

Fatherhood

Nearly a year ago my life totally changed. It has its roots in other major changes, but the physical representation of it was there to touch, see and hear on a Sunday evening last August. That change has led to many other changes. Some have been practical and physical, and they have also been emotional and spiritual. If you haven't guessed that change is called Mark, Rita and my 11 month old son.

I have younger cousins and a nephew and niece, but nothing really prepares you for the arrival of your own newborn. That wonderful collection of joy, love, fear, anxiety and delight. When he arrived he was totally dependent upon us and, right on queue for a parade service illustration, he is now mobile and is making more and more of his own choices. Nothing can prepare you for what you will feel when your child is first placed in your arms, reaches out for a hug, or begins to crawl and explore their world. It has probably been said many times by a Christian parent before, but it also teaches you a lot about God.

When Mark returns my smile my heart wells up, the simplest achievement is a cause for celebration, and I have never felt closer to God. The reverse was also true when my father died, I never felt further away. I'm sure this is all tied up with the 'Father' images of God I have grown up with in Church but rather than over-think it I'll concentrate on appreciating the experience.

To a dependant infant parents must seem to have god-like qualities. They rely on us for absolutely everything and then over time the nature of the relationship changes. We can see the same journey as we read our Bibles through the Old Testament and into the New. The understanding our ancestors in faith had of God developed from the tribal deity amongst others, to become the one God of Judaism, and then as revealed to us in Christ Jesus in the New Testament.

I understand the Bible and God in this way grounded in my belief in God as eternal. So I can't understand God as being fundamentally different over time, but I can accept that how we understand God can alter as humanity's time on earth lengthens. God remains God, but how we comprehend the nature of God changes and develops.

In the same way our relationships with our parents develop and change as we grow up. That initial dependence lessens, and after the necessary rebellions, can become relationships of mutual respect, trust and companionship. All bound together with the bonds of family loyalty, history and love.

My belief is that the same holds true between God and us. The parent-child relationship is a model to help us comprehend God, but will never be sufficient, as God's nature is so far beyond our own. Maybe we are deluding ourselves that we ever grow up in God's eyes. We may impress ourselves with our learning, achievements and insights but maybe God is still the amazed and fascinated parent seeing their child grasp, grapple and gurgle?

I do feel that this is an image of God we can delight in. However much we tumble, scream and squabble God is more interested in picking us up and giving us a hug than in shouting, punishing or walking away. This is the God I hear when Jesus tells the story of the Prodigal Son, when I experience the world around me, and my prayer and hope for the church family's I serve.

However much I love my son or miss my father, those emotions pale in the face of God's complete and overwhelming love. A love that remains, despite how often we turn away from it or deny it. A love that runs through the whole of the Bible, the life of the Church, and every heart. God, like any parent, wants the best for their child and tries to encourage, teach and support them on their way, but the path we tread is still ours to choose. We may take less beneficial turns, but God remains ready to listen, suggest and advise. However much we turn away, to do the same

is completely out of character for God. Thanks be to God!

I cannot think of anything that I would not forgive Mark for, but I know that will be tested along the way. I give thanks that that is not a doubt I have with God. I believe that this has to be how we live together as Church. We will never perfectly achieve it, but in our striving we can help others discern God as we seek to live, celebrate and declare the way of Christ together.

With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker

A NEW VENTURE

A new family group called 'Little Mites' is opening at Leyland URC, in September 2013 on Tuesday mornings starting the 10th September, from 10am till 11.30am, refreshments provided.

We are meeting in the Primary room for playtime, then snack, then a singalong.

All are welcome with their children aged 0 to 4 years.

If you have any toys that you could donate they would be most welcome as we need a home corner with a kitchen, pram, dolls, a craft area, book area, baby corner, dressing up box, farm animals, zoo animals, cars and trucks, lining paper, table top toys like wooden jigsaws etc

Any help would be very gratefully received.



FAMILY NEWS

We send our love to the following babies who have been welcomed into the church family

May 26th Arthur Samuel, baby son of Clare and Andrew
Revd. Shirley Farrier took this service

June 2nd Lukas James Law, baby son of Cayleigh.

June 8th Poppy Ivy Norris, baby daughter of Hayley and
Thomas

June 23rd Imogen Poppy Ryan, baby daughter of Toni and
Andrew.

Our minister took these three services.

We extend our love and sympathy

- To Jan and Mike Chapman on the death of Jan's brother Andrew after a short period of illness.
- To the family of Edna Harvey whose recent death ended a lifetime of loyal membership of the church. As well as supporting her late husband, Frank, in his many responsibilities as a church official, Edna herself had been active in many ways such as the Guild, the Choir, Friendship Circle, Sunday School and Junior Church, Rambles and Plods and church flower distribution. Though not active in recent years due to failing health, those with long memories will recall the time when she was one of the loyal band who was involved to the full in the life of our church.

Edna's funeral services in our church and at Charnock Richard crematorium on 20th June were taken by Ernest Wrennall.

- To Sarah Goldson and family on the death of Sarah's mother
- To Irene Entwistle and family on the death of Irene's sister Jess in Huddersfield

We remember in our prayers our church friends who have been in hospital having treatment or been unwell at home.

David Holmes, Lois Porter, Lorna Bowling, Brenda Holmes, Betty Melling, Connie Finnigan, Mark Coaker, Alan Bellingham and David Farrier.

Following a fall Doris Holt is staying in Broadfield House for a while to recuperate.

We are so glad that Paul Martin's cornea transplant operation has been successful and that the sight in his one remaining eye is restored.

We offer belated congratulations to Linda and Alan Kay who celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary on 21st July. However we are sorry to hear that Linda is concerned not only about the welfare of her parents but also the health of her sister Kathryn.

In our last edition we were glad to list the sporting achievements of young William Dempsey as goalkeeper for his age group team. We are equally glad to share with you some of the achievements of young James Bamber who, after an intensive 12 months judo training has achieved his 1st and 2nd Mon of the Judo grading system, sails each week with the West Lancashire Scouts sail team and also loves kayaking and canoeing. He also has weekly guitar lessons and, with Janet Calman as teacher, has already passed Grade 2 piano with merit.

A busy young man - and I suspect busy parents to get him to the right place at the right time. A good deal of credit must also go to June Holt and the other leaders of our Scout Group for the input they have made in helping James to get so involved. James starts at Balshaws High School this year, we wish him well.

We also congratulate his mother, Alison, leader of the Explorer Scout Unit based at our church. We are not surprised to hear that she has been selected as a leader for the West Lancs Scout contingent to go to the next World Scout Jamboree in Japan (See her article elsewhere in this magazine)

Congratulations to Emily Calman on passing her driving test.

We congratulate Colin and Pat Whalley who were judged the winner of our Spring Fair "Threes and Middles" quiz. There were several all correct responses but their tie break answer which had a cryptic allusion to a 1971 Top Ten hit by "Middle of the Road" swayed the issue. (Colin had to explain it to me-but then EW wasn't a teenage raver back then as he must have been)

Pat and Colin, though officially members of Penwortham URC, have long and close associations with our church so we include them as part of our 'family',

CHURCH TRIP

This year we went, as every year. by coach to Ambleside.
To play bowls our intention and at least we say "we tried".
Just as in old Noah's time we made up teams of two
And often found the partner was someone we scarcely knew.
Male or female, old or young , it mattered not one jot
Each round t'was someone different, you played with who you'd got.
You played five ends, and then came off and handed in the score
Then waited till you played again, part of a brand new 'four'.
And after several hours had passed in friendly rivalry
The scorer Ernest added up the scores so we could see
That Glynis Bury, sad to say, had won the wooden spoon
And Angela Baines had finished top -and so was "O'er the moon".

The day was grey, we had no sun, in fact a hint of rain.
We didn't mind, we had some fun, we'll do it all again.
But we were glad that when we'd done, we'd somewhere warm to go
The 'Queens Hotel' in Ambleside with good food as we know.

Then home by coach , a quiet bunch, we had a smashing day
Lots of fresh air, some brand new friends, and nothing more to say.
Except to Arnold and to Linda Barnes words of appreciation
Do it all again next year. Keep up your reputation..

LANCASHIRE AREA EVENTS

Open gatherings for fellowship, discussion and exploration

7th August—Gentle Jesus

Rev'd Richard Church, Moderator of NW Synod will share a reflection and lead a discussion about who Jesus was and what that means for our faith today.

4th September—Spirituality

Rev'd Michelle Jarman will lead us through a series of reflections and discussions as we explore different spiritual practices together.

2nd October- - Pillars and Propellers

Rev'd Paull Pells will lead an interactive evening of reflection concerning the joys of and frustrations, opportunities and limitations of Eldership and Local Leadership in the URC today and tomorrow.

6th November—Christianity as a Minority Faith

Aftab Alexander Mughal will offer a reflection and enable discussion grounded in his experience of being a Christian in Pakistan.

All these gathering are at Penwortham URC, Liverpool Rd and will start at 7pm for refreshments and a bring and share meal.

We hope this will create opportunities for us to build relationships, discuss issues relevant to our live together and experience different ways of being Church to help discussion and activities within congregations.

**For more details contact Rev'd David Coaker on
01772 462229
pastoral.urclancs@gmail.com**

Leyland URC Mission Plan

As Leyland URC we see our purpose as offering 'a warm welcome in the heart of Leyland' as we seek to live out and declare a progressive understanding of the Christian faith.

This involves everyone who is part of our church. Those that are church members, Sunday worshippers, members of Junior Church, Leyland URC Scouts, 7th Leyland URC Guides, who attend our activities, events or use our buildings.

This purpose underlies everything that we do.

To help us give life to this purpose at our AGM in 2011 we agreed a Mission Plan which we reviewed and affirmed at our July 2013 church meeting.

1. We intend to build on what we are already doing; enabling connections between activities and worship, and make the good work we do better known within our community.

This will always be an ongoing activity but one step forward is our intention of appointing someone to coordinate our communications to include the website, posters, and letting each other, our ecumenical neighbours, fellow URCs and community know what is going on.

2. We will explore what it means to be a town-centre church offering worship, service and witness within the Hough Lane community.

We are open most Tuesdays for members and our community to use our worship space for reflection. We make the most of any community events based on Hough Lane and do our utmost to build on our good relationship with SRBC.

3. We hope to deepen and strengthen the relationships with our Scout and Guide groups to promote mutual support and encouragement.

The Scout sponsoring agreement has been reviewed and agreed and a similar exercise is beginning with Guides. Our minister serves as the Chair of the Scout exec and elders act as links with each Guide and Scout section. Some progress has been made with joint fundraising activities and we continue to encourage church members and members of the uniformed organizations to engage with each other in positive ways

4. We shall explore what it means to be a Progressive Church and use it to declare and promote ourselves within Leyland.

Discussion groups have explored these themes, the 'eight points' and our civil partnership registration are displayed in the entrance, we have registered to explore the Synod's 'Welcoming Church' programme, which is preparing the ground for us to take this further.

5. We wish to plan events which make the most of the availability of our halls during school holidays.

This has become the accepted practice of our fundraising group.

6. Explore the feasibility (and if appropriate raise funds and move to implement) of developing the frontage of our site and entrance to our building to soften barriers it presently puts before the community and make it more useable for community events and usage.

SRBC intend to explore detailed planning and discussion of the garden and Quin Street area in the autumn and we are working with our architect to determine the costs of any proposed internal changes.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MAGAZINE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013 TO LINDA KAY BY
22ND SEPTEMBER AT THE LATEST PLEASE

Email: lindakay@blueyonder.co.uk

THE 39TH AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR TOUR

Churches together in Leyland will be hosting the African Children's Choir in concert at St Mary's church, Broadfield Drive on Friday 4th October at 7.30 pm

The programme features well loved children's songs, traditional spirituals and rhythmic gospel favourites.

Proceeds from the performances allow the African Children's Choir to raise global awareness of the plight of the millions of orphaned and abandoned children in Africa. Donations directly support the expansion of sponsorship and education programmes for both the current choir and the thousands of other students they represent.

Music for Life's purpose is to help create new leadership for tomorrow's Africa. Working in seven African countries Music for Life has educated over 52,000 children and impacted the lives of over 100,000 people through its relief and development programmes. The African Children's Choir is Music for Life's major international programme.

The choir members have the additional benefit of international travel with the choir, this exposes them to a wide variety of people, places and perspectives. Their life's experiences combined with a structured formal education give the children the necessary tools to change their lives and the lives of others.

The choir coming to Leyland will have 20 children from Uganda. Also in the concert are children from St Mary's Primary School. They will sing songs of their own choice and join with the African Children's choir too.

Please support this event—Tickets are £5 for adults, £3 for children and can be obtained from Linda Barnes, tel 01772 462738

GARDENING

All this hot summer weather at long last, it is very nice sitting under the gazebo with a can straight from the fridge. The only down side to this situation is looking at all the gardening jobs that still need doing.

Leyland gardening club's coach trip to Hutton in the Forest house was a great success, a good day, hot and sunny and lovely gardens to see. The walled garden was magnificent giving lots of ideas to those who went.

In my own garden the herbaceous plants have made excellent growth since the temperature warmed up. The delphiniums in the border are over six feet in height with strong stems of blue flowers, these I grew from seed about three years ago. This year I have grown some white ones which will start flowering next year.

The wisteria on the pergola (which nearly killed me last January while pruning) has seen its best ever season with masses of blooms in shades of white, pale purple and lemon yellow. This coming winter's pruning will be with the aid of a parachute!

In the last magazine I mentioned the importance of growing plants for bees and I have been taking my own advice. On a visit to Avant Garden centre I observed which plants attracted the most bees and bought accordingly.

Where some of the old rose trees have failed due to old age I now have astilbies, salvias, nepeta and monardia.

Enjoy your garden

Eddie



CHURCH AND WORSHIP DIARY FOR AUGUST



Thur 1 st	'Heart of Christianity' DVD at the Manse	7.30pm
Sun 4 th	Worship led by Ernest Wrennall	10.30am
Tues 6 th	Amnesty International	7.30pm
Wed 7 th	Area gathering at Pewortham URC (*1)	7.00pm
Sun 11 th	Worship led by the Minister Communion	10.30am
Mon 12 th	Fabric Committee	7.30pm
Sat 17 th	Ramble in the Lake District	
Sun 18 th	Worship led by Revd Geoff Tolley	10.30am
Tues 20 th	St Anne's URC Jig saw Festival begins (*2)	
Wed 21 st	Pensioners Plod (TBA)	
Sat 24 th	Garden party at Green Bank Farm (*3)	11am-4pm
Sun 25 th	Worship led by the Minister	10.30am
Sat 31 st	Coffee mornings resume.	

(*1) The Area Gathering on the first Wednesday of every month begins at 7pm with a come and share Jacobs Join type meal followed by a featured event. In August the speaker is the Moderator, Revd Richard Church to lead a discussion about "Gentle Jesus?"

The event is aimed at any, every and all members of any, every and all United Reformed Churches in Lancashire.

(*2) The annual Jig Saw Festival at St Anne's URC runs every day of the week from midmorning to early evening and is very well worth a visit. Lots to see and do, buy and eat. A modest entry fee and an excellent opportunity to combine a trip to the seaside with a unique experience of disectology.

(*3) Mollie's garden party provides an excellent opportunity to combine support for the church with good food, lots to do and great hospitality. But as well as your custom we need help with produce for the cake and preserves stall ,people to do the selling and serving and the provision of things to sell or offer as tombola and raffle prizes.

CHURCH AND WORSHIP DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER



Sun	1 st	Worship led by Anne Oakden	10.30am
Tues	3 rd	Amnesty International	7.30pm
Wed	4 th	Area gathering at Penwortham URC (*1)	7.00pm
Sun	8 th	Worship led by the minister Communion	10.30am
Mon	9 th	Fabric Committee	7.30pm
Tues	10 th	Guild restarts	2.00pm
Sat	14 th	Ramble	
Sun	15 th	Worship led by Revd Shirley Farrier	10.30am
Wed	18 th	Pensioners Plod	
Thur	19 th	Elders meeting	7.30pm
Fri	20 th	Christian Aid Teas at the home of Alison and Ian Dempsey	4pm to 6pm
Sat	21 st	One Voice Choir 'Music for Harvest' .. (*2)	7.30pm
Sun	22 nd	Harvest Festival Worship led by the minister Parade	10.30am
		Promises Auction (*3)	12.15pm
Sun	29 th	Worship led by the minister	10.30am

(*1) The Area Gathering will take the same form as the one mentioned in the August Diary notes. Revd Michelle Jarman will reflect on and help us to explore different spiritual practices.

(*2) As last year we have invited the Leyland/Penwortham One Voice Choir to present an evening of music with a harvest theme and we ask for support by yourselves and your friends. Admission is £3.00 though there are double tickets for £5.00. There will be refreshments. Since the theme is to give thanks for the way God provides, there will also be an opportunity for members of the audience and choir to bring food items to pass on to St. Mary's food bank.

(*3) After the service there will be a light lunch followed by the Fund Raising Group's light hearted auction of proffered invitations, offers of service and interesting 'Bargain Hunt' type lots for which you can bid. Please stay on to compete for items on the list of offers which we hope you, and others, will be prepared to make.

CONGRATULATIONS ALISON!

Having been involved in scouting for 26 years now and always having a deep down ambition to attend a World Scout Jamboree, Alison thought it was time to try, having loved Brownies & Guides and grown up listening to her Mum's memories from when she attended the 1957 World Scout Jamboree in Sutton Park, Birmingham and all the international scouting friendships she had formed. Then an email came out from West Lancs Scout County in March advertising the Unit Leader and Assistant Unit Leader positions for the next Jamboree in 2015. Alison decided to apply – and after being short listed and interviewed twice she is pleased to say that she has been selected to represent West Lancs Scouts as an Assistant Unit Leader (leadership team comprises a Unit Leader and 3 Assistants) to train and prepare 36 young people from the whole of West Lancs Scout County to attend the next World Scout Jamboree, 2015 in Japan, what an experience that will be!

GARDEN PARTY

Everyone is invited to the annual Garden Party at Greenbank Farm, Wigan road, Leyland PR25 5SB, the home of Mollie and Peter Ward on Saturday 24th August from 11am to 4 pm. Please feel free to bring your friends and neighbours too.

Lunches and afternoon teas are available as well as all the usual stalls.

Mollie would be pleased to receive raffle or tombola prizes, items for a gardening lucky dip, books, good as new bric a brac and home made cakes as well as sunny weather!

Your help in raising much needed funds is always appreciated.

Look forward to seeing you there.

THE GUILD

WILL RE-COMMENCE ON TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER AFTER
THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

THE GUILD

Now that the Tuesday afternoon group has opened the door to us few brave gents (Ernest, Arnold, Ken and Bob) and we have survived to tell the tale, it seems good that we can give an objective report on the 2012 -2013 season which ended with the Guild AGM on 16th July.

The actual business that day was conducted with efficiency by the Guild president, June who combined her duties as chairperson with the task of playing for the hymns. During the year the chair persons duties are shared by six members in rotation and it is good that all were willing to continue for the next year as they do a splendid job. Worship is in safe hands. All the other people who do necessary jobs i.e. (especially!) brewing up and marking birthdays were also glad to continue. Most importantly so was Mollie who combines the most arduous positions as Secretary, Speakers Secretary and Treasurer - as well as being part of the Chair Person Rota. Furthermore both June and Mollie occupy similar roles for the Fylde Area Guilds organisation.

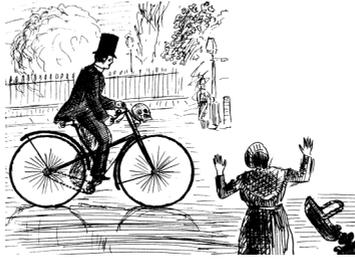
As Treasurer, Mollie reported a successful and profitable year with generous donations to a dozen or more charities (often to match the interests of the visiting speakers) and also to our church itself.

As Speaker's Secretary she reviewed the past year's programme and what a varied and entertaining collection of subjects there had been. From long distance footpaths to towel folding (don't ask!), legal assistance to soap making, reminiscence to music, local history to Preston Guild, the work of the Salvation Army to 'Escaping the Holocaust' (perhaps the most gripping story of all). There were trips out including a proper afternoon tea and a splendid Christmas lunch at local Golf Clubs but the highlight of the year was probably the way we hosted the District Rally.

Well done, Mollie. Well done, June who has visited so many other guild groups in her District. Well done, ladies, for allowing us mere men to join in.

For the record we have a weekly Men's meeting. But all we can offer is an opportunity to play billiards. See you on Friday?

Ernest Wrennall



Sixth Lancashire Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride

Saturday 14th September, 2013

The **National Churches Trust** bike ride and stride has become an annual event in many part of the country. Riders / striders are sponsored to visit churches across their county, the money raised being divided between the Trust and a church chosen by the rider. In 2008, a group of cycling enthusiasts from different churches in Preston set up the first such ride in Lancashire, and it has been steadily growing since.

It is an opportunity for anyone to get out on their bike, or walk, with friends, family, as a church group, or alone; to have a nice day cycling - or walking - on quiet roads in lovely surroundings in the country or town; to visit some interesting churches, including those nearby they might not have visited; and to raise money to help with the upkeep of our local churches.

This event is part of the Hope initiative, encouraging local churches to work together to serve their local communities and to live out more actively the good news of God's love.

Riders will receive a warm welcome in the churches, and some will have refreshments and toilet facilities available.

Since last year there is the added element that the GUILD WHEEL, a 21 mile cycle route around Preston, is open, and several churches are located close by the wheel. As last year, we are also planning to hold a service of thanksgiving at the Brockholes nature reserve, which is also on the route of the Guild wheel.

Churches in Preston and across the Fylde will be open to welcome riders and walkers and to sign them in, between 10 am and 5 pm. There is no set route; a map and a list of churches is provided at the website, and using these you can choose your own route, visiting as many or as few churches as you wish.

However, why not devise a route joining your church with others close by? This could even be used as a prayer walk / ride.

Sponsor forms and maps are available at the website – final details from early June <http://www.rideandstrideuk.org/2012/08/lancashire/>

or from Peter Lumsden

(pjlumsden58@gmail.com); mob 07929270753).

SYNOD BIG DAY OUT

Two years ago the North Western Synod churches met in a central marquee and well scattered Churches at the opposite ends of Morecambe promenade - and, happily, the sun shone and it was a splendid 'day out'.

This year, perhaps forewarned that the weather would be less cooperative, the programme was moved to an indoor location in the vast Norbreck Castle Hotel between Bispham and Cleveleys on the Fylde coast. About 800 people took part and I was pleased to be there and found it to be a memorable occasion.

We began with worship in the ENORMOUS Norcalympia hall at which the Longridge music group, led by our good friend Carol Rose, helped us to sing hymns selected and justified by each of the Areas in the Synod.

People then could select which activity, or none, to go to from the seven alternatives available. These included Messy Church; Retreats; (with Chorley URC's Puppet team); Shawl Ministry (knitting/crochet), Bollywood Dance (by Hindu, Muslim and Christians from Bolton); World Music with African drumming; Bible study with the secretary of the Methodist Church; or a Christian Aid presentation. I chose the last option as did David Lamb, mainly because one of the two presenters was Martin John Nichols formerly of Yardley Hastings. This was less effective than it might have been because I found both the video screen and the sound amplification element not very clear and some of their message was hard to follow.

After a lunch break there were three other Sessions, again each with six or seven alternatives to choose from. There was Gospel Magic; Kids Praise; Interfaith Sharing; Dance; Pilots taster; Puppetry; *ichurch*; Play and praise with Carol Rose; Fun Quiz.etc.

In session two I tried to join Fresh Expressions but that venue was full so I caught a bit of the magic show and part of the Kids Praise (the story of Elijah told in song and dance by the Manchester Kids Praise Theatre Company). In session three I made sure that I was able to hear Roberta Rominger, the General Secretary of the URC,

share her thoughts about our denomination and in the final session I took part in the Big Sing with Carol Marsden doing her best to get an ad hoc assembly of 'singers' to perform harmony versions of music from South and East Africa and the Caribbean. We didn't reach any Gareth Malone standard but it was fun.

Then came what for me was the highlight of the day. Closing Worship! It was moving, and, with the sound and vision somehow crystal clear, really inspiring.

The music was led beautifully by a small instrumental and vocal group and the Word was given by two Synod ministers in near farewell appearances before they move to new positions within the URC. Liz Mullen, who is the minister for Windermere and other South Cumbria churches and is to become interim Moderator for Northern Synod conducted a 'Silent Communion' while our former Synod Clerk, Geoffrey Clarke, shortly to move to a new church in another Synod, preached a wonderful sermon. The Silent Communion was quite remarkable especially as the big screen could give a real close up view of her every action and the atmosphere and the absolute silence showed how much we were involved.

It was a good event and I am glad that I took part. Perhaps you really need to have a bit of pre knowledge to appreciate the event to the full - for it was a long eight and a half hour day - and, going alone, I was glad that I knew quite a lot of the people there - Joyce Martin, Ann Oakden, David Lamb, Carol Rose and groups from churches I visit quite often such as Fulwood and St Georges, Blackpool.

I had thought that I would be embarrassed by arriving without a Leyland URC poster illustrating our church life for all to see but actually there were not too many displays from other churches on show - and no one seemed to be looking at them anyway.

The Synod organisers can be congratulated that their decision to go indoors was correct. There was just a little rain and even a little sun but it was mainly grey and cool.

Big Day Out 2013 was good and I am glad that I was there to share it.

Ernest Wrennall

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Ernest, Brenda, Ken, Irene, Alison, Liz and Sarah for their willingness to distribute and collect appeal envelopes during Christian aid week. Altogether we collected £635.20 which was about £100 more than last year. Apart from the Westgate area which Ernest claims as his territory after umpteen years of attention, our church attempts to 'do' all the Langdale Road estate and for this we really need a minimum of ten collectors. So a target of perhaps £1000 is not out of reach next year.

We also thank the bakers, preserve makers, stall holders and refreshment servers who helped with the cake stall in the church garden on the morning of Leyland Festival to raise some £182.. Not only was this a welcome boost for church funds but it also once again gave the crowds another reminder that we are an 'open and warmly welcoming church in the heart of Leyland'.

It is with regret that we learned at the July Church meeting that our long serving caretaker, Rosalind Tunstall, is stepping down from that position after many years of reliable service. At one time her duties included presence as Steward at all weddings and funerals but of late it has been really a matter of seeing to the cleaning of our premises - a duty often carried out very early in the morning. She is rarely on view but the cleanliness and tidiness which we so readily take for granted shows how well she has served us.

It is really on behalf of an unknown (but large) number of potential craftsmen and women in Africa that we offer thanks to John Mercer and his team of Tools for Self Reliance workers whose efforts in providing wonderful practical equipment for village workshops in that continent was so vividly demonstrated when another couple of tons of fully refurbished tools were collected to go to the TFSR depot in Southampton. They do a marvellous job down in our cellar each Thursday and it is really only when you are involved in shifting their output up the cellar steps that one appreciates the sheer volume of their work. It is quite awe inspiringly amazing.

EW

RAMBLES AND PLODS

In both June and July the sun has shone and the mud of Spring has gone so our out door perambulations have proceeded in ideal conditions.

In June the Saturday ramblers visited Appley Bridge in the Douglas valley just to the west of Wigan. Roy Barnes was the official leader but in fact it was his sister Rosamund, who took the lead throughout. It was a fascinating walk with lots of industrial archaeology and a perfect picnic place by canal locks with a mobile floating art gallery. We are grateful to Roy and, especially Rosamund for sorting out this route.

It was unfortunate that the by-now traditional July Catforth area walk and BBQ lead and hosted by Ian and June Holt had so many absentees because of all sorts of clashes. We had a short walk mainly by canal towpath with the obligatory ice cream stop en route and this time it was June who did the leading. Our numbers were made up by the presence of probably our youngest ramblers ever - June's grand children, Grace and Keaton, aged four and three respectively. They both did very well indeed. Their mother, Sam came too. The barbecue, with Ian as chef, was excellent and we thank him for this contribution to the day and to this we add our gratitude to June for the accompanying salads, breads and, especially, the puddings!!

In June a good number of Plodders enjoyed a woodland and riverside walk from Euxton Mills hostelry where we ended with lunch while in July it was a flat walk by field paths and quiet country lanes in the Bretherton area based on the Blue Anchor where we ate well. One unusual occurrence was that by prior arrangement we were able to visit Bretherton Congregational church which was cool, relaxing and peacefully impressive. Pat Harvey, the wife of the church secretary who is an old Leyland Congs girl, showed us round with obvious pride..

Ernest led both of these excursions, the last one actually on his birthday.

FLOWER LIST FOR AUG/SEPT

- Aug 4th Irene Entwistle—Memories of mum
- Aug 11th Mr North—Memories
- Aug 18th The Ward family—Memories of loved ones
- Aug 25th Ken Houlton—Memories
- Sept 1st Sylvia Bairstow—Memories of John
- Sept 8th Alison Bamber—Memories
Frank McGuire—Memories of Ella
- Sept 15th Jean Goodall—Memories of Bill, Billy and Stuart
- Sept 22nd—Harvest
- Sept 29th—Vacancy



FOOD BANK

We are collecting items of food to donate to St Mary's food bank.

Lists of appropriate food items are available in church and it is hoped that this will become a regular weekly activity

Please look out for details in church and try to support this worthwhile initiative.

ROTAS FOR AUGUST

	Stewards	Lessons	Flowees
4th	June Kay	Jackie Cochrane Ann Gill	Jan Chapman Jackie Cochrane
11th	Sylvia Bairstow	Linda Barnes Jan Chapman	Barbara McHugh Linda Crump
18th	Mollie Ward	Linda Kay Mollie Ward	Lois Porter Linda Barnes
25th	Frank McHugh	Ian Dempsey Stella Eccleston	Marjorie Wrennall Alison Dempsey

If you need to change your place on the Lessons rota please arrange you own swop and then let Stella Eccleston know

SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS FOR AUGUST

4th	Volunteer wanted	Lesley Lowe
11th	Linda Barnes	Marion Howard
18th	Linda crump	Barbara McHugh
25th	Brenda Farrer	Irene Entwistle

SATURDAY CAFÉ AUGUST

3rd	None	
10th	Nine	
17th	None	
24th	None	
31st	Linda Barnes	Jackie Cochrane

ROTAS FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

	Stewards	Lessons	Flower distribution
1st	Julie Keys Rhys Pownall	Stephen Crump David Holmes	Sylvia Bairstow Mollie Ward
8th	Irene Entwistle	Linda Barnes Arnold Rayton	Linda Barnes
15th	Linda Crump	Jackie Cochrane Linda Kay	Jackie Cochrane Jan Chapman
22nd	Eddie Reynolds	Uniformed Organisations	Barbara McHugh Linda Crump
29th	Stella Eccleston	Ann Gill Jan Chapman	Marjorie Wrennall Alison Dempsey

SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

1st	Sylvia Bairstow	Mollie Ward
8th	Linda Barnes	Marion Howard
15th	Ann Gill	Lorna Bowling
22nd	Uniformed Organisations	
29th	Lesley Lowe	Linda Barnes
(6th Oct)	Linda Crump	Barbara McHugh

SATURDAY CAFE SEPTEMBER

7th	Linda Barnes	Ann Gill
14th	Brenda Farrer	Irene Entwistle
21st	Sylvia Bairstow	Mollie Ward
28th	Linda Barnes	Jackie Cochrane
(5th Oct)	Lesley Lowe	Ann Gill