

## If it aint broke . . .

We don't seem to be having much luck with machinery at the moment. The things we normally take for granted; the aspects of church life that we just assume will be there; the equipment that is as much a part of the furniture as the pews - just doesn't seem to want to work at the present time. For Remembrance Sunday we had to rely on body heat to warm the church as the boiler was playing up, and for the last few weeks the organ has been silent.

Unfortunate as it is, we have still been Church. It would have been nice to be warm and for the organ to rouse our spirits, but despite their absence we still worshiped. We still gathered. We still were able to reflect on life and faith. We still shared stories, made each other welcome; and left refreshed, renewed, and ready to continue to follow the way of Christ in our daily lives.

The absence of things we take for granted can remind us of two things. Firstly, that we've taken them for granted; and secondly that, if push comes to shove, we can cope. To heat the church requires us to raise money to pay the bills and to maintain the boilers, but sometimes they will not work when we want them to. The organ is a gift that our ancestors as members of Leyland URC bequeathed to us and we've known for a while that it needed a major overhaul. The organ is part of our heritage, and as an instrument it is part of the heritage of Leyland and probably the country. (See elsewhere in the magazine the initial information unearthed about it as we seek grant funding for its repair.) Despite their absence we coped, and we do need to take action to make life easier and better. We coped, but it would be nice not to have to.

Both the boiler and the organ are *major* parts of what it is to be Leyland URC, but they are not the **main** parts. The main parts are the people and the message. That's you and the story we tell. The people who gather throughout the week to worship, serve the community, and explore what it means to be a Christian, and it is the message, the good news of God, that it is possible for life to be lived selflessly in harmony with God, Creation and each other. That God is as close as our beating hearts - we just have to stop and listen.

It is one of the truths of Church life that if you get the main things right the rest will follow. If what we do, is the same as what we say. If how we treat each other, is the same as how we treat our neighbours. If what we believe is clear in what we say and do. If we do love God and love our neighbours as ourselves, then others will see Christ in us. And if those around us see Christ in us and in our fellowship, then all of our worries about money and the future dissolve into the background.

All of that is incredibly easy to say, and very easy to nod agreement with - but it is immensely hard to do. How many of our conversations at church go to the very heart of our existence? How often has a service left you needing to change, craving to hear more, wanting to do something? All of this requires engagement; engagement with each other, with the Bible, with the community around us, and with God. It needs us to focus on the main parts of being Leyland URC, the people and the message, and to leave the rest to God. We are all called to draw closer into the heart of God and to discover what that means for us, each other, and for the life of Leyland URC and the community around us.

To draw closer into the heart of God challenges us to be open to life. It asks of us to take risks, to ask questions, and to reflect on all that has, is, and could happen. It calls us to focus on the good, to deal with the bad but not to dwell on it. It demands of us to make the most of the positives, to build on those rather than give up because of the negatives. To see within every situation the heart of God, the way Christ would go, and the potential for resurrection.

As we gather in the next few weeks to celebrate Christmas we need to see through the tinsel and lights to the message. The message that gospel, good news, can come into any situation. Even the poor and marginalised within a nation oppressed by a foreign power can hear the songs of angels, see a star direct their paths, and wonder at the miracle of birth.

In the Christmas story we see that marvellous things happened to a family who trusted in God. The same can be true for us.

## EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Prayer Stations - these are going to be in church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec in the morning and after worship on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> - they are going to be based on the beginning 4 gospels.

Church windows will need to be decorated by the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

South Ribble Borough event on the 4<sup>th</sup> Dec - There will be various stalls in the church grounds and the cake stall. The 'living nativity' will be held in the market area and volunteers are needed for this and for carol singing. We are hosting the borough Christmas tree, in our front garden which will be lit following repair of the timer, done by the borough.

In the afternoon there is a Carol Concert and Lostock Brass Band are playing in the church. If you would like to volunteer we need a Nativity scene to build up (volunteers from living Nativity?) and 4-8 readers for Bible and reflections.

Please contact Dave.

Christmas Eve service - this will be held in the afternoon.

We will serve refreshments at 3.30pm (mince pies and a cup of tea/coffee) and the service will be at 4pm.

Transition Towns - are showing films in church on :

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30pm (Farming for the future)

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2pm (In Transition)

In conjunction with the borough they are holding a Switch Event on Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2pm. (where you bring along your unwanted Christmas presents and swop them for things you do want).

We are hosting the CTL service for Leyland week of prayer for Christian Unity on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

## **Baptism, Confirmation, Membership, Eldership, Ministry**

All of these words can be used to define each other. All of them are about our response to God, our personal faith journey, and our calling to live out our faith in community. All of that is Ministry. Ministry is what a Minister does, but it is also what every elder, member, and Christian takes part in. Eldership is done by elders, but a minister is part of that team, elders are members who are called to this role, and it is done in partnership with the whole congregation. Members are people who have joined the congregation and want, and have been invited, to make a public declaration of their faith and their willingness to live it out within our church. That public declaration and commitment to community, is ministry. That public declaration and commitment builds on the promises made by individuals or parents, and congregations, at baptisms and confirmations. They are all connected but they are all subtly different from each other.

**Baptism** is how we welcome people into the church. It is a public declaration of God's love, acceptance, and challenge. We are welcomed as a child of God, we celebrate the spirit of life, and we challenge ourselves to live following the way of Christ. When it is a child being baptised it gets called a Christening as traditionally it was when the child was given their name, and the parents and God-parents make promises on the child's behalf. For older children we include a brief response, and for youths and adults it could be part of a Confirmation or Membership service.

**Confirmation** is the confirming of the promises that were made at baptism. It is a two-way process. The individual confirms the promises made by their parents and the congregation confirms the individual of God's love, acceptance, and challenge declared at baptism. To confuse us the individual is declared a member of Christ's Church, but that doesn't make them a member of a URC!

In our tradition confirmation is a mid-point between baptism and membership and as such we seldom celebrate it.

**Membership** is how our tradition welcomes people to share in the rights and responsibilities of being a member of the United Reformed Church. As we live in England everyone is a member of the Church of England, the state church, unless they say they're not. Membership is how we do this; how we make it clear we are Reformed and not C of E. Membership is a personal commitment to the faith and to the fellowship of Leyland URC. That commitment brings with it the responsibility for sharing in the life of the church, and in turn the church makes a commitment to support you in living out your faith. It is together that we share our gifts for the glory of God, and seek to be a sign of God's kingdom in this place. It is a sharing. We are all called to do what we can to support the life of the church in response to the blessings we have received from God. We all have gifts to share; our abilities, ideas, time, energy, friendship and money. You are not asked to share all of these, but to pray and talk with others about how you can contribute. It is by bringing together all of these gifts that we are Church and live out the way of Christ. Membership is central to our way of being Church. The Membership invites people to join, and makes decisions about the life of the church.

**Eldership** is how we get ourselves organised. Elders are Members who are recognised as having the ability and gifts to lead the church and are ordained to do it. Elders are responsible for the pastoral oversight and leadership of the local church. To each is normally entrusted a group of members. In the elders' meeting they take counsel together for the whole congregation. They are responsible for making provision for Christian worship and education, for maintaining proper standards of membership, and

for promoting witness and service to the community, mission at home and abroad, and the peace, unity and welfare of the Church. It is their duty to arrange for the proper maintenance of church buildings, and to ensure the oversight of church finances. Some elders represent the local church in the wider councils of the Church, and therefore represent the whole Church to the local church.

**Ministry** is both what we all do together and what individuals are called to do as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Due to the scarcity of ministers or, to see the situation from a different angle, the surplus of congregational buildings, we have been empowering elders to fulfil roles that traditionally ministers used to do. There is nothing that a minister does that an elder can't do, apart from the rules we have about presiding at communion for which permission has to be sought from the wider church. When I was training for ministry I was able to baptise, preside at weddings and funerals, chair meetings, lead worship, bible study, visit, and was given permission to preside at communion. Ministers are elders who have received the calling and privilege of being able to live out their eldership on a full-time basis thanks to the stipend. (Unless they are self-supporting; and serve as well as having other employment.) As such we are not employees of the congregation; the denomination covers our living expenses so that we can serve the Church. Of course there are always aspects of life and church life that we'd rather our minister deals with for us, but in the absence of a minister an elder could do it. Of course not every elder would want or have the gift, but that is also true for ministers - it's just that the dog collar reduces the number of excuses.

Everyone is part of our ministry together. We all have a part to play. It is down to each of us to invite people to church, welcome them when they get here, join in the life of the congregation, and participate in our decision making

We are here to support, encourage and challenge each other along the way through friendship, worship, discussion, reflection and sharing in the upkeep of the church - both physical and spiritual. Baptism, Confirmation, Membership, Eldership, and Ministry are different names we give to people, events and structures, but they are all there to serve the kingdom of God. We all have a part to play to make peace, joy, hope and love part of the reality of our lives, the life of our congregation, and the life of our community. The future of our church is in our hands - each and every one. May God bless our journey together.

David

## ROOM BOOKINGS

Contact Mollie Ward on Tel: 01772 433123

Small rooms (20-30) people £20 per 4 hours

Hall £35 per 4 hours

Kitchen facilities included

If anyone knows of organisations looking for rooms to use especially during the day, please pass our details on, room rentals are vital to church finances.

Please don't forget our 'buy a slate' campaign which Ken Houlton 'administers so ably. We still have a long way to go to completely repair the roof.





To:

- We say a big thank you to Audrey Pritchard who has acted as Room Booking Secretary for many years. This has been a demanding responsibility which she has carried out in the background so reliably and the fact that there has been so little public prominence to her work shows how efficiently she has carried out her work. Mollie Ward has taken over from Audrey and we thank her for her willingness to do so.
- Ernest, Ivor and Eddie for printing this magazine (not an easy task) see article
- Lesley Lowe for organising the Potteries trip—it looks like we have bought a few!
- To everyone who organised and helped with the autumn fair and the cake baking for Children In Need which raised £90

From:

- Marjorie and Lionel Glover would like to say thank you to all church friends for cards, loving kind words and offers of help during and leading up to Marjorie's diagnosis. It has been amazing and very much appreciated
- Commitment for Life thanks for this year's donation of £152.50

## FAMILY NEWS

- We extend our sympathy as a church to Joan and family on the death of Lucy Cropper who was a loyal member of the church and guild for many years. Our minister took the funeral service.
- We also offer sympathy to Marjorie Bartlett whose brother Bill died in the Isle of Man where he resided.
- Sympathy is also given to Karl Wareing and family on the death of his wife Jean.. Our minister took this service.
- We welcome into our church family Archie Richard Mark, baby son of Mark and Emma King. Revd Geoff Tolley was the minister for this service of infant baptism on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- We also welcome Finley George, baby son of Paul and Stacey Fairhurst, who was baptised by Revd Shirley Farrier on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- We congratulate our oldest member, Ayls Blackhurst who was 101 on October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Marjorie Bartlett will reach her milestone 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 29<sup>th</sup> December.
- Malcolm Berrill and Irene Nelson have both been in hospital but are now recovering at home
- Marjorie Glover has been in Royal Preston Hospital and has now been transferred to Aintree, for further tests. Marjorie is very cheerful and we remember her in our prayers.
- Connie Finnigan fell while on holiday but has got over her injury.
- David Amvam was involved in a car accident actually while on his way to our church meeting. He escaped injury - which is more than can be said about the vehicle he was driving.
- Revd Gwen Thomas is not well and has had to give up planned preaching appointments in our church. We offer her support.

## TIME FOR CONFESSION

The slight irregularities to the page order in the October/ November edition of the church magazine which you just may have noticed were entirely the responsibility of the Eddie Reynolds and Ernest Wrennall production team and had nothing at all to do with the editor, Linda Kay whose contribution was, as ever, quite immaculate. We got it wrong and would like to explain how. Perhaps the absence of Ivor Pugh who has been with the printer team in recent months might have something to do with it.

Linda receives copy of material from various contributors, sometimes on paper which she then has to retype on the computer / word processor. Most comes to her direct by E. mail and can be downloaded as they stand and then arranged and rearranged until they fit on sheets of A4 paper laid 'landscape' and in two columns. There has to be an even number of pages because each side makes up two pages ready for folding and each is printed on both sides, front and back. Further more each odd numbered page must be on a left hand half of the sheet As well as four sides of the cover, last months magazine had 32 pages of material using 8 sheets of paper each printed on both sides and each divided into a recto and a verso side. These had to be arranged so that page 1 was on the left of the sheet with page 32 on the right while page 2 was paired with page 31 and so on. Linda sees to all this and eventually she hands the printer pair a bundle of 18 sheets of paper (including the cover sheets) each with print on one side.

These are then taken, along with three reams of white paper and half a packet of coloured A4 paper, to St Mary's church office with whom we have an arrangement to use their specialised office equipment. Lesley Raven supplies us with know-how and coffee while Eddie and Ernest use their printer machine to cut a stencil for the page 1/page 32 sheet and then run off 150 copies.

These are then turned over as a pack and placed on the in-tray side of the printer while a stencil is cut for printing the page 2/page 31 side. This done, we print 150 copies of this on the reverse side of the page already<sup>1</sup>done.

And we keep on doing this until we have every sheet printed in this back to back style. That is, 1250 sheets of paper each printed on both sides = 2500 sides of print. All clear?

Since we are accustomed to having the papers presented to us by Linda in the absolutely correct order we have got in the habit simply of taking the top sheet in order from the bundle knowing that they would be in apple pie order (especially as sometimes the page number does not appear if the printing goes right to the foot of the page). It has always worked perfectly before so we may have got a little over confident in our approach and perhaps picked up two pages together, or put a used paper back on the-wrong pile by mistake or something like that but it meant that the back to back sequence was broken and it was only when we found an unused sheet on its own at the end that we knew it was a mess.

A complete reprint would have been the only way out but there was neither time nor paper for this for the job was by no means finished. We still had to take all the printed sheets to another room, put the papers into piles in number order so that Ernest (and usually Ivor) could collate into 8 sheets plus cover sets which Eddie would then feed into the folding and stapling machine. And do this 150 times. Later, Marjorie Wrennall would sort them into distributor's bundles using the distribution lists which Glynis Bury prepares. Alright, we got it wrong just once. We are sorry and we hope to take extra care in the future. It caused a laugh and, who knows, if you are too critical, you might just find yourself having to do this for us.

If this story has a moral it is that we should all be aware that one little error can have a great eventual outcome - just as one little triumph can have just as great an effect the other way. Little things do count in so many ways.

One last point. We wish to pay tribute to the way that Linda Kay puts together our magazine through the year. It is no easy task and the fact that we printers take the accuracy of what she gives us for granted shows how reliable she is.

Ernest Wrennall (also on behalf of Eddie Reynolds).-

## Gentle Exercise Class

at

The United Reform Church, Leyland

If the idea of attending an exercise class brings you out in a sweat with thoughts of Lycra and feeling "the burn", I'd like to make it clear that this is not one of those classes! I am an exercise professional with a passion for making exercise accessible, enjoyable and social for Older Adults who are looking for a moderate way to keep fit... and I don't do Lycra! We meet every Wednesday, 10.30 - 11.30, for chair-based and standing exercises, a few laughs and a cup of tea - all for £3! If you find this spectacular offer hard to resist and you'd like to come, you don't need to invest in a new outfit (unless you're looking for an excuse to): just wear comfortable clothing and sensible shoes. Whatever your fitness level, you will be most welcome to come and do as much as you can. The areas of health and fitness that we focus on are:

- joint mobilisation to maintain range of movement and help manage arthritic wear and tear.
- gentle strengthening, including work with Therabands, to contribute to muscle strength and bone density.

- stimulating circulation for oxygenation of all the body's tissues: as valuable to mental function as physical.
- challenging co-ordination to stimulate neuro-muscular links.
- balance exercises to assist in fall prevention
- gentle stretches to maintain flexibility, helping to ease cramp and prevent injury

The overall effect of exercise is the feel-good factor through the release of certain hormones into the bloodstream. We all know how hard it can be to find the motivation to exercise, but you always feel better once you've done it. So if you're looking for some gentle exercise in a friendly atmosphere, we'd be delighted to see you!

For further information please call Age Concern: 01772  
321868

### POTS GALORE!!!

(BUT YOU CAN NEVER FIND A SPOON)

Please, please, please do not bring any more mugs, glass tumblers etc into the kitchen—just in case they come in handy or just because you don't want them anymore. No-one seems to know where they all come from but they are multiplying at an alarming rate and we have no cupboard space left.

We bought nice sets of mugs for the coffee mornings so we do not need oddments of assorted mugs and they will be disposed of.



Thanks

## Rainbows

GIRLS AGED 5-7 YEARS

TUESDAYS 6 PM TILL 7 PM

PLEASE CONTACT BERNADETTE ON

TEL NO: 07753 585 733

## Brownies

GIRLS AGED 7-10 YEARS

TUESDAYS 6 PM TILL 7.30 PM

PLEASE CONTACT NADINE ON

TEL NO: 07749 772 181

## Guides

GIRLS AGED 10-14 YEARS

TUESDAYS 7 PM TILL 9 PM

PLEASE CONTACT NADINE ON

TEL NO: 07749 772 181

## A MAN'S EYE VIEW OF THE GUILD

There is a saying that 'A cat may look at the queen'. In the same way, may a man not look at what goes on each Tuesday in the meeting room ( which of course used to be the Young **Men's** room!).

In the old days the ladies group was clearly to be gender specific as the formal title 'Women's Guild of Christian Service ' indicated. Now there is a more relaxed attitude and sometimes an occasional male does dare to show his face. Furthermore, speaking as such a one, there is a real welcome. And, believe it or not, some of the speakers and their subjects have been of great general interest.

There was the visit of Margo from Blackburn with her fascinating tale of being landlady and night club owner, of fortunes won and lost and all kinds of anecdotes of celebrities. Fascinating, eye opening stuff. Then Pauline drawing her extensive experience as a magistrate, came to tell us about penal systems round the world followed by Norman, a regular speaker on matters historical, who this time filled us in with the details of Gunpowder Plot in 1605. The ladies than had an outing to Dobbies garden centre in which I was not involved nor was I the following week when a prospective dance teacher introduced dancing for health and fitness in a practical way.

The following week, there was a visit from the 'Go On Tour' singing and dancing group of men and women from the Thwaites Theatre in Blackburn who gave a splendid and polished show with lots of sing-along participation. Then there was Pam, a professional Family History researcher, who explained the fascination of such studies and who may well have created a demand for a research group in our own church which she would lead (Furthermore she asked for information about each person's own immediate family details - and within 24 hours my wife and I had received copies of the 1911 census for the families where our parents came from) All good stuff .

Numbers are growing as it is. Often twenty or more people but with room for more. So how about it, men? You would be welcome. Each Tuesday at 2pm. £1.00 per week including a brew. Can't be bad.

## THE ORGAN

Our present church building came into use in 1877 but it was not until 1893 that any record exists of an organ to lead the singing. Clearly the architect's design provided for an eventual installation of a 'proper' instrument for the striking arched recess was there from the beginning. In fact the original documentation based on the architect's specifications states that 'the organ and choir will be placed in a semi octagonal recess behind the pulpit' so this must have been an empty area for the first years of the church's life. (It was fortunate that David Grant had the foresight to allow headroom for a proper organ with pipes up to 16 feet long: the architect for Fleetwood URC was not so wise and the organist there sits in a pit several feet below floor level in order to fit organ pipes of similar length.)

In the interim there must have been an organ of some sort for a Church Meeting Minute Book entry in 1882 (held on the day after Boxing Day would you believe!) records the appointment of Mr Smalley (now where have we seen that name before?) as organist, to be paid 25/- per quarter with the congregation to be asked to provide this money from a special collection. And there already was a choir for in the same year there is record of a 'Choir Trip' paid for from the collection at the choir's 'Service of Song' when a piece called 'Poor Mike' was performed.

In 1894 an Organ Fund was begun and in less than a year £100 had accumulated. So a decision was made, perhaps with the special Golden Jubilee Celebration planned for 1896 in mind, to install a new organ at once. The decision was made at the June Church Meeting and, incredibly, the October church meeting records that the organ 'has been installed by Alexander Young & Sons, Organ Builders of Liverpool'. In fact the organ was dedicated on October 16<sup>th</sup> when the choir of Hollinshead Street Congregational Church in Chorley gave a musical service. However, not to be outdone our own choir was able to give a no-doubt spirited rendering of the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's 'Messiah' at the Golden Jubilee service soon afterwards.

The cost of the organ was reported as being £260. A two day Bazaar that Christmas which raised £316 soon covered this. There is mention of a 'water blower' but there is also clear evidence that the air flow was provided by use of the hand operated bellows. The long wooden handle of the hand blower is still in position in the small 'room' behind the door

to the right of the organ in the choir stalls though there is every chance that the bellows themselves will have perished.

**And hereby hangs a tale.**

Some years ago a chance mention in a 'Lancashire Life' type magazine took us to the world of the music hall in the early years of the twentieth century. Apparently a top line touring act was that of Max Errard (or some such name), a Leyland born man who headlined by entertaining at his wonderful travelling organ. The magazine article informed us that Max used to rehearse his act on the organ of the Congregational Church with a young Leyland lad earning pocket money by providing wind for the pipes by operating that handle. Upon enquiry it appeared that the youngster in question was Gordon Bennett - Olwyn Rayton's father.

However no record seems to exist as to the date of the installation of the electric blower which is causing the problems of the present day.

Who played the organ? After that Mr Smalley already mentioned the name of Mr. Huck is prominent in the early part of the century and, indeed, an Organ Fund was set up in his name after he left £100 for that purpose in his will.. We know that Jerry Parker was organist until he was called up during the war and that, following his tragic death, Mrs Eccles , who was really a Methodist, took over. Then it was Mrs Jenkins for forty years and following her, our own Janet Calman. Our organ is a fine instrument.. The two very experienced visiting organists who used it at the Chorley Choral Society concert over the summer both commented on its excellence and expressed surprise that it was out of action. There are records that it was overhauled thoroughly in 1932 and again in 1978. The current church accounts tell us that, probably for insurance purposes, it is now valued at £286,536 - well over 1000 times its original cost - now sitting there doing nothing. It is rather like having a Rolls Bentley car stuck in the garage out of use with a flat battery, but it is going to cost approx £28,000

We initially need about £4000 to install a new blower to allow the organ to be used leaving any major overhaul until a later date.. Already some individuals have made substantial donations so we appeal to everyone to be generous so that we can put that wonderful centre-piece to our worship back into use. **If you can help, please let our Treasurer have your donation . Please!**

# A History of Christianity

**A chance to watch the last two-parts of the BBC**

**7.30-9.00pm**

**Wednesday:** Penwortham United Reformed Church,  
Liverpool Road

**Thursday:** Leyland United Reformed Church, Hough  
Lane

**Penwortham**

**8/12**

Session

**5**

**6**

**Leyland**

**2/12**

**9/12**

**5** "Protestantism - The Evangelical Explosion" Traces the growth of Evangelical Protestantism across the globe.

**6** "God in the Dock" Examines the concept of scepticism in Western Christianity.

## **Outline of time together:**

Welcome and refreshments

Watch episode (1 hour)

Brief closing discussion



# Living the Questions

*A programme for Christian invitation, initiation, and spiritual formation*

## Invitation to Journey

Living the Questions is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. Featuring thirty acclaimed scholars, theologians and other experts, it consists of 21 sessions which may be offered in sequence or as three independent flights of seven units each: "Invitation to Journey," "Reclaiming the World" and "Call to Covenant."

### 7.30-9.00pm

**Wednesday:** Penwortham United Reformed Church, Liverpool Road

**Thursday:** Leyland United Reformed Church, Hough Lane

	9/2	23/2	9/3	23/3	30/3	13/4	20/4
Penwortham							
Session	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Leyland	10/2	24/2	3/3	10/3	24/3	31/3	14/4

1. An Invitation to Journey
2. Taking the Bible Seriously
3. Thinking Theologically
4. Stories of Creation
5. Lives of Jesus
6. A Passion for Christ: Paul
7. Out into the World

#### **Outline of time together:**

Welcome and refreshments  
 Watch episode (20-30min.)  
 Open discussion  
 Brief closing reflection

## In tune with the Seasons

Life is full of beginnings, and throughout the year different groups and people mark with the beginning of a New Year. The most obvious is January 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Day, but there are many more. For the Chinese it begins towards the end of Jan / early Feb with their New Year based on the lunar calendar. For school children the year begins in September, and for students in October. But the Church has a New Year of its own as well. Of course the rhythm and pattern of church life is affected by that of schools and the festivities of early January, but the Church year begins at the start of Advent. Our year as Church begins with the four weeks of Advent that prepare us for the celebration of Christmas. During these four weeks in worship we will be lighting our Advent Wreath. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God, of God's eternity and endless mercy, which has 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. Candles symbolize the light of God shining through the world, especially in the birth of Jesus.

When I began to write this piece I knew that the central candle represents Christ, which we save it until Christmas Day, and that the other four focus on different aspects of our tradition. I thought the prophets and John the Baptist were in there somewhere, but I have discovered that there are several traditions. The first candle is traditionally the candle of Expectation, Hope or Prophecy.

The remaining three are organized around characters or themes as a way to unfold the story and direct attention to the celebrations and worship in the season. e.g. Bethlehem, Shepherds, Angels; or Love, Joy, Peace; or John the Baptist, Mary, the Magi; or the Annunciation, Proclamation, Fulfillment.

Advent is there to prepare us as we journey towards the celebration of Christ's birth. We are reminded of the past, held in the present, and assured of the future. Just as we are in every service we share as we wait on God to reveal Christ to us, within us, and before us.

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

## LEYLAND URC ONLINE

Our website is now up and running.

Check it out at

<http://Leyland.urc.org.uk>

It should be an ongoing project and you should be able to keep up with planned events from the website (that's the theory anyway!)

## WHATS BEEN GOING ON

In addition to the usual programme of weekly activities and the normal Sunday services a number of rather different events have taken place and should be recorded.

At the end of September we had our Harvest Festival service which we combined with an experimental 'Back To Church' appeal. Perhaps we were in error in attempting the combination as there was no real harvest atmosphere and the programme of dividing the extended service time to allow for people to opt in and out of various sections did not really develop into cohesive worship. However there were more people present than usual and there were appreciative comments about the amount of fellowship that ensued. Lessons were learned and can be developed

Early in October we had a Saturday evening concert given by Leyland Male Voice Choir conducted by Dr. John Wilson. There was a reasonable attendance though perhaps largely made up by supporters of the choir itself. Those who were not present however were the losers for the choir was in fine voice, the programme offered great variety and it was a thoroughly splendid evening. We thank the choir, Eddie Reynolds (a choir member) for arranging things and the members of our Fund Raising Group for seeing to the refreshments.

The next day, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October, was the by-now traditional Grand Parents Day Service, once again largely the inspiration of Alison Bamber. As usual there were extra cross-generation family groups in attendance and we thank Alison and Dave for making this a special occasion in the life of our church. We are, I believe, the only church in the URC Lancashire Area to have this kind of ~~se~~ service - perhaps we need to spread the idea further afield.

On the same afternoon Churches Together In Leyland, held its joint Harvest Celebration service in Turpin Green Methodist church .The One Voice Choir took a prominent part and the congregation sang the harvest hymns nominated by each church and introduced by a member of that church. We nominated "We plough the fields and scatter" which Linda Barnes introduced using words suggested by Ivor Pugh.

On the last Saturday in October, a date dictated by the date of Mavis Berry's half term break, we had our Autumn fair. Perhaps due to the locality door to door leaflet campaign carried out by Mollie and others (don't mention sharp toothed terriers lurking behind rat trap letterboxes to her!) we had a better outside attendance than usual. All the usual stalls were in operation and the memory of David Amvam with money waist bag in position at the tombola stall will be a sight we will long remember. The amount raised was some £760 and we thank all those who assisted in any way.

Towards the end of October our colleagues from Penwortham URC celebrated their Church Anniversary - a mere 81 years compared with Leyland's 164! They marked the occasion with a Quiz evening on the Saturday and Leyland supported the event by sending along a team made up of two Wards, two Wrennalls and the one and only Jan Chapman. And we won. Mind you, teams of four people were the norm and if you count up we had five people. However it should be pointed out that for Penwortham's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend, Leyland had also sent a team which consisted of two Wards and one Wrennall, a total of just **three** people. And this team had also won! Furthermore, Jackie's team came second.

Mention should also be made of the Remembrance Sunday service on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The outdoor act of remembrance at our war memorial was very moving and the crowd of people of all ages stretching from the porch to well outside the gate made an impressive picture as they stood in motionless silence as veteran Albert Draper laid the wreath and named those who died in the two World Wars. During the service we heard war stories from Arnold Rayton about Olwyn's father's experiences during a bombing raid on Leyland Motors, from David Holmes about his father's experiences with the tank Corps in North Africa, Italy and Greece during which, before serious wounding, he received a high bravery award, and from a young Brownie whose brother had just returned from duty in Afghanistan. It was a splendid service and we congratulate Dave on making worship for this special day such a moving experience.

Ernest Wrennall

PS Albert, mentioned above, has since been the subject of a very special article in the Lancashire Evening Post as possibly 'Leyland's oldest war veteran'.

## **SHOEBOX APPEAL**



Please don't forget our shoebox appeal. There is a list at the front of the church of suggested items to fill a shoebox (or several). When a person has very little in life it must be heartening to know that someone overseas has taken the trouble and care to send a box of things that we may take for granted.

Boxes will be collected at the service on 12th December

# WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

## Service Details

TUES 18TH JAN 12PM 1/2 hour @ LEYLAND URC  
WED 19TH JAN 12PM 1/2 hour @ ST ANDREWS  
THU 20TH JAN 12PM 1/2 hour @ ST AMBROSE  
Full Service @7.30 ST MARYS RC  
FRI 21ST JAN 12PM 1/2 hour @ ST JAMES  
SAT 22ND JAN 12PM 1/2 hour @ ST MARYS RC  
SUN 23RD JAN ALL CHURCHES  
MON 24TH JAN 12PM 1/2 hour @ MIDGE HALL  
METHODIST  
TUES 25TH JAN 12PM 1/2 hour @ TURPIN GREEN  
METHODIST

All services will be followed by light refreshments

## TRAIDCRAFT ROTA DEC/JAN 2011

5th Dec	Mollie Ward
12th Dec	Rita Coaker
19th Dec	Sylvia Bairstow
26th Dec	Lesley Lowe
2nd Jan	Linda Barnes
9th Jan	Christine Holmes
16th Jan	Mollie Ward
23rd Jan	Rita Coaker
30th Jan	Sylvia Bairstow
(6th Feb)	Lesley Lowe)



## RAMBLES AND PLODS

The September Ramble was on a fine summery afternoon in the countryside round Croston and Bretherton. (It was one of the least 'undulating walks ever for the total ascent for the entire 5 miles was only 55feet!) Mike Chapman was the leader and there was a good turnout including a debut appearance for Dave and Rita Coaker. The route was by lane and field path though the final stretch following the very overgrown embankment alongside Wymott Brook was very tiring to weary legs. But it was a good walk and we thank Mike for sorting everything out - though we feel that if Jan had been the planner there would have been a tea room or coffee shop somewhere along the way.

In October we took to the Lake District where we met David Lamb on the outskirts of Windermere for a walk of about five miles which, despite his title of "Two Knotts and a Howe" was not too 'uppity (David's word). for the total ascent was given as just 629 feet. David promised 'wonderful views' and on such a lovely clear day, this was certainly true. David's walks are always spectacular and we are grateful for taking us to new territory.

The September Plod was a very local one for the meeting and eating place was the Old Leyland Gates on Golden Hill Lane in Leyland itself. The day was fine and the walk, apart from one tricky stream crossing in woodland was not too demanding. There was a bit of local history and a visit to a splendid riverside garden where we met the proud couple who created it. The meal was good too.

In October we met at the 'Lord Nelson' in Whittle and, again on a lovely sunny day, walked through woodland to an interesting piece of industrial history linked with the old Walton Summit canal branch before returning along stream side parkland paths for a welcome meal. A good walk in an area which despite its proximity was unfamiliar to most.

Both walks were planned and led by Ernest.





## GARDENING

The following poem was 'letter of the week' in Garden News and was submitted by a certain Carol Cason from Stroud. Carol found the poem hanging in the garden shed of her 80 year old neighbour.

### THE GARDEN OF LIFE

Plant three rows of peas

Peas of mind

Peas of heart

Peas and quiet

Plant five rows of lettuce

Lettuce be kind

Lettuce be patient

Lettuce be faithful

Lettuce love one another

Lettuce pray

Plant four rows of squash

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash prejudice

Plant four rows of thyme

Thyme for family

Thyme for friends

Thyme for each other

Thyme for ourselves

Plant three rows of turnips

Turnip for meetings

Turnip for appointments

Turnip to help a friend

When sown with care,

Watered with patience and cultivated with love

Your garden of life will reap great rewards



## CHURCH & WORSHIP DIARY FOR JAN 11



Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mollies Meander walk (1.30pm) and refreshments (3.45pm)	
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Worship led by Revd Nigel Lemon Communion	10.30am
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Amnesty International	7.30pm
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by Revd John Hopkins Ramble planning meeting	10.30am 7.30pm
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Fabric committee	7.30pm
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ramble Transition Towns film	 2.00pm
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by Revd Shirley Farrier	10.30am
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Lunch time service in our church	 12.noon
	(Other lunchtime and evening services as announced)	
Thur 20 <sup>th</sup>	Elders meeting	7.30pm
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Worship led by Revd David Coaker Parade	10.30am
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by Revd Geoff Tolley	10.30am

ITEMS FOR NEXT MAGAZINE  
FEB/MARCH  
TO BE WITH LINDA KAY BY 23rd January 2011  
PLEASE  
Email [lindakay@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lindakay@blueyonder.co.uk)

## ROTAS FOR JANUARY 2011

	Stewards	Lessons	Flower Distribution
2nd Jan	Janet Porter	Lesley Lowe Linda Barnes	Ann Gill Linda Crump
9th Jan	Dianne Bolan	Jan Chapman Mollie Ward	Olwyn Rayton Marjorie Wrennall
16th Jan	Ann Gill	Ian Dempsey Stella Eccleston	Linda Barnes Alison Dempsey
23rd Jan	Alan Niemayer	Uniformed Organisations	Jan Chapman Mollie Ward
30th Jan	Greg Bolan	Georgia Sayer Ivor Pugh	Sylvia Bairstow Linda Barnes
(6th Feb)	Maureen Niemayer	David Holmes Ann Gill	Alison Dempsey Barbara Mc Hugh

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

### SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS FOR JAN 2011

2nd Jan	Ann Gill	Dianne Bolan
9th Jan	Joyce Robinson	Jean Simmons
16th Jan	Lois Porter	Barbara McHugh
23rd Jan	Stella Eccleston	Glynis Bury
30th Jan	Ann Riding	Lesley Lowe
(6th Feb)	Sylvia Bairstow	Irene Entwistle)

### SATURDAY CAFÉ

9th Jan	Lois Porter	Linda Kay
16th Jan	Brenda Farrer	Irene Entwistle
23rd Jan	Maureen Niemayer	Alan Niemayer
30th Jan	Sylvia Bairstow	Mollie Ward
(5th Feb)	Ann Gill	Linda Barnes)

## CHURCH & WORSHIP DIARY FOR DEC 10



Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup>	'History of Christianity' part 5 DVD-	7.30pm
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christingle Service	6.30pm
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	Cake Stall	
	CTL Nativity Tableau	
	Afternoon Band Concert	
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by Revd David Coaker	10.30am
	Communion	
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	Open house at the Manse	7-9pm
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Open house at the Manse	10 -12 am, 2-4pm
	Amnesty International	7.30pm
	Transition Towns film	7.30pm
Thur 9 <sup>th</sup>	'History of Christianity' part 6 DVD	7.30pm
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	Uniformed Organisations Christmas Service	10.30am
	Shoe boxes will be received at this service	
Thur 16 <sup>th</sup>	Elders meeting	7.30pm
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Festival led by Revd, Geoff Tolley	10.30am
	Lessons and Carols service	6.30pm
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve service with Revd Dave Coaker	4.00pm
	(Mince pies etc from 3.30pm)	
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas day worship <u>at Penwortham URC</u>	
	led by Revd David Coaker	10.30am
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by Revd David Coaker	10.30am

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

As last year, we invite members of our fellowship to prepare just one card intended for 'all church friends' and display this, with every one else's similar family card, on the special Card Tree which will be part of the church's Christmas decorations until 12<sup>th</sup> Night.

We suggest that you may wish to make a donation to church funds 'in lieu' of spending money on individual cards for a number of people.

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

## ROTAS FOR DECEMBER

	Stewards	Lessons	Flower Distribution
5th Dec	Jean Simmons	David Holmes Ivor Pugh	Mollie Ward Sylvia Bairstow
12 Dec	Sylvia Bairstow	Uniformed Organisations	Linda Barnes Alison Dempsey
19th Dec	Linda Kay	Emily Calman Ann Gill	Barbara McHugh Lois Porter
26th Dec	Linda Crump	Stephen Crump Arnold Rayton	Dianne Bolan Jackie Cochrane

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

## SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS FOR DEC 2010

5th Dec	Lois Porter	Barbara McHugh
12th Dec	Stella Eccleston	Glynis Bury
19th Dec	Ann Riding	Lesley Lowe
26th Dec	Sylvia Bairstow	Irene Entwistle

## SATURDAY CAFÉ

4th Dec	Sylvia Bairstow	Mollie Ward
11th Dec	Ann Gill	Linda Barnes
18th Dec	Ken Houlton Ernest Wrennall	Lesley Lowe
25th Dec	No cafe	
1st Jan	No cafe	