

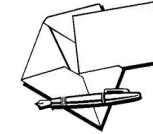
# Newsletter



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

**June 2022**

## Message from Rev. Donna Broadbent-Kelly February



Hello friends,

*“The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God.”*

Her Majesty The Queen

As we join together as a nation to celebrate the many and various acts of service made by our Queen, it is good to reflect upon the nature of that service and the example that it provides to us all.

Much of what the Queen promised at her coronation 70 years ago related to words of power, law and justice, but when we reflect on her 70 years of service, these are not the words that often come to my mind.

When I think about how I see the Queen go about her acts of service to her nation I am often struck by how small each individual act seems and yet, together they add up to the job of being the Queen.

So much of the Queen’s reign is caught her in her smile. As she goes about the country meeting the people, the Queen is always quick to smile. She smiles at the child who hands her some flowers; she smiles as she pulls the ribbon to unveil the plaque; she even smiles as she walks along streets paved with crowds of well-wishers calling her name and waiting for her attention. Even more than this, the Queen smiles as she presides over yet another formal banquet, while she waits for the translator to communicate her harmless remark about the weather or the food to the waiting dignitary.

*Continued overleaf,*

*Cont.,*

The Queen's act of service is often made up of small, everyday actions of a handshake, a smile and a listening ear. It is the sum of a whole host of small actions that make up the role of the Queen. Furthermore, the Queen is diligent in ensuring that she has an awareness and knowledge of the people, circumstances and concerns of the people who have sent her the invitation that she has accepted. It may only be the opening of a building to some people, but the Queen will have ensured that she knows the importance of why this building is being opened and the impact it is going to have. She cares, she listens and she takes the time to be attentive. For a lady in her 96<sup>th</sup> year her mind and outlook on life is far younger. She has grown in her awareness of the world, and travelled with the changing world, making her have a modern outlook on life. The Queen has the gift to relate to all ages. She doesn't just dismiss things because its not how it used to be. What a fantastic example this is to each of us.

Her faith though is for me a real inspiration. Like all families things haven't always been easy. There have been disagreements, illness, tragic deaths and concerns. Throughout it all her faith has remained strong. The Queen prays daily, seeks the counsel of her minister and attends church weekly. She serves God through her work and actively shares His love with others.

We can all emulate the Queen, and take encouragement from her. Simple acts such as smiling at the people in the shopping queue; passing the time of day with those we walk past; taking an extra moment on our journey to help someone out, are all ways we can make someone else's day a bit better. Servanthood is at the heart of her ministry in service to the country and to God. To be a true servant you need to humble yourself, put aside any barriers and discriminations and put others needs before your own.

Cont.,

Over these weeks of the Jubilee celebrations, let us take wisdom from the words of her Majesty as a reminder of what each of us is called to every day and do our bit to act with kindness to others, preferring their needs to our own.

*“At the heart of our faith stand not a preoccupation with our own welfare and comfort but the concepts of service and of sacrifice.”*  
Her Majesty The Queen

With blessings

Rev. Donna

## **BBT@St Johns**

Bumps Babies and Toddlers will take place each Monday in June from 9.30-11.30am. Any mums, dads, nanas, grandpas and other carers and their children are welcome to join us for craft, toys and coffee in the long room and guild room and singing, stories and prayers in the church. We are keen for more people in church to join our rota of helpers so if you would like to help or just want to come and say hello, please speak to Briony.



## **Christian Aid Week: Hope in Times of Crisis**

Thank you to everyone who supported Christian Aid Week this year. The **combined service** on Sunday at St Johns led by Rev Frances Biseker and Helen was attended by members of St Alkmunds and St George's and Rev Donna and Briony led an **assembly on being a good global neighbour** at Whitchurch Junior School on Monday. **BBT** heard about people round the world and donated their entry money to the appeal. Our **Coffee Morning** at the Civic Centre on Friday raised £250 and our team of collectors rattled **collecting buckets** on the High Street on Saturday. Thank you to everyone who helped, prayed and made a donation through the envelopes or on-line giving. We will let you know how much was raised next month. for Christian Aid week.

*Briony & Helen*

## **Churches Together**

The AGM of Churches Together is set for July 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm in the Beacon Centre. All are invited. This is an opportunity to have fellowship with our local Christian friends and after the short amount of business each church will give a brief insight into the life and work of their church. Please come along if you can.

## Stewards Letter June 2022

Dear Friends,

I hope I can call you friends

I write this letter as we move through spring, the time when we leave the past behind and see new life spring forth from the ground, new lambs & Calves in the fields.

In Genesis we are told how God created the Earth, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea & then he Created Adam & Eve for the procreation of the human race. He later saw how bad things became and told Noah to build an Arc, take his wife, family and a male & female of each species into the Arc. He then flooded the earth so as his plan could start again. Now look what a mess we have made of his wonderful creation.

Men fighting so as they can increase their empire, women being made second class citizens in the name of religion. We must try harder as Christians to reverse these things & try to return to Gods dream for us.

In our Church this year we have lost 3 good people. We must remember our Christian teachings that this life is just the first stage of what is to come if we believe.

Jackie, Jean & Nancy brought their children into this world to be good Christians & now they have left us to join our heavenly father in eternal life. Although we bury & burn the body the spirit has already left & gone on to the next stage of life where we will meet again one day.

Keep the families in your prayers as we as a church move forward.

God Bless you all

Pete

P.S. Heres something to ponder. If as Scientist tells us the earth started with a big bang, who created the items that made the bang?.

P.P.S. Astronomers tell us there is a black hole in space where all matter gets sucked into, is Heaven on the other side?.

### **Preachers for June**

June 5th: Joint Service at St. Alkmunds.

June 12th: Rev. Donna Broadbent Kelly

June 19th: Rev. Rob Hilton

June 26th: Rev. Jim Needham.



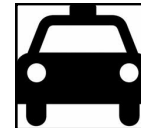
### **Stewards for June**

5th June: Service at St. Alkmunds

12th June: Rob Hewson with AGM after service

19th June: Maurice Latham

26th June: Brian Faulkner



### **Spick and Spanners Rota**

June 9th: Mike Nimmo, Vic Trigg & Dorothy

June 23rd: Sue & Ken Davies



### **Tea and Coffee Rota**

June 5th : No Service at St. John's

June 12th : Linda Jenkins & Sarah Lunt

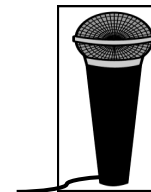
June 19th: Ruth Dawson & Einwen Kelly

June 26th: Elizabeth & Pete Shingler



### **Sound for June**

5 <sup>th</sup> June	Andrew Fawcett
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Sarah Lunt
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Norman Gollins
26th June	Mike Nimmo





## **Thank You from Brenda Aumeer**

I Have sent the speech Sophie made at mums funeral to be included in the newsletter. Thank you for everyone's condolences, kindness and support.

Donations to Dementia UK totalled £210.

Brenda Aumeer x

## **Nancy Green's Legacy—A Tribute**

### **By her Granddaughter Sophie Aumeer**

If I, or anyone in the family, did anything praiseworthy, Nan used to always laugh and say: "I taught them everything they know."

She would say it with a laugh and a smile, as if to say, of course I didn't what could I teach them?

But the truth is, Nancy Green taught us all—so—much, and growing up, I saw her as one of my greatest role models.

Over all the years I spent with Nan, I watched her shine a light of joy and love into the lives of all who knew her.

I saw her talk to people she didn't know and share the same kindness as if they were old friends. I heard Nan sing a song for every occasion and find a unique phrase for almost every situation to make life that little bit brighter. Every phrase I remember still makes me smile..

"Thanks for having us Nan"

"Thanks for being had".

*Cont;*

I heard Nan keep her loved ones alive in the stories she told and watched her take on life with a vigour and spirit that would not be beaten, no matter what she faced. This is this same person, who lived over half her life with a hole in her heart, who lived through a war and lived through losing the people closest to her. Maybe she lived so brightly, for them.

-I could see God's holy spirit in Nan. -  
One of her favourite poems of faith was 'Footprints in the sand' by Carolyn Joyce Carty. The last verse reads:

*The Lord replied , "My precious, precious child, I love you and would never leave you.. When you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."*

Not only did Nan live lifted by the spirit, but she used her strength to lift the hearts of others too. Nan knew she was blessed, even through hardship. She still saw every day with a laugh, a smile and a love to share with all around her. This was one of the greatest lessons I ever learnt from Nan, to know, no matter what, you are blessed.

The most important lesson—was from the way in which Nancy Green loved—unconditionally. Without expectation, without end. Nancy Green has left her legacy of love in us, her family, her friends. If you were loved by Nancy Green, you are loved always.

Each time we parted, Nan would say—see you anon.  
To say, we will see each other again, means far more than to say goodbye. So, Nan, as we part from you today, we will think of all the times we will see you again in our memories, and in the light and joy you have left within us forever more.

All our love, see you anon.

## SYNOD

The Spring Synod for the Chester & Stoke on Trent District took place at Helsby Methodist Church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. The church was easy to find, as it was just on the edge of the village/town and on the main A56 and just below Helsby Hill. The worship area is modern compared to ours at St. John's. It was built in the 1960s with the comfortable chairs arranged in a V shape, attached was a room with an open kitchen/serving area. The old Church is still used for various meetings and lettings. This building looked quite run-down from the outside.

The main theme of the day was to do with Climate Change. This was led by a Connexional Officer, Rev. David Hardman. I had come across him before as an Officer of Christian Aid. We were also joined remotely by Martha Rand, Youth President of the Methodist Church. A lot of conversations took place on becoming an Eco Church and how individuals can contribute to reducing our carbon emissions. Some suggestions put forward was having a Jumper Sunday, with no heat, with the response by one person (not me!) was every Sunday is a Jumper Sunday in our church! Another was, why has the Methodist Church Connexionally not negotiated fuel contracts, because as a church this would command greater buying power. David noted this, watch this space.

The Synod was informed that conversations were taking place with other Districts in the North West Region, as changes to Districts need to be implemented due to the shrinkage of churches. We were informed that we would hear more on this at the Autumn Synod. We were introduced to the Rev. David Willis, who is the District Mission Enabler and Robin Perry, the new District Digital Enabler.

Brian Faulkner,

Circuit Synod Rep.

*Cont.,*

**Cont.,**

**How does this affect me?**

The two new members to the District team could be quite useful to us at St. John's.

Rev. David has moved into the Crewe Manse, so is not far away and Robin is a Local Preacher in Market Drayton and is the son of the Rev. Edna and Ivan Perry, who have recently joined us. I also found out that the Connexion is not sending out any printed material. Connexional staff have to justify using cars for travel and not public transport.

As a Church, thanks to Helen Trigg, we have begun the process of becoming an Eco Church, albeit being in the early stages. As part of this, we have agreed to include Climate Change in our Worship at least once a quarter. On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, Rev. Jim Needham has offered to lead one of these services.

We all know fuels costs have greatly increased. This has a serious financial effect for our church. Should we be reducing the heat in the building? Do we meet in the schoolrooms in the winter? I try to not use all the lights when in the building, this does bring criticism. It disturbs me to find lights left on all night and going into church to see every light on, when only a small area is being used. The light switches are all numbered, with a list at the side to say which they are. We all need to take responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint.

## **Jubilee Celebrations**

To begin Whitchurch's celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Whitchurch Business Group (WBG) have organised a torch-lit procession from St. Alkmund's to the Rugby Club where a beacon will be lit.

The aim is to gather in St. Alkmund's car park at 8pm on the 2nd June. I will then lead everyone to the Rugby club whilst carrying the torch to light the beacon. The walk is short and boots are not required. Families are welcome but there will be fireworks, so maybe leave the dog at home.

The WBG have supported our festival and this is our chance to join other community groups and make this a real success. So, if you are not doing anything that evening, come along for an evening of fun, music and togetherness.

And please spread the word.

Baz Fewster  
Whitchurch Walkers.

### **Midday Concerts in June**

There are two Midday Concerts left, Please join us at one or both of the following,

**June 1st** Maurice Posniac and David Hack (piano, organ, songs)

**June 8th** Russ Simmonds and Rob Cope

Each concert will be followed by a ploughman's lunch served in the rooms at the back of church.

### **Queen's Jubilee**

To celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee we will be holding a coffee and cake morning on Saturday 4th June from 10am til noon. There will also be a plant sale. It will be held in the long room at St.John's.

Maurice Latham

### **Time Together**

Time Together is a group for those with memory loss and their carers. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Bargates Hall from 2.00-4.00pm for a social afternoon in a relaxed atmosphere. Sometimes there are games, sometimes we have an entertainer, sometimes we just like to chat and laugh with each other. We always have very nice cakes!

Please contact Rev. Judy Hunt

### **Zoom Services**

The Zoom services are for you when you, or someone you know, is unable to get to church. It's for you when you would like to 'visit' and perhaps meet up with old friends who you haven't seen for a while. They are held roughly once a month at 4.00pm on a Sunday afternoon.

Contact Avril for details and a link, or to go on our email list so you have the information handy.

## **More on Mondays**

MORE on Mondays in June dates will be,

**‘6th and 20th’**

Please come along. All Welcome.

## **July/August 2022 Newsletter**

Please let Chris Crowther have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 19th June.



**Dates for your Diary**

Monday 6th June: MORE on Mondays

Thursday 9th June: Ladies Coffee Morning at Jones's Coffee House

Sunday June 12th: General Church Meeting

Monday 20th June: MORE on Mondays

Wednesday June 22nd: Church Council 7pm

**TAXI**

June 5th : No taxi available

June 12th: Brian

June 19th: Hazel

June 26th: Sheila

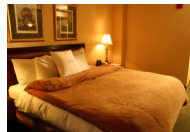


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*“people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,  
but people will never forget how you made them feel.”*

*May Angelou*

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## WALKERS

