

Back from honeymoon

It does feel as, after the blur of moving, inducting, finalising wedding plans, the wedding itself and honeymoon, that I'm starting again to get settled in as your minister. Only after the dust has settled can I now look back and see how full my head was with 'the wedding' and to look forward to filling it now with the life of Leyland URC and Penwortham URC and the possibilities that holds for us all.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you so much for all the warm regards that sent Rita and I off on our way to married life. The day was wonderful; all of the plans came together, and, apart from three small fires from the tea lights that we hadn't asked to be on the tables, it went without a hitch. Apart for us getting hitched of course!

The honeymoon was also wonderful. We had beautiful weather, plenty of wandering about, relaxing, reading, and seeing what the day brought as we went from Bath, to Salisbury, and then St. Austell. Highlights were Stonehenge and the Eden Project, both of which were spectacular in their own ways; Stonehenge with the mystery and majesty of an ancient site and the Eden Project with the science and technology of a thoroughly modern attraction. I found both incredibly peaceful as we walked in a circle around the stones (once taking photos and a second time without) and exploring the gardens, the rainforest and Mediterranean climates, with the backdrop of, and beneath, the gigantic clear footballs that are its trademark.

I find a great sense of peace experiencing the world. I haven't a clue when it comes to naming plants and animals but I feel close to God when I relax and explore the variety and complexity of Creation. Sometimes though that variety and complexity makes it hard to see God within it.

There is a lot of Creation that we would rather be without, all the parts we don't like so much, but a phrase I remember from a talk by Keith Ward was that if the world was any different we wouldn't be in it. The universe is so complex that if it were the tiniest bit different from how it is, humanity would not have been born on this planet. An amazing truth that modern science has shown us which reflects the truth that the writers of Genesis pointed to in the Creation story. Of all the possible universes God could have created we find ourselves in the one that led to our evolution.

The lives we live are full of light and shade, good and bad, better and worse. Sometimes from our own choices, or those made by others, and at times we struggle to find a reason behind it all. But within all of life God is present. All that we have been, all that we are, and all that we can be, is held within the mind of God. It is easy to feel God's presence when times are good, but can be hard to hold on to that when life throws things at us that are difficult, or near impossible, to deal with. We can also take it for granted and place God within the walls of the Church just to be thought about on Sundays. But we are talking of our Creator God, the maker of heaven and earth, who sent the planets spinning and the world evolving, and God cannot be limited to what we find good and bad. God is there within it all, sometimes we sense it clearly but most of the time only in our memories of the way we've come.

Memories are blessings to us. They are something to hold on to when times are hard, they give us the assurance that life has been, and will be, better. They warm our hearts when a thought from our past brightens our day. They stir mixed emotions when a random event, sound, smell, or place reminds us of a loved one. That happened to me this week when our TV stopped working. It felt strange sorting out a replacement without being able to talk to my Dad about how to repair it or the best option for a fresh one. (My late father worked for Radio Rentals for many years mending TVs.) The memories we have of all that has gone before affect who we are today, and inform who we will be tomorrow. They can open up possibilities or close us off to them. They can influence how we respond to, understand, and feel about what life brings.

All of life is held within the memory of God. All of the possibilities of our lives are held within the mind of God. All of what we can be, as individuals and as Church, are the possibilities before us as we seek to discern God's Spirit as we follow the way of Christ living out the kingdom of God. We have embarked on a journey together and will make memories of what it means to be Church in Penwortham and Leyland. Those memories will be informed by all that has gone before, and guided by where God is leading us together. May God bless our journey and the memories we make.

With every blessing, *Rev'd David R. Coaker*

You are warmly invited for a brew and mince pies at the
manse between:
10.00am-12noon; 2.00-4.00pm, and 7.00-9.00 pm.

ONE VOICE CHOIR

The One Voice Choir will be performing at St Mary's in
Penwortham on
Saturday 12th December





To

- ◇ A big 'Thank You' to Betty Melling, Jackie Cochrane and perhaps others who spent a great deal of time in preparing the lovely floral displays for our Harvest Festival. We are also grateful to those, especially from the uniformed groups who took part in the service and to all who contributed to the Water Aid appeal .We also thank the members and leaders of the Junior Church together with Chris Lawler for the beautiful Christ figure made from dried seeds etc which was on display at the service
- ◇ Thanks to all the group who helped clear the stage and especially Ian Holt for packing his trailer to the hilt and going to the tip several times. They have made a big difference and we are grateful to the members from and associated with the Scout Group who are currently working to make it ready to be used as a workable area once again. Please keep it clear now.
- ◇ To Albert Draper for the laying of the wreath on Remembrance Sunday
- ◇ Thank you also to Ian Dempsey, Linda Barnes, Mollie Ward and Audrey Pritchard (complete with sound effects) for their personal contributions to the Remembrance Sunday Service.
- ◇ To Linda Barnes for undertaking to do the research on the fallen soldiers named on our war memorial, it will be very interesting to see what she learns
- ◇ To Ellis Cochrane, assisted and encouraged by Jackie, for putting on another very enjoyable and successful Quiz Night as part of our Harvest Weekend celebrations. A total of £260 was raised by the evening and we thank Linda Crump, Linda Barnes and Mollie Ward for providing the food for the supper. We also thank friends from Penwortham URC who came to support us. It is sad to report that they were unsuccessful in the actual prize list as the winners were a team of regular competitors in Ellis's weekly Pub Quizzes.

(A couple of weeks later Penwortham URC had its own Quiz evening and some of the Leyland folk went along to join them. However a combined WWW team from Leyland did actually win the competition with Ellis's team as runners up).

- ◇ We thank all the people who worked hard to provide goods for sale as well as to man (or rather to woman) the stalls for our Autumn Fair which raised an unexpectedly large profit of £750

- ◇ We thank and above all congratulate the gentlemen of the Tools For Self Reliance Group for their work in refurbishing and preparing an IMMENSE number of tools to go to equip self help workshops in remote communities in many African countries. As one who helped to carry the endless number of heavy wooden boxes of tools up from the cellar workshop I can bear witness that there must have been literally tons of tools to make up the lorry load which went off to the TFSR depot Many thousands of pounds worth. A wonderful, wonderful effort.

- ◇ In our last magazine we appealed for donations to purchase a mower for the church garden. We now hear that an anonymous donor has come forward to make this possible and we are very grateful for this. The smaller gifts which had previously been given in response to the appeal will be used to pay for a metal shed in which the mower will be kept.

- ◇ Alison Bamber has had to step down from her previous responsibility of producing the weekly church notices sheet. We thank her for doing this over a lengthy period and thank Linda Kay for taking over.

**LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS
PROVISIONAL DATE 16TH JANUARY 2009**

From:

- ◇ Ken Houlton would like to thank everybody for cards, presents and kind wishes for his 80th birthday.
- ◇ Doris Beatty thanks everyone for the flowers, cards and good wishes received on the occasion of her 94th birthday
- ◇ Jan & Mike Chapman - Words just cannot express our gratitude for the overwhelming love, support, prayers, cards, visits, help and flowers we received during my illness; in fact, words are not enough, we have been humbled by the kindness shown to both of us by the church family. It is in times of such adversity that one fully realises and appreciates the true worth of having such wonderful people in our lives and we pray that, should the need ever arise, we can respond as willingly and thoughtfully as everyone at church has done for us.
Thank you to everyone, most sincerely, for everything.
- ◇ Audrey Pritchard wishes to thank the many people who sent cards etc to mark her recent special birthday. Audrey is continuing with her regular Wednesday evening dance class and would welcome support from members of the church family. These classes do not demand previous experience and are stimulating to mind and body as well as being most enjoyable.

FAMILY NEWS

We were very glad to see Jan Chapman back with us at the Remembrance Day service. It was also an opportunity to 'christen' the wheelchair lift as Jan couldn't manage the steps. After much pushing of buttons and great hilarity Jan descended in the lift and emerged to a great cheer—champagne was mentioned but unfortunately was not forthcoming! It was lovely to see Jan again and we hope her recovery continues well.

Christenings.

We welcome into our church fellowship Poppy Olivia, baby daughter of Simone and Matthew Smith who was baptised on Sunday 11th October , and Liam, son of Paul and Joanne Bentham who was baptised on Sunday 1st November. .

Weddings We congratulate Simon Coram and Joanne Kim Coldham who were married in our church on 31st October

Funeral The funeral service of Enid Shorrocks took place in our church on 12th November. We offer our sympathy to Marilyn, Brian and family.

Our minister took all these services

Belated congratulations to Frank and Barbara McHugh on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 3rd October

We congratulate Les and Doreen North on the birth of another great granddaughter, Ella, the baby daughter of Richard and Susan.

Poppy Smith, whose christening is mentioned above, has been in hospital for an operation but complications mean that more surgery is necessary. We offer our prayers and support to her and the family.

Linda Kay is recovering after suffering from shingles, Connie Finnigan has got over a nasty fall and Stella Eccleston has had an eye operation for a cataract. Malcolm Berrill is having back problems which may need hospital treatment.

We offer our condolences to Jackie and Ellis on the recent death of Ellis's grandad

Blessing of Civil Partnerships

Following the church meeting decision to conduct a blessing service after a couples' civil partnership ceremony we will have a fuller discussion to determine whether this will become the church's policy at the AGM on 3rd Feb. In preparation for this elders have agreed a discussion paper which is set out below to help us share our views honestly and openly, as we discern a way forward together.

Leyland United Reformed Church Discussion paper 16/11/09

Blessing of Civil Partnerships

Earlier in November a request was received for a blessing service to be conducted after a civil partnership ceremony. The request was taken to the church meeting on Thursday 5th November. After discussion the meeting agreed for the church to be used for this one service and for a fuller discussion to determine whether this would become the church's policy at the next meeting; i.e. requests to be dealt with by the minister and/or elders on the same basis as weddings, baptisms, funerals, and other blessings.

This paper is being circulated to enable that fuller discussion when we meet at our AGM on Thursday 3rd February. This question raises several issues upon which members of the church will hold a variety of stances from our own experiences, understandings, and readings of the Bible. Our hope is to share our views honestly and openly, and discern a way forward together.

The policy to be put to the meeting is:

Leyland URC **welcomes** requests for **blessing** services for **civil partnerships**.

Civil Partnerships

Same-sex couples can have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. This is a legal registration performed by a Registrar (to perform weddings we have an Authorised Person not a Registrar). It gives both partners rights in law and is done by both signing their names. Unlike the legal requirements for marriage it requires no verbal statements or public declaration.

Blessing

This is a word we use for a whole variety of reasons. When we bless we hold ourselves before God. It is something we offer each other and something that a leader of worship does on our behalf. We give thanks to God, we celebrate our lives, we hope for the future, and we reassure each other of God's presence and concern.

When we offer a blessing for a home, child, couple, or anybody or anything, we are celebrating the relationships involved. When we bless we hold together past, present and future. We are thankful for all that has brought us to this moment, we celebrate who we are now, and we look forward to God's future. For a couple we are giving thanks for the paths that brought them together, celebrating the commitment they have made, and offering our prayers and support as they seek to live out that commitment together.

Celebrating and supporting their commitment in a world that encourages us to be more selfish than selfless.

Welcomes

As Church we open our doors in a public act of worship each week, we welcome those wanting their children baptised, and offer the rites of marriage and funerals to the community around us. In a culture that sees less and less relevance for the Church we respond to those that do, and welcome them in Jesus' name. Jesus was forever getting in trouble with the religious authorities for the company he kept, the kind of people they thought were unwelcome. We are all imperfect when we place ourselves before the perfection of God, and we are all challenged in light of that by the phrase "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged." Matthew 7:1 (NRSV) But there are limits as Jesus didn't spare the Pharisees feelings when he told them off for how they behaved, or quietly ask for reform when he saw the money-changers in the Temple. Our welcome needs to be true and heart-felt – paying lip service is not our calling.

This question raises many issues but at its heart are individuals, fellow human beings for whom we have a concern, and with whom we share a relationship with God. So our hope is to share our views honestly, openly, and also lovingly, as we discern a way forward together.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

For some years we have suggested that members of our fellowship should have the opportunity to send their Seasonal Greetings to friends within the church family by signing a common Christmas card which would be photocopied for inclusion in the December church magazine. It was suggested that a donation to church funds might be made in lieu of card purchase costs, postage etc.

This year the Church Meeting has agreed to a suggestion that instead of this, each person be asked to prepare just one card of their own choice intended for "all their church friends" and that this be displayed with every one else's card on a special Card Tree place prominently as part of the church decorations. If you would like to do this, then perhaps you could make a similar 'in lieu' donation to church funds.

Please let Marjorie Wrennall have your cards for display as well as any donation which you wish to make. Thank you.

100 NOT OUT!

On 3rd October Mrs Alys Blackhurst, a stalwart of this church reached her 100th birthday. There were several celebrations. A family meal with her children, her grandchildren and her great grandchildren at the Sea View, Whittle le Woods, a party at King Street Day centre which was attended by the Mayor of South Ribble and Leyland Morris Men and another party for the residents of Wrights Fold where she lives. But her daughter Lois says that her favourite one was the intimate gathering at the Womens Guild. As a long standing member she was made most welcome by the Guild and other church members and friends.

To celebrate this marvellous landmark Ernest went back 100 years to see what happened on her actual birthday. She was born on a Sunday and 100 years ago, apart from church services, nothing much was happening so he took the liberty of looking at the days either side and she was thrilled to hear it.

We had a lovely buffet and lots of good fellowship.
Her complexion is amazing!!

I LOVE TO LIVE

Today, dear Lord, I'm 80 and there's so much I haven't done.
I hope, dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm 81.
But then, if I haven't finished all I want to do,
Would you please let me stay awhile, until I'm 82?
So many places I want to go, so very much to see,
Do you think that you could manage to make it 83?
The world is changing very fast, there is so much in store,
I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84.
And if by then I'm still alive, I'd like to stay till 85!
More planes will be up in the air, so I'd really like to stick
And see what happens to the world when I turn 86.
I know, dear Lord, it's much to ask
(and in must be nice in heaven)
But I'd really like to stay until I'm 87.
I know by then I won't be fast, and sometimes will be late,
But it would be so pleasant to be around at 88.
I will have seen so many things and had a wonderful time,
So I'm sure that I'll be willing to leave at the age of 89...
Maybe.
Just one more thing 'd like to say,
Dear Lord, I thank you kindly,
But if it's okay with you, I'd love to live past 90!

Submitted by Ken Houlton

KIDS IN CHURCH

3 year old Reese: 'Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen.

A little boy was overheard praying 'Lord if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am'.

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on their way to church service, 'and why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied 'Because people are sleeping'.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

On November 15th a group of us, friends and relatives of our own Emily Calman, went to see her in this show at the Charter Theatre in Preston and what a great time we had. Emily, who was on stage for almost all of the show, was part of the choir from the Michael Hall Theatre School in association with Amanda Rogers. What a wonderful experience it was for all those young people and so gratifying to see them putting their spare time to good use giving joy to others with such enthusiasm. We were expecting to see Craig Chalmers, one of the contestants from the BBC's series , Any Dream Will Do, play Joseph but his understudy Stephen Kirwan went on in the role instead. However, we were not disappointed he was brilliant as were the rest of the cast. Good singing, good dancing and lots of fun. Speaking to other members of the audience on leaving we all agreed that we were much cheered on a grey November day.
Well done Emily.

Mollie Ward

C.T.L NATIVITY SCENE



Churches Together in Leyland has organised an event to promote the real meaning of Christmas. Groups of people will take part in a live Nativity scene in Parkinson's shop window on Hough Lane on Saturday 19th December, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We hope you will come along to support them in their efforts and tell friends and neighbours about it. 9 volunteers are wanted from each church to help with this by taking turns to sit in the window and others to help with leaflets. Please see Linda Barnes if you can help.

Lighting the Way

Advent is now with us. Advent is a term from the Latin word 'adventus' which means "arrival". It is a time of waiting for the arrival of Christmas, the festival where we celebrate the birth of Jesus those two thousand years ago.

The Advent Wreath is the widely recognized symbol of Advent. The wreath is made of a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to symbolize eternal life. The circle reminds us of God, eternal and endlessly merciful, with no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. The four candles (traditionally red) stand in the circle and each one represents one of the four Sundays of Advent. In the centre of the circle is a fifth candle (traditionally white), the Christ Candle, which is lit on Christmas Day.

The traditional themes for the four advent Sundays are:

- God's people - The Candle of hope.
- The Old Testament prophets - The Candle of Peace
- John the Baptist - The Candle of Love
- Mary the mother of Jesus - The Candle of Joy

Advent worship is like a journey through the Christmas story. We use the Advent candles to celebrate this period with one lit every Sunday of Advent so that during the last week before Christmas all four candles are lit. The last central candle (which represents Christ), is lit on Christmas Day. The candles symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus.

Each Christmas, and each Sunday, we are reminded of the light that Jesus Christ opened our eyes to see, and the part we play in helping that light to shine. Helping God's light to shine out through our words and actions, helping others to shine, and reflecting God's light to the world around us.

May we all have a bright Christmas and a dazzling New Year!
With every blessing, *Rev'd David R. Coaker*

Vision 2020

As part of our engagement with the Vision2020 process we are being encouraged to undertake by the wider URC is the idea of Fresh Expressions. This is an initiative started by the Church of England and Methodist Church which the URC has joined. So:

What is a fresh expression of church?

A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.

Fresh expressions are:

- missional - serving people outside church;
 - incarnational - listening to people and entering their culture;
 - educational - making discipleship a priority;
- ecclesial - forming church.

At the heart of fresh expressions is a different way of thinking about church. Many existing churches operate with a 'you come to us' mindset. 'Would you like to join us?' is an invitation to come to 'our' church, set out as we like, at a time that fits us, in a style that we have pre-arranged. The flow is from outside-in: from the world into the congregation.

Fresh expressions have a 'we'll come to you' mindset instead. They start not with an invitation ('Come to us on our terms'), but with an offer ('We're willing to come to you, serve you and stay with you. If you want, we'll also help you to be church in a way that suits you - in your style, not ours').

The aim is not to just provide a stepping stone into an existing congregation, but to form new congregations in their own right. The flow is from the existing congregation to people outside - not inward, but outward. Fresh expressions is a new mindset that starts not with church, but with people who don't belong to church.

A spectrum of fresh expressions exist:

The renewal of an existing congregation through mission, and especially through careful listening to the non-churchgoers the congregation is called to serve.

This might involve radically reshaping the provision of all-age worship, for instance, or rethinking a midweek service.

Reinventing an existing 'fringe' group, mission project or community service so that it is no longer a stepping stone to Sunday church, but becomes 'church' in its own right. A youth group might grow into a youth congregation, or a luncheon club for the elderly might add worship after the meal.

Creating a new Christian community as a mission initiative. Often it will be lay led and have a relatively small budget. An informal service in a local leisure centre and a midweek after-school meeting for a meal and worship would be two examples.

A large mission initiative spanning. It will be more likely to require a full-time paid post and to have a more substantial budget. It could be a new network church across a city-centre for Generation X, a town-wide teenage congregation or a home-based church plant on a new housing estate.

Here are three examples of fresh expressions:

- An Alpha course was held in a teashop in a former mining town in Nottinghamshire. Several years and several Alpha courses on, a new church continues to meet in the teashop on a weekday evening, its members now leading and supporting successive Alphas.
- A Church of England minister wanted to build church without a building. With his bishop's blessing he now leads a network church centred round students and young professionals in Bristol. Meeting in a coffee house is just one way in which this new church is made accessible to newcomers.

A central Birmingham network church meets in bars and cafés. It drew on members' personal contacts to create a community where all are welcome whatever their stage of faith. Accepting the transitional nature of city life, this church seeks to accompany growing Christians.



CHILD FRIENDLY CHURCH AWARD SCHEME

This was raised in Ernest's report back to elders on the last meeting of the Lancashire Area. Elders decided it was worth exploring further. There will be a short presentation at our church meeting on the 5th Nov and then there will be a joint meeting of elders and youth and children's work leaders on Thursday 19th November at 7.30pm where we will be joined by Leo Roberts, the North Western Synod YCWTD (Youth and Children's Work Training and Development Officer) to help us discuss it together.

Background information:

The Child Friendly Church Award scheme was created after the Anglican Diocese of Liverpool carried out a review of its life and work. The resulting report made a keynote recommendation that parishes **'welcome and integrate children and their families into the worshipping life of their church.'** Their conclusion was that it is desirable that churches advertise to the community that they take the provision for the young seriously. Churches inviting children in this way should provide a quality service which should be accountable to the church leadership and meet with certain set criteria. A new scheme has been introduced to encourage churches to put children and families on their agendas, to work towards certain targets and obtain a certificate and an award to be displayed as appropriate.

Having seen the scheme, the Youth and Children's Work committee felt it was a good idea and have adapted it for use within the United Reformed Church. "Towards a Charter for Children in the Church", introduced at General Assembly 1990, challenges churches to become fully inclusive in their work with children. This scheme offers a way to measure progress towards that goal.

This is a voluntary scheme, with a light touch, so there is just one simple tick-list to complete!

However, this is not just an exercise in ticking all the "yes" boxes. It is more about recognising the importance of children and young people in the local church, and continually improving how we welcome them and share ministry with them.

Criteria:

1. A Child Protection Policy is in place, being implemented, and regularly reviewed.
2. The church buildings offer a safe environment.
3. On-going training and support for leaders is in place.
4. There is provision for children's and youth nurturing groups (0-18yrs).
5. There are opportunities for children and young people to be included in child friendly church services.
6. Suitable materials for under 5's are available in church
7. There are opportunities for the voices of under 18's to be heard
8. Feedback is obtained from children and young people.
9. There is a vision for Youth and Children's Work

Process for awarding:

- Nominations from any source
- Registration and Pack sent out
- Church Meeting meet to consider the set criteria
- Self-assessment process undertaken
- Form returned to Synod YCWTDO
- YCWTDO visits the church
- YCWTDO reports back to YCWTDO team meeting, who, on behalf of the Youth and Children's Work Committee of General Assembly decide whether to issue award
- Church is presented with the award
- Church receives dated certificate and logo to display
- Elders commit themselves to an annual review of criteria
- Synod follow-up progress made and re-award after 3 years

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Compared with the full hundred years of the life of Mrs Blackhurst, a mere twenty five years seems insignificant. However twenty five years is often recognised as a significant milestone in personal history and would take us back from 2009 to 1984.

In 1984 Leyland URC shared in the celebration of another Silver Anniversary - it was the year when our then Minister Philip Kennerley celebrated 25 years in the ministry, (18 of them at Leyland!) as well as Philip and Betty's own Silver Wedding.

Our Church Secretary was Alfred Nelson, who also became Fylde District president that year. David Farrier was our Church Treasurer - Shirley was a serving Elder - while Eddie Reynolds and Ernest Wrennall are the only Elders of then and now. Stephen Crump had been an Elder up to 1984 but had a break that year.

1984 was a year of new beginnings. It was a year when a full scale Stewardship Campaign was held and largely as a result new groups appeared and, at least for a while flourished.

Church Friends, to link the church with newly baptised children, were introduced (there were 19 baptisms that year!).

A Prayer Group and three Bible Study house groups began to meet.

A Ramble Group was planned, though the actual first ramble was not until the summer of 1985.

We got involved with the work of Church Action on Poverty with John Mercer as a strong advocate.

A Young Wives group - "Just good Friends" was proposed and a Voluntary Help Group was set up to offer domestic help in emergencies. Of all these only the Ramble Group seems to have survived.

However the Church meeting Minute book for 6th September 1984 contains this reference "The Management Committee report the appointment of Mrs. R Tunstall as caretaker". Rosalind has kept our premises in such fine condition for a full twenty five years, almost all with those dreadful toilets to contend with, and we congratulate and thank her for such wonderful service over such a long period of time.

**Scout Group International Aid Trust
– Shoe Box Appeal**

Once again the *Scout Group* are co-ordinating our 'Annual Appeal' for Shoe Boxes to support the International Aid Trusts valuable work.

SHOEBOX GIFT

Such a Little Given – Means such a Lot

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PACKING:

PLEASE: DO wrap your shoebox gift neatly in gift-wrap.

Cover lid separately so it can be lifted off. Secure with an elastic band.

DO NOT wrap contents individually.

DO fill the box - but: think about the child or person, and what you are sending them. You'll find each box will take on a 'personality' and you will really enjoy this privileged task. **DO PLEASE** clearly label the lid.

Please Do Not Include: Medicines, vitamins, matches, perishables, reading books, anything worn or broken, war toys, things needing batteries, glass / fragile items, tinned meat / fish, items with an insecure lid that may open / spill and spoil the contents.

If you have access to the internet you can visit

www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk and in doing so see pictures of children with the shoe boxes they have received and read the stories in full telling about the work of IAT.

Information on how to fill a shoe box are at the front of the Church, please try your best to fill a shoe box or two and return to the Scout Christmas Parade

Service on Sunday 13th December where our friend Malcolm will receive these on behalf of International Aid Trust and say a few words about their work.

Fund Raising

As a church we are constantly in need of money for the everyday running costs, and general upkeep of the building. The wonderful, new toilets and lift are examples of necessary but expensive renovation work which was greatly needed.

The fund raising group work continually to raise money, but without your help and support we could not achieve anything.

Below are a list of events that need your support - *please help in whatever way you can.*

- Buy a Tile: £1 or £5 on a regular basis: This is to help make necessary repairs to the roof and the church building. (Our previous scheme of Buy a Brick helped considerably towards the toilet fund.)
- Cake Stalls: 5th December.
Cakes, preserves and other homemade products would be appreciated.
- Last Night of the Proms—16th January but yet to be confirmed

If anyone has any other ideas of events we could organise, please give your suggestions to a member of the fund raising team.

Lesley Lowe

LEPROSY MISSION

On behalf of the Leprosy Mission

Linda Barnes is collecting -
used stamps—whole collection
Postcards (used or not)
Old notes and coins

See Linda for more details

AN INVITATION TO (*AMNES*)TEA.

It was on December 4th 1990 that the Leyland and Chorley group of Amnesty International held its first meeting on our premises. It was the brainchild of our (the) new minister Glyn Eatock and it is a matter of pride that we have continued to give hospitality to the group ever since. However, though the group's notice board is still in its prominent Hough Lane position in the church garden and the church is the accepted base for appeals and petitions, the actual involvement of the church in the group is minimal - one person, me!

However you are invited, together with a general invitation to the people of Leyland, to support the Group in a positive way by coming to the first ever Amnesty Tea party ("*AMNESTEA*") in our church hall between **2pm and 4pm on Friday 11th December**. There will be light refreshments (at a moderate cost), an opportunity to find out more about Amnesty International and also to send a seasonal message of support to a Prisoner of Conscience in some perhaps far off country as part of our Greetings Card campaign. Please come and tell others that they too would be most welcome.

There is another side to this invitation. The local group is few in number and most of them are at work during the day. So I am personally appealing to my friends at church to assist by volunteering their services by making a few home made cakes etc to feed the hoped for hordes of visitors and /or offering to help in the kitchen or waiting at table. We like to think that we are a community minded church and this is certainly a very worthwhile community project. If you can help, please let me, perhaps through Marjorie, know of your willingness as soon as you can.

Friday 11th December is just one day after the internationally recognised Human Rights Day and so is a very appropriate date on which to do something positive to support the millions of people whose human rights are so much at risk. I, and they, look forward to your support.

Ernest Wrennall

RAMBLES AND PLODS

Since our last magazine there have been two midweek Pensioners Plods. There was a local one based on the Bobbin Mill hostelry, Buckshaw Village, which involved an opportunity to enjoy the wonderful views from that man made hill behind the Green Man of Dawson Lane, known to some as 'Wrennall's Rise', and to walk through the grounds of Liseux Hall. Ernest planned and led this Plod

The second walk was from the Spinners Arms in the Cowling area of Chorley. This was led by Frank and Barbara McHugh with Marjorie Bartlett and was a repeat of a favourite canal towpath there-and-back walk. The plodders were fortunate that the walk happened to coincide with a gap between heavy rain showers.

Both Plods ended with good meals and we thank the leaders for doing all the spadework.

The two Saturday rambles for September and October both involved quite long drives by car. In September a small but select group travelled to West Kirby near the northwest tip of the Wirral Peninsula and, when the ebbing tide allowed it, travelled over very wet sand to the Hilbre Islands out in the Dee estuary. The walk could not have been flatter. The islands themselves were fascinating places with wonderful rock formations and interesting relics of former usage as lifeboat station, lighthouse and nature reserve. There was a colony of seals on an offshore sandbank and lots of bird life. It was perhaps the most 'different' ramble recorded in our log book over the last quarter of a century. Ernest led this excursion.

The October expedition was led by David Lamb in his familiar Lake District stamping ground. A somewhat larger group, including two new friends from Grange, met at a fell side car park between Kendal and Underbarrow and basically did a circular walk via the superb viewpoint on Cunswick Scar where we stopped for refreshments.. This was a hilly walk, especially on the return leg of the journey but the weather kept fine, the ground wasn't too muddy and the views were excellent.

We thank Ernest and David for their careful planning which involved preparatory visits as well as leading the walks themselves which were numbered 280 and 281 in the Rambling Club log book.

Ernest Wrennall

GUILD PROGRAMME FOR DEC/JAN

1 Dec	Frances King
8 Dec	Christmas meal
5th Jan	Communion
12th Jan	Rev Canon Brunswick
19th Jan	The Derianaires
26thJan	Christine Mosley

FLOWER LIST FOR DEC/JAN

6th Dec	Jan Chapman—Memories of mum
13th Dec	Linda Barnes—Memories
20th Dec	Memories of parents from Smalley family
27th Dec	Birthday Memories from the Melling family
3rd Jan	Joan Almond, Lesley, David and family—Memories
10th Jan	Susan Lucas—Memories of dad
17th Jan	Irene Entwistle—Memories of mum
24th Jan	Peter and Mollie Ward—Memories of parents
	Please make cheques payable to Mrs E. Melling

CLOSING DATE FOR ITEMS IN NEXT MAGAZINE TO COVER FEB/MARCH IS - 24th January 2010

If you wish you can email them to me on
lindakay@blueyonder.co.uk

GARDENING

The 9th November saw the first frost in my garden but it was not hard enough to stop the dahlias from flowering. Dahlias should be cut back and the tubers should be lifted and stored in a frost free place for the winter. If you want to increase your stock they can be potted up in order to get early cuttings to root in February or March, or just leave them to dry for the tubers to be split and planted in late spring.

Rose bushes can be cut back by about half to just above a leaf node. This will help to prevent the bush rocking in strong gales and being damaged.

All spring flowering bulbs should be planted by now remembering to water any that have been planted in bowls for an early indoor display. To keep down heating costs greenhouses should be lined with bubble plastic or agrifleece. Any tubs left outdoors can also be wrapped around to offer some protections. Both of these products can be obtained at Avant Garden centre—

Bubble plastic less than £10 per roll

Agrifleece less than 5 per roll

Remember to ventilate greenhouses and garden frames on good days. Any outside taps need to be insulated from the frost by first draining them after closing their valve from the mains supply and then wrapping them with the above products.

Houseplants will still need to be watered sparingly throughout the winter, and keep the leaves free from dust by wiping with a damp cloth. This will compensate for the lower light levels.

Remember to put out bird food so that you can watch them from the window on cold days and keep the feeders and bird bath clean to prevent disease

Enjoy your garden
Eddie



CHURCH & WORSHIP DIARY FOR DECEMBER



Tues 1 st	Amnesty International	7.30pm
Wed 2 nd	Pensioners Plod	
	'The meaning of the resurrection part 2' DVD	2.30pm
Fri 4 th	Christingle Service	6.30pm
Sat 5 th	Cake stall	
Sun 6 th	Worship led by Revd. Shirley Farrier	10.30am
	Communion	
Wed 9 th	Open house at the Manse.	10-12am, 2-4pm. 7-9pm
Fri 11 th	Amnesteia.	2-4pm
Sun 13 th	Worship led by the Uniformed Organisations	10.30am
	Parade	
	Shoe boxes will be received at this service.	
Mon 14 th	Fabric Committee	7.30pm
Thurs 17 th	Elders meeting	7.30pm
Sun 20 th	Worship led by Revd David Coaker	10.30am
	Junior Church Festival	
	Lessons & Carols Service led by Yvonne Hawkins	6.30pm
Thurs 24 th	Watchnight Service led by Revd David Coaker	11.45pm
Fri 25 th	Christmas day service led by Ernest Wrennall	10.00am
Sun 27 th	Worship led by Revd David Coaker	10.30am

The Saturday café will normally be open every Saturday in the month.
Please note this starts at **10.00am**

Audrey's dance class every Wednesday from 7.30 pm

NO DANCE CLASS 9TH DECEMBER

PLEASE TRY AND SUPPORT THE SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ROTAS FOR DECEMBER

	Stewards	Lessons	Flower distribution
6 Dec	Mollie Ward	Jan Chapman Arnold Rayton	Marion Howard Sylvia Bairstow
13 Dec	Marjorie Wrennall	Uniformed Organsiations	Jackie Cochrane Linda Barnes
20 Dec	Linda Crump	Jamie Sayer Stephen Crump	Linda Crump Alison Dempsey
27 Dec	Irene Entwistle	Georgia Sayer Stella Eccleston	Barbara Mc Hugh Olwyn Rayton

SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS FOR DEC

6 Dec	Irene Entwistle	Jackie Cochrane
13 Dec	Lois Porter	Marion Howard
20 Dec	Jean Simmons	Joyce Robinson
27 Dec	Stella Eccleston	Glynis Bury

SATURDAY CAFÉ FOR DEC

5 Dec	Maureen & Alan Miemayer	
13 Dec	Lois Porter	Marion Howard
20 Dec	Brenda Farrer	Marjorie Glover Linda Barnes
27 Dec	Closed	

TRADCRAFT ROTA FOR DEC

6th December	Sylvia Bairstow
13th December	Mollie Ward
20th December	Lesley Lowe
27th December	Jan Chapman



CHURCH & WORSHIP DIARY FOR JANUARY 010



Fri 1 st	Mollies Meander	1.30pm
Sun 3 rd	Worship led by Revd David Coaker	10.30am
	Communion	
Tues 5 th	Amnesty International	7.30pm
Sun 10 th	Worship led by Revd John Hopkins	10.30am
	Ramble planning meeting	7.30pm
Sat 16 th	Last Night of the Proms (to be confirmed)	
Sun 17 th	Worship led by Revd Geoff Tolley	10.30am
Mon 18 th	Fabric Committee	7.30pm
	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
Thur 21 st	Elders meeting	7.30pm
Sat 23 rd	Ramble	
Sun 24 th	Worship led by Anne Oakden	10.30am
	Parade	
Sun 31 st	Worship led by Revd David Coaker	10.30am

The Saturday café will normally be open every Saturday in the month.
Audrey's dance class every Wednesday from 7.30 pm

NO DANCE CLASS 6TH JANUARY

TRAIDCRAFT ROTA JANUARY 2010

3rd Jan	Mollie Ward
10th Jan	Lesley Lowe
17th Jan	Sylvia Bairstow
24th Jan	Christine Holmes
31st Jan	Rita Coaker



ROTAS FOR JANUARY 2010

	Stewards	Lessons	Flower Distribution
3. Jan	Linda Kay	Linda Kay Linda Barnes	Linda Barnes Sylvia Bairstow
10 Jan	Susan Lucas	Becky Cochrane Jackie Cochrane	Jackie Cochrane Linda Crump
17 Jan	Doris Holt	David Holmes Mollie Ward	Alison Dempsey Irene Entwistle
24 Jan	Jean Simmons	Uniformed Organisations	Barbara Mc Hugh Olwyn Rayton
31 Jan	Marjorie Wrennall	Lesley Lowe Ivor Pugh	Marjorie Wrennall Mollie Ward

If you need to change your place on the Lessons rota please let Stella know

SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS FOR JANUARY 2010

3rd Jan	Doris Holt	Barbara Mc Hugh
10 Jan	Lois Porter	Sylvia Bairstow
17 Jan	Jean Simmons	Joyce Robinson
24 Jan	Linda Barnes	Marion Howard
31 Jan	Stella Eccleston	Glynis Bury

SATURDAY CAFÉ

9 Jan	Jean Emery	Mollie Ward
16 Jan	Anna Seale	Irene Entwistle
23 Jan	Ken Houlton	Ernest Wrennall Lesley Lowe
30 Jan	Sylvia Bairstow	Linda Kay
(6 Feb 28	Maureen & Alan Niemayer)	