ambition or other motives.

There are people of great integrity across all sides of the Brexit debate. Ask God to raise up wise voices, to raise up people who will spot dangers and be able to find ways forward, people who are unifiers and peacemakers.

Ask God to help us, as Christians, to resist the spirit of anger, judgment, tension, bitterness and disagreement that is at work in our nation. May we show a Kingdom spirit.

Give thanks for the many individuals, small groups and churches who are earnestly praying for our nation and ask God to help them persevere in faith so that their prayers will bear fruit in the life of our nation.

Pray for the protection of family life in our nation and that each individual child becomes fully, without interference, what he or she is intended by the Lord to be.

Pray that Christians would be bolder in thinking through their beliefs and discussing them effectively with others.

Pray that our government will act boldly to help and support persecuted Christians around the world, particularly those in Nigeria and North Korea.

Regular Church Activities

Mondays 9:30-11:30am Parents & Toddlers (Term time)

Thursdays 7pm: Music Group Practice

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7.30pm: Bible Study at 7 Queen's Road

2nd/4th Thursdays at 7:30pm - Prayer Meeting at 7 Queen's Rd.

4th Thursday of the month - 7:30pm: Cafe Church

SEPTEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd 7.30pm Worship Committee

Friday 6th 9.30 – 12 noon Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th 11am-3pm People Protest & Politics
(Mow Cop)

Saturday 14th 10am-6pm Ride & Stride

Tuesday 17th 7:30pm Extraordinary Church Council

Thursday 19th 7:30pm Pray Think Act

Thursday 26th 7:30pm Café Church

October 12th 10am Jumble & Nearly New Sale

October 2019 Newsletter

Please let Chris Crowther have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 22nd September.

email csnillog@googlemail.com *Tel:* 01948 667282

This magazine costs 25p to produce. Contributions towards this expense would be gratefully received. The proceeds from advertising in this magazine will be used solely for 'Access for All' improvements to our church. Inclusion of an advertisement in this magazine does not imply an endorsement of the products or services of the advertiser by St. John's.

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The following drivers are available during June to
transport you to the services. Please 'phone before
9:30am.

1st	David	667193
8th	Brian	664898
15th	Hazel	667857
22nd	Sheila	880218
29th	Jim	662778



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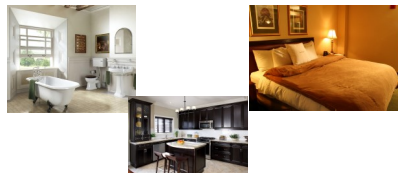
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