
Lancaster Methodist Church

www.LancasterMethodistChurch.org.uk

Minister: Revd Juliet Wriglesworth (01524 32717)

January 2012

Each Sunday morning worship takes place at 10.30 am at Scotforth Road while evening worship is at 6.30 pm at The Cornerstone.

January 1st

am Earle Rendell

pm Norman Boothroyd

January 8th

am Revd Juliet Wriglesworth

Covenant Service

pm Ian Dent

January 15th

am Jenny Butcher

pm Revd Juliet Wriglesworth

Covenant Service

January 22nd

am Revd Juliet Wriglesworth

pm Rita Minshull

January 29th

am Peter Brophy

3pm Helen McGregor

6.30pm Alison Brophy

Please stay after morning service and join us for a cup of tea, coffee or juice.

Our morning services are designed to be child-friendly. Junior Church and Youth Fellowship meet for children and young people. Pre-school children are welcome to use the play corner at the left-hand front corner of the church or the crèche area in the foyer.

The Cornerstone is used throughout the week by a number of charities involved in working with people who suffer disadvantage, especially those with differing abilities. We serve light lunches each Tuesday and there is a coffee morning each Saturday.

From our minister:

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! This year, 2012, the Lancashire District is launching a year of prayer. Back in June last year, twenty people in the old Lancaster Circuit, travelled through a week of guided prayer. Following on from that, there were three Contemplation evenings in the autumn. These have been so appreciated that we are going to offer three more. (Please see overleaf for details.) On the 15th January at 2.30pm at Chorley Methodist Church there will be a District event to launch the year. On the 25th February the District is hosting 'Inspire 6,' for all ages, where there will be lots of opportunities to explore prayer. (Booking is essential) Stephen Hoyland, who led our week of guided prayer, has written a prayer for 'Inspire 6' to encourage us and to offer us hope if we struggle in any way with prayer:

'Lord, I'm busy, not sure if everything I'm doing is what you want me to do and I'm pretty useless at praying, especially the listening part. Help me to make some space in which to slow down and hear more of what you are saying to me. Speak Lord. Your servant is occasionally, imperfectly, currently listening.'

In this District year of prayer, how are we going to respond to these words of the prophet Isaiah: 'Pay close attention! Come to me and live.' (55:3)

Your sister in Christ,
Juliet

The Cornerstone is looking forward to major developments in the New Year. The December Church Council approved a request to the Circuit Meeting for a much larger contribution than previously envisaged to the redevelopment costs, following a meeting with the Circuit Leadership Team.

In addition we are having discussions with an organisation called Methodist Action NW, which runs the homeless service at Fox Street Methodist Church in Preston as well as a number of other projects. If all goes well we will become part of a network of Methodist outreach activities in the NW with a dedicated member of staff charged with developing the work. Already we have a new partner – *Body Positive*, which supports people diagnosed as HIV positive – joining us from the start of this month. They will be working alongside the Church, Thumbprint, Making Space (responsible for the Adult College courses) and other users.

Prayer Tree The Prayer Tree at The Cornerstone is available throughout the week to leave prayer requests. These are remembered both in the evening services and at the fortnightly Prayer Tree Meeting – please note that this month this is on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays i.e. 11th & 25th January.**

Contemplation Evenings. The evenings held in the Autumn are to continue this Spring – they have proved very popular with around 30 people attending at least one of the first series. Everyone is very welcome to come to one or more of the new series. They will be held at The Cornerstone (note the change of venue) from 8.00 – 9.30pm on 16th January, 20th February and 19th March.

A time of silence. The 20 minutes time of silence each week recommences on 10th January at 11.00am at The Cornerstone. Please feel free to join us.

Crafternoons @ The Cornerstone. An informal drop-in craft activities session every Tuesday 1.30pm - 3pm, beginning on Tuesday 10th January. If you knit, crochet, embroider, quilt or do any other 'portable' craft then bring whatever you're working on at the moment with you and enjoy sharing ideas, techniques and chat. The Cornerstone Cafe will be open selling tea, coffee and cakes. For more details contact Alison Brophy or Helen Smith.

Inclusive Church. Our mission statement says that *we aim to be an inclusive Christian community, with a deep commitment to justice and peace, which affirms and values everyone.* Church Council has agreed that to make this known more widely we will apply join the national 'Inclusive Church' network. Although mainly a Anglican initiative, churches in the network commit to being welcoming to all people and this is publicized in the Inclusive Church Directory (see <http://inclusive-church.org.uk/>) .

2011 Harvest Appeal. We've received this message from Stepping Stones Nigeria: "On behalf of all of the children that Stepping Stones Nigeria works with in Nigeria I wish to say a huge THANKYOU to everyone at Lancaster Methodist Church for their incredible kindness

in raising the amazing amount of £1,462.52. Such a massive amount will go a long way to bring positive change to the lives of the children. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has made this possible. Thank you so much. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful 2012. Gary Foxcroft – Director."

2010 Harvest Appeal Clive Robinson has given us an update. "LMC raised £1,074 for the Ethiopian NGO Association for Sustainable Development Alternatives (ASDA) in the 2010 harvest appeal. ASDA has had a much better year during 2011 based largely on a substantial grant from Bread for the World (the German 'Christian Aid'). It recruited a director for the first time and has expanded its staff from three to six. ASDE, the UK support group, and Bread for the World cofunded ASDA's first vehicle. Clive Robinson paid a short visit to the project area in September 2011 and reports a visible improvement in the state of the protected parkland: it was greener and more tree-clad than before and numbers of animals are increasing. Partly this was due to recent rains but also to the measures taken by ASDA of fencing, promotion of user groups and seedling plantation. ASDA's support to livelihoods and some construction for the community are also going well. A couple of months ago ASDE, now registered as a UK charity, transferred to its partner £5,000 from a UK trust for a beekeeping project. The President of the Methodist Conference, Reverend Leo Osborn, met ASDA staff on 6 December 2011 during a one-week visit to Ethiopia hosted by MRDF. Unfortunately MRDF have agreed a new funding policy this year to support work in only one region of Ethiopia and it is not the region where ASDA works. ASDA now has a three-year funding proposal under consideration by Bread for the World. "

Chernobyl children. It has been decided that our young people will be running the appeal for the children from Chernobyl again in Lent. Mike Cowan, the Lancaster coordinator of the scheme, will be coming to tell us about it on 26th February.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 8th January 10.30am Covenant Service (see opposite), Scotforth Road, will also include the Commissioning of our Junior Church and Youth Fellowship leaders and helpers.

Monday 9th January 7.00- 9.30pm 'Step Forward' training for anyone involved in Small Group leading, Scotforth Road.

7.30 pm Monday Meeting Point : Gordon Bartley: *Welsh Rarebit*.

Tuesday 10th January The Cornerstone reopens after the Christmas / New Year break.

Wednesday 11th January 11.30 am Prayer Tree, The Cornerstone

Friday 13th January 7.30 pm Country Dancing in Lower Room, Scotforth Road

Sunday 15th January 2.30pm Launch of District Prayer Year, Chorley Methodist Church
6.30pm Covenant service at The Cornerstone (see opposite)

Monday 16th January 8.00-9.15pm Contemplation evening, The Cornerstone

Tuesday 17th January 7.30pm Circuit Meeting

Monday 23rd January 7.30 pm Monday Meeting Point : Mary Dodd *My Life as Queen Victoria*

Tuesday 24th January 7.30pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at St Paul's

Wednesday 25th January 11.30 am Prayer Tree, The Cornerstone

7.30pm Church Council, Scotforth Road .

Friday 27th January 7.30 pm Country Dancing in Lower Room, Scotforth Road

Sunday 29th January 3.00pm Afternoon service at Scotforth Road

Monday 30th January 8.00pm GANG meeting

Tuesday 31st January 7.30pm Stewards Meeting at the Manse.

Housegroups meet fortnightly on

- Mondays (contact Frances Chiasson 67669)
- Tuesdays (contact Paul Bowden 32941)
- Wednesdays (contact Chris Thomas 382682)
- Thursdays (contact Sally McCann 846010)

The notices are usually distributed on the last Sunday of the month, so the next issue will be out on January 29th. The deadline for contributions for these will be January 22nd.

*If possible please email notices to notices@LancasterMethodistChurch.org.uk
Alternatively please send or give them to Peter Brophy (Tel: 01524-382301).*

The Covenant Service

John Wesley introduced the Covenant Service to the Methodist people in the eighteenth century and it has formed a distinctive part of Methodism ever since. As the *Methodist Worship Book* explains, "The emphasis of the service is on God's readiness to enfold us in generous love, not dependent on our deserving. Our response, also in love, springs with penitent joy from thankful recognition of God's grace. The covenant is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, but the act of the whole faith community."

During the service we are invited to join in the Covenant Prayer:

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things, and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.*

*Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.*

Lancaster Methodist Church

Scotforth Road, (corner of Kensington Road),
Lancaster LA1 4TE

The Cornerstone, Sulyard Street (off Dalton
Square), Lancaster LA1 1PX
