

## ROTAS FOR DECEMBER

	Steward	Lessons	Flower Distribution
4th Dec	Linda Kay	Ann Gill Linda Barnes	Olwyn Rayton Ann Gill
11th Dec	Sylvia Bairstow	Uniformed Organisations	Mollie Ward Marjorie Wrennall
18th Dec	Julie Key Rhys Pownall	Stephen Crump Jan Chapman	Sylvia Bairstow Jan Chapman
25th Dec	Marjorie Wrennall	Lesley Lowe Mollie Ward	

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

## SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS FOR DECEMBER

4th Dec	Lesley Lowe	Rita Coaker
11th Dec	Christmas lunch	Christmas lunch
18th Dec	Linda Crump	Diane Bolan

## SATURDAY CAFÉ DECEMBER

3rd Dec	Linda Kay	Linda Barnes
10th Dec	Brenda Farrer	Irene Entwistle
17th Dec	Lesley Lowe	Graham Lowe
24th Dec	No cafe	
31st Dec	No cafe	

### POLITE REQUEST:

It would be less disruptive if, when on coffee, you would not leave the service until after the blessing.

Thank you

## Hallowed time

The last day of October marks the beginning in the Church of a period known as Hallowtide, 'All Saintstide', when Christians remember those who have died. All-Hallows Eve, or Halloween, on October 31<sup>st</sup> has Celtic origins being originally the feast of Sanhain/Samhain, (pronounced 'sow'inn) the last night of the Celtic year, when all kinds of spirits were thought to be active. Sanhain became Halloween by the 9th century after Christianity had spread into Celtic lands and the celebration became known as the *Eve of All Hallows* and eventually Halloween.

The word Hallow means 'Holy', (*blessed, consecrated or set apart in a special way*) and so 'All-Hallows' or 'All Saints' on 1<sup>st</sup> November refers to the Saints—the Holy Ones; those who died for their faith or who lived extraordinary lives. This day dates back to 5th century Antioch in Syria when the church dedicated a day to the memory of all those who had been killed for their faith. Until then the Church had remembered martyrs on special days of the year, but there became more martyrs than days in the year, and there were some whose names were not known.

In Hebrews 12:1-2a we are reminded of all those saints that have gone before us, surround us now, and will be there in the future:

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.*

We have the example of Christ, and of Christians throughout the ages, with us now, and those who will look back on us, to look to as we move through this Hallowed time which is hidden within the 'trick or treat' and bonfires. A holy time for us to reflect on the past, look to the future, and prepare ourselves for Advent. Advent is itself a time of preparation for Christmas Day, which at times can mask the birth of a child in present and food shopping. So let us prepare to prepare, to look to Christ as we live out the life of faith in this hallowed time.

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

### Those were the days!

I overheard someone about to go on the Potteries trip who expressed the intention to purchase some more mugs to build up stocks of crockery for the church.

Contrast this with an entry in the Church Meeting minute book for Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 1896 where an entry reported that "the Ladies Jubilee Special Fund be used, in part, for 13 dozen China Tea Service supplied by G. Procter & Co, Gladson Pottery, Longton, Staffs at a cost, complete, of £9-6-0, carriage 5/6. Also Tea Urn 18/6 and Wash Bowl 6/6".

What a wonderful thought! 156 china tea cups and saucers. Those indeed were the days!!

Ernest Wrennall

### ROTAS FOR JANUARY

	Steward	Lessons	Flower Distribution
1st Jan	Barbara McHugh	Ian Dempsey David Holmes	Alison Dempsey Linda Barnes
8th Jan	Ivor Pugh	Jackie Cochrane Stella Eccleston	Lois Porter Jackie Cochrane
15th Jan	Irene Entwistle	Ivor Pugh Mollie Ward	Barbara McHugh Linda Crump
22nd Jan	Janet Murray	Uniformed Organisations	Olwyn Rayton Mollie Ward
29th Jan	Jean Simmons	Linda Kay Arnold Rayton	Sylvia Bairstow Jan Chapman
(5th Feb)	Linda Crump	Ann Gill Linda Barnes	Marjorie Wrennall aAison Dempsey

### SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS FOR JANUARY 2012

1st Jan	Glynis Bury	Stella Eccleston
8th Jan	Linda Barnes	Marion Howard
15th Jan	Joyce Robinson	Jean Simmons
22nd Jan	Sylvia Bairstow Ann Riding	Brenda Farrer
29th Jan	Barbara McHugh	Lois Porter
(5th Feb)	Ann Gill	Lorna Bowling

### SATURDAY CAFÉ

7th Jan	Jackie Cochrane	Ernest Wrennall
14th Jan	Sylvia Bairstow	Mollie Ward
21st Jan	Linda Kay	Linda Barnes
28th Jan	Brenda Farrer	Irene Entwistle
(4th Feb)	Lesley Lowe	Graham Lowe

## FLOWER LIST FOR DEC/JAN

4th Dec	Ann Gill- memories of Russell Jan Chapman—memories of mum
11th Dec	Frank McGuire and family— Memories of Ella Joyce Gwlliam and family— Memories of Horace
18th Dec	Linda Barnes—Memories of parents
25th Dec	Smalley family—Memories of parents
1st Jan	Birthday memories—Melling family
8th Jan	Joan Almond, lesley and David—Memories
15th Jan	Molly and Peter Ward— Memories of loved ones
22nd Jan	Irene Entwistle—Memories of mum
29th Jan	Vacancy

It would be much appreciated if people dedicating flowers  
could pay Betty their flower money in advance of their  
chosen date.  
Thank you

Members and friends of Penwortham URC and  
Leyland URC are warmly invited to the manse for  
tea, coffee and mince pies on Tue 13<sup>th</sup> Dec be-  
tween 3-5pm and 6.30-8.30pm and on Wed 14<sup>th</sup>  
Dec between 10-12noon.

## ONE VOICE CHOIR

We are grateful to the members of the Leyland and Penwortham ecumenical 'One Voice Choir,' their accompanist , Stuart Whillis and conductor Margaret Greer for the evening of fine music, with a harvest theme , which they gave in our church on the Saturday of Harvest Weekend. The invitation was suggested by our own Jean Fow, herself part of the choir, and it was well worthwhile both artistically and financially.

Perhaps again next year?

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

As for the past two years, we invite members of our fellowship to prepare just one Christmas 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 may wish to make.

## Family News

We start with Grandparent News.

Baptisms - We welcome into the church family Elizabeth Rose, baby daughter of Stephen and Donna McLaren, a first granddaughter for Alan and Linda Kay. Then we also welcomed into the church family Maisie Alice, baby daughter of Christopher and Rachel Kay, a second granddaughter for Alan and Linda Kay.

We congratulate David and Christine Holmes on the birth of a first grandson, Max, baby son for Martin and Jude.

We congratulate Greg and Dianne Bolan on the birth of a first granddaughter, Isabella Florence, baby daughter for Nick and Genevieve.

We congratulate Amber Cottam on being selected as Female Cadet of the year at Chorley Air cadets. She also did the Four Peaks (Chorley Nab, Rivington Pike, Great Hill and Winter Hill) Challenge Walk on one of the hottest days of the year (Since then she has fallen and has needed crutches - no connection with the above mentioned walk)

We ask you to remember in your prayers Ellis and Jackie Cochrane who are worried about Lisa who is in hospital again . Also David and Christine Holmes who are concerned about the health of Christine's mother who is in a nursing home. In addition we ask you to pray for Linda and Roy Barnes who are worried about the well being of Kevin and for Irene Entwistle who is concerned about the health of her granddaughter, Heather.

# The Nativity

**A chance to watch the  
four-part BBC series together,  
and reflect on the story it tells.**

**7.30-9.00pm**

Wednesday: Penwortham United Reformed Church, Liverpool Road

Thursday: Leyland United Reformed Church, Hough Lane

Penwortham	<b>25/1</b>	<b>8/2</b>
Session	<b>1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>3 &amp; 4</b>
Leyland	<b>2/2</b>	<b>9/2</b>

**Outline of time together:**  
Welcome and refreshments  
Watch episodes (1 hour)  
Brief closing discussion

Four-part drama revealing the human story beneath the classic biblical tale, from the courtship of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth to the birth of Jesus in a Bethlehem stable.

## GUILD PROGRAMME

At the time of going to press there is no information about the Guild programme for the new year

## GARDENING

Winter is now with us and the gardens are now looking quite sad, it is a time to clean them up and make tidy. Sweep away fallen leaves and keep the paths clear, prune back rose bushes to half their height to prevent wind rock in any winter gales.

Empty any pots and tubs of dead annuals and scrub them clean before stacking them away for spring use. Garden canes can have soil cleaned off the ends and then be dipped in a preservative to extend their life. Garden tools can be cleaned and then be given a light coating of oil to prevent rusting over winter. Now that the grass has stopped growing it is a good idea to have the mower serviced and sharpened and re-set, it will be much more efficient next spring.

Fence panels can be given a coating of preservative, it is always easier to do this when you can get at them rather than fight your way around summer plants.

All the bulbs you planted last month should now be producing roots and showing growth, if any are in pots in the house remember to water them.

Remember to keep bird tables and feeders topped up with peanuts and seeds and provide clean water especially in frosty weather. The winter thrushes from the colder regions are now with us, so keep a lookout for Fieldfare and Redwings. If you visit Longton Brickcroft or Birkacre at Chorley there is a wide range of geese and ducks to see.

Enjoy your garden

Eddie



For the record we note that one of our members, masquerading under the name of Jeanne McFow, competed **for Scotland** in a recent international bowls tournament for the blind.

Please also remember Lois Porter who has not been well lately. Jean Goodall and Sara Horrobin have both had operations in hospital and are recovering at home.

Elsie Trafford, a member of the Guild reached her 90<sup>th</sup> landmark birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and Margaret Barton will be 80 on 13<sup>th</sup> January next year. Congratulations to them both.

We have received a generous bequest from the estate of our friend the late Irene Nelson. Her son, Mark sent the following message:

*'In relation to my late mother Irene Nelsons bequest to the church and the placing of a plaque in the memorial garden, I am totally in agreement with this and thank you for the elders thoughtful consideration in this matter Though she was too frail to attend in her later years re her fear of falling she was kept well informed of what was going on at the church by her friends, it having been with Alfred her late husband, a great and significant part of their lives'*

During January you will have the opportunity to nominate and/or be nominated for the Eldership of the church. Please take this responsibility / privilege seriously.

# THANK YOU

## TO:

A big thank you to all who supported me in my raffle on Harvest weekend. I raised £21 for Water Aid by raffling the box of fresh produce donated by The Giant Veggie Patch Project of which I am a member. The lucky winner was Irene Entwistle . Hope she enjoyed all those veggies!  
Nadine Sumner Guide Leader

Every one who helped to decorate the church for the Harvest Festival such as the individuals and groups who produced the window displays but especially Betty Melling and her assistants, Jackie, Lesley and Brenda who spent long hours in producing such wonderful floral displays. We also thank the uniformed organisations for their imaginative window displays.

Ken Houlton for manning the Buy a Brick/Buy a Slate table after worship for the past several years and now to Brenda Holmes who has taken over that responsibility.

Every one who helped out in any way at the Autumn Fair which made a very acceptable sum of about £700 for the church. The Fund Raising group did most of the preparation work and we thank them for this but we are also aware that others contributed for example in providing an abundance of cakes and preserves for the cake stall, tombola and raffle prizes, saleable items for the stalls and, of course', for coming to spend money.

Ian Holt for the extra practical work which he has had to do to deal with problems with the Key Code locks. On one occasion at least he was hard at it from 7pm to gone midnight before he could secure the premises.

KPC	Kiribati Protestant Church
	29,432 members in 129 congregations. John Watson from this church went there (then the Gilbert Islands) as a missionary associate
RCN	Reformed Church in the Netherlands
	2,500,000 members in 2,500 congregations
PCS	Presbyterian Church in Singapore
	12,000 members in 42 congregations. Now is the HQ of CWM
UCZ	United Church of Zambia
	85,000 members in 1112 congregations
CCCS	Congregational Christian church in Samoa
	70,000 members in 1329 congregations

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## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Pen-wortham	29/2	14/3	21/3	28/3	4/4
Session	God	Jesus	Salvation	Community	Practice
Leyland	1/3	8/3	15/3	22/3	29/3

**In a series of studies this Lent author and Bible scholar Marcus Borg invites us to join him in revisiting Christianity's most fundamental questions**

In this five-session, faith-formation resource, participants enjoy witnessing Marcus in dialogue with a small, diverse group of adults as they honestly - and sometimes painfully - confront the big questions and work together toward authentic answers. Each session includes a 10-minute presentation by Marcus Borg followed by interaction with the group.

Some preparatory work would be encouraged for each session and resources will be available to help us "join the dialogue" following the dvd input.

## **CWM, OWW and all that. Part 2**

Meet the family and compare some of its members with us

**URC** United Reformed Church in the UK

80,000 members in 1655 congregations of which we are one

**UCCSA** United Congregational Church of **Southern Africa**  
(Includes Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa)

280,000 members in 390 congregations. (Once we linked with the New World Foundation in Capetown and the Maxixe school in Mozambique)

**CJCM** Church of Jesus Christ in **Madagascar**

2,500,000 members in 5795 congregations

**CB** Church of **Bangladesh**

16,000 members in 74 congregations

**PCK** Presbyterian church of **Korea** (South Korea)

2,489,717 members in 7158 congregations.

**GCU** **Guyana** Congregational Union

2422, members in 38 congregations ((Once we linked with Mission Chapel in New Amsterdam in this South American country)

**CUNZ** Congregational Union of **New Zealand**

997 members in 14 congregations. ( We still have a link with St Anselm's Union Church in Wellington.)

**UCPNG** United church in **Papua New Guinea**

600,000 members in 2600 congregations

**CSI** Church of South **India**

3,800,000 members in 14,000 congregations in this ecumenical grouping of Anglican, Methodist and Congregational churches

Christine Holmes for organising the Traidcraft Stall for so many years and to the others who have served on the rota to staff the stall each week. Though we will continue with our policy only to use Fair trade tea, coffee and sugar for church functions, we will no longer have a stall with a variety of Traidcraft products since there was so much waste as 'best before' dates had to be respected. We hope that members of our church will continue to buy fairly traded goods which are now readily available in so many supermarkets.

Alison Bamber for her contribution to the Grandparents Day Service yet again. This was her original idea and it is a wonder that she continues to produce something fresh in her approach every year.

The Hoe Down on November 19<sup>th</sup> was a very enjoyable event which raised well over £200 for the church. We thank the members of the Fund raising group for their preparations, June and Bob Kay for their arrangements and, especially the splendid Beehive Band and their very entertaining caller, Syd, who not only made the music and the dancing go with a swing but did so without charge to the church. A wonderful gesture .

## **FROM**

Water Aid for the donation of £140 from our Harvest Service

Members of St Vincent de Paul Society, Leyland St.Marys.

"Many thanks for the groceries you sent us from your Harvest Festival. We assure you that we can make good use of them in our food parcels which we give out daily to needy people who come to the priest's house asking for help. God bless."

## Fund Raising

There are few events planned for before & after Christmas. As you are aware we do not have cake stalls until the weather improves. However, we still need to continue raising funds for the church. (Sometimes it feels like the Forth Bridge - a never ending round of things that need to be paid for or repaired!).

Even if you do not want to be part of the Fund Raising Group, we would really appreciate any ideas for events. Please speak to Mollie, Lorna, Linda Crump, Linda Barnes, Ernest Wrennall or myself if there is something you think we could do.

### Christmas Events :

The Scouts & Guides are having stalls in the church garden on the 3rd December.

### After Christmas:

David Hunt has agreed to give a talk on 'The History of Leyland'. This will be held on 15th Jan at 2pm

Last Night of Proms - the date for this event is still to be arranged, dependent on our guest performers, Vicki and Ivan Shaw.

There will be a Wedding Fair on 25<sup>th</sup> March, organised by Janet Murray.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Lesley Lowe

The walk was quite long , something over seven miles, with about 1700 feet of ascent altogether but the views were superb and there was much of interest to see . - several prehistoric remains, buzzards in effortless flight and a superb brew stop in the lovely village of Urswick where the hinged benches at the picnic table guaranteed a dry seat. There were some muddy fields well churned up by the hooves of herds of young bullocks but it was a really splendid walk. As Chris said in an E Mail -'a great walk on a fantastic day'. Thank you David.

The November walk was a local one to and from Worden Park across the sometimes muddy fields of Runshaw Moor. The walk, led by Ernest, was OK but the special feature was the follow up invitation to tea provided by Karen and Malcolm at their home. They are generous hosts and we thank them for their hospitality.

Ernest Wrennall

### FABRIC UPDATE

Just a few items the Fabric committee are currently dealing with:

Two or three more pews are to be removed from the children's area to make a more 'child friendly area' – Listed building consent is required (Church Meeting Request). Forms received from LBC – Drawings and photos needed – could be 2 to 3 months before approval. (Use one pew to provide seating against window wall to make 'L' shaped pew)  
Jackie sent off information to Michael Williams (Listed Buildings)  
It was proposed we use Junior Church funds to finance this.

The church hall is to be repainted and should be finished for Christmas. The Primary room will be painted after Christmas

South Ribble Partnership have awarded us a grant of £1374 for Seating

## RAMBLES AND PLODS

Though for some people the end of summer and the entry into the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' that is autumn would mean that the fireside attracts more than the great outdoors - but not for the hardy plodders and ramblers of the church. And, somehow, the outings that have taken place so far, though few in number, have been blessed by ideal weather.

The lunch time Pensioner's Plod in October was a repeat of one perhaps less than a year ago and was led, as then, by Frank and Barbara McHugh and Marjorie Bartlett. It was based on the Pear Tree hostelry in Lower Penwortham, a good choice as they cater well for healthy appetites. The day was warm, calm and sunny and the route provided firm footing, often on disused railway tracks to go with splendid views. Arnold took some splendid photographs especially one looking from the disused railway bridge over the Ribble looking along the riverside path of Avenham Park with the tree shadows forming a wonderful ladder like picture. It was a good walk and we thank the leaders.

The Saturday Ramble scheduled for October was actually postponed until the beginning of November because of a clash of dates for the elders who make up a large percentage of the regular walkers. Since the original date happened to be a day of sunshine it was very very fortunate that the rearranged date, 5<sup>th</sup> November was equally sunny. The walk was planned and led by David Lamb working from his home base in Grange so the appointed place of assembly was the distant seashore car park at Bardsea, in south Cumbria. Since the clocks had already been put back and it got dark quite early, we had to meet at 11am which is perhaps why only seven walkers from this end took part.

## CTL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

7.30pm service at Leyland Methodist Church,  
Turpin Green Lane

1. Wednesday 18th January

*12 noon services lasting 30mins followed by  
light refreshments  
(unless otherwise stated):*

2. Thursday 19th - Midge Hall Methodist  
Church, Longmeanygate

3. Friday 20th - Orthodox Church, Leyland  
Lane

4. Saturday 21st - St Mary's RC Church, Broad-  
field Drive

5. Sunday 22nd - at all churches within regular  
services

3pm Guild Service - at Guild Hall, Preston -  
tickets required

6. Monday 23rd - St James CofE, Slater Lane

7. Tuesday 24th - Leyland URC, Hough Lane

8. Wednesday 25th - St Andrews C of E,  
Worden Lane

## All I want for Christmas ....

Another year seems to have sprinted by and we are again getting ready to celebrate Christmas. As Church we will be gathering together to retell the stories of Jesus' birth, enjoy singing our carols, and share in the joy of this festive season. Christmas is a time of celebration, of family, and of receiving and giving gifts. We enjoy it every year when it comes round, but its meaning is part of the whole of church life and we celebrate it throughout the year.

As Church we come together to celebrate in worship each week, we gather as family, and we share together in receiving and giving gifts of our time, talents and treasure. Each and every one of us contributes to what it means to be Leyland URC. We need each other but we need to give thanks to those that have been especially generous. At our AGM in the New Year we will elect elders and be reminded of all of the activities of the last year. We have much to be thankful for in the service offered by our elders, members of the fundraising and fabric committees, leaders of Junior Church, Scouts and Guides, and for all those that undertake particular roles and tasks on our behalf. All of them give of themselves to help make Leyland URC the place it is.

These roles are part of how we serve. How we serve our local church and how we support each other within our denomination. The roles within a local church support the work of Christ and roles within the wider URC do the same. They are all part of how we live out the way of Christ as Church. As a minister we are primarily called to serve the local but also the wider URC.

Because of this I have been persuaded to serve the wider URC as the assistant Pastoral Convenor (including Ecumenical Officer) for the Lancashire Area. It coincided with my stepping down from the environmental role I undertook for the URC (which I will now find outlet for with South Ribble Transition Towns [www.srttt.co.uk](http://www.srttt.co.uk)).

churches with Congregational and Presbyterian roots also came together in a family grouping of equals, the **Council for World Mission**. The URC, the churches of the Congregational Federation and those of two purely Welsh church groups are four of the 31 member churches. The rest are overseas. Can you work out from their initials from which country the following CWM member churches come?. (The country name initial is in **bold type**)

UCCSA, CJCM, CB, PCK, GCU, CUNZ, UCPNG, CSI, KPC, RCN, PCS UCZ CCCS (Answers with supporting facts are on page 22)

Each church is entirely self supporting and self governing. No longer do they rely on missionaries from us; instead they are often the ones sending missionaries to other lands. This movement away from former European lead is shown by the fact that for quite complex reasons the HQ for CWM has this year moved from London to Singapore.

And we know so little about all this. It is our loss.

Ernest Wrennall

ITEMS FOR NEXT MAGAZINE  
FEB/MARCH  
TO BE WITH LINDA KAY BY 22nd JAN 2012  
AT THE LATEST PLEASE  
Email [lindakay@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lindakay@blueyonder.co.uk)

## C.W.M. O.W.W, and all that!

When I led worship in our church at the end of October I used the 'children's' bit to explain that this was officially the end of One World Week (which happened to be the day when, officially, the population of the 'one world' that we share reached a total of 7 billion people). Using the initials as a starting point I moved on to other initial letters which took us to the family of churches in five continents of which our URC in the UK is part and which is the World Council for Mission or WCM. Somehow this side of our denominational life seems to have vanished from sight though hopefully the Taiwan link mentioned on the Synod report may alter this.

It was at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century that the 'Independent' (Congregational ) churches began to send missionaries overseas to spread the Christian message. They did this through an organisation called the L M S (London Missionary Society) and over the next 182 years a regular flow of missionaries continued with this and congregational type churches were established especially in Southern Africa, Asia, Central America and the Pacific islands. Meanwhile the Presbyterian church had a similar programme while settlers from Britain with congregational roots who set up their own style places of worship remained in contact with the home country through the Commonwealth Missionary Society.

In 1977, soon after the Congregational and Presbyterian churches came together as the URC, the 31 separate

This new role is a commitment and will affect the pattern of my ministry.

As well as sharing our gifts with each other and the wider URC we have been given a gift from strangers. On the notice board in the entrance to the worship space are initial sketches of potential alterations to our church. The architects of 3D.G design undertook this work for free after South Ribble Partnership encouraged us to ask for help rather than seek grant funding to pay for it. The drawings were presented to church meeting and it was agreed for us to continue with this conversation. The next stage is to take this gift we have received and present it to the wider community as we undertake a public consultation. By sharing this possibility we hope to find out what individuals and organisations within the community think and what gifts they can offer to help us discover the potential for grant funding and to help sustain our building and congregation.

At Christmas we particularly celebrate Jesus' birth and give thanks for the message he shared; the message of God's kingdom. The challenge of living the way of justice, peace, and love; which is the calling of the Church and our calling as Christians. All of us are part of this. Each of us contribute to this calling through our participation in the life of the Church, in worship, in sharing our time, talents and treasure, and in whatever roles we undertake. We have much to be thankful for and part of how we show our gratitude is in our generosity to each other and to the community around us. The images of Christmas of a young girl willing to risk banishment, a man risking his reputation, an innkeeper offering shelter, a child being born into poverty, outcast shepherds made welcome, of magi travelling great distances, of a star shining overhead, have at their heart gifts shared. The magi offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh when they discovered the gift of God they saw in the face of a newborn baby.

We offer our gifts in the same way as we recognise Christ within each other and in the faces of strangers.

It is that spirit we are called to live out as we approach the launch of the URC's Radical Welcome campaign in March. Some of our preparation will mean tweaking some of the things we do, adding some signs to make it clear to new people where things are, but the main effort is in keeping before ourselves the knowledge that we welcome people in Christ's name which means we engage with them where they are and whoever they are, look to see Christ in them and act in ways that help them see Christ in us.

At Christmas we celebrate Immanuel, God with us, so let us keep that message before our hearts throughout the year to give us strength, courage and wisdom as we live the way of Christ together.

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

Ernest would like to thank the people who bought copies of the 'Anagrams Opus 3' Quiz which has raised about £90 for church funds. In particular he commends Ethel Barker who took and sold a dozen or more copies to her contacts at St Andrews. Perhaps others could do the same with future Quiz sheets?

10 sellers with 12 copies each = £120 more!

what we knew as the Ginger Group. To some extent this would depend on suitable finances being available and the major discussion of Synod Financial strategy which followed will have a bearing on this. Church comments are required by the end of January. A resolution about setting up Synod Manse Policy - a complex issue involving 'ownership' of minister's houses - was passed though whether individual churches become part of this is up to them.

And just before lunch I was called forward to receive the Child Friendly Award on behalf of our church. We were applauded!

After lunch there were separate meetings for delegates for each of the four Areas and the most noteworthy thing that I remember from this was the description of how Poulton URC has developed its prayer life.

The afternoon session began with the Synod's accounts in which the new treasurer gave encouraging signs that he seemed determined to allow resources to be made available for worthwhile mission projects.

We heard how the Cumbria area churches were developing a close ecumenical partnership with the Anglicans and Methodists, about the working of the accompanied Pastoral Review scheme, and there was an update on the approaching Radical Welcome campaign.

And, that was it! It may seem very dull but it wasn't boring at all. This is how our church works and though, other than Dave who attends as all serving ministers may, we have only one official delegate me! However others can attend as observers. If you would like to see for yourself what goes on have a word with me for the next Synod at Gatley, south of Manchester on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

**Ernest Wrennall**

## SYNOD

Though a brief mention of the business at the October meeting of Synod was given at our church meeting, it might be of interest to others to know something of what Synod is and does.

Our church is one of the 140 or so United Reformed churches in the North Western Synod (province) of the national URC. There are 13 such regional Synods each with a Moderator, ours being the appropriately named Revd. Richard Church. Though there are various committees and some officers, a representative from every church plus all its serving ministers meet just twice each year and can make decisions which may affect every church. The most recent meeting was at Bamford URC just outside Rochdale on 8<sup>th</sup> October which happened to be when our minister was on holiday abroad. So I travelled alone and, though early, barely found room to park on the large church car park. As the minutes of the meeting recorded 143 voting and 44 associates/observers were present, a total of 187 visitors plus a good number of local church stewards, brewers up (and even bacon butty makers!)

We began with worship and a bible study presented by a lecturer (with NW roots) from our Westminster College, Cambridge- (on whose behalf a later appeal for development money was made) Ministerial movements, retirements, arrivals, deaths were recorded; notice was given of the Moderators coming 'sabbatical' absence and there was a lengthy presentation of developments in the (barely) existing Global Partnership between our Synod and the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan. Though not directly involved in any of this I found this very encouraging as the previous World church aspect of church life in which I and, indeed, was involved seemed to have vanished absolutely from the church programme.

There were encouraging signs of developing local church mission expectations with a suggestion of setting up a version of

## ANAGRAMS

Though it is too soon to reveal who won the Autumn Fair 'Anagrams' Quiz, it has certainly put the idea of working out words which are anagrams (having the same letters but in different order) firmly in a lot of people's minds. In fact one competitor has used the internet to let me have some classic anagrams in which the two words have a close and sometimes very witty link with each other. How about these?

PRESBYTERIAN

BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER

MOON STARER

THE EYES

THEY SEE

THE MORSE CODE

HERE COME DOTS

DORMITORY

DIRTY ROOM

ELEVEN PLUS TWO

TWELVE PLUS ONE

ELECTION RESULTS

LIES – LET'S RECOUNT

MOTHER-IN-LAW

HITLER WOMAN

But how about this (not original) example for sheer brilliance A famous line from 'Hamlet' becomes a pretty accurate summary of what Hamlet is really saying – and the same letters of the alphabet are used each time.

“To be or not to be, - that is the question. Whether t’is nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.”

becomes

“In one of the Bard’s best-thought-of tragedies, our insistent hero, Hamlet, queries on two fronts about how life turns out rotten”.

Ernest Wrennall

## CHURCH AND WORSHIP DIARY FOR DECEMBER



Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christingle service (*1)	6.30pm
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmas stalls by the uniformed groups	
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by George Grime	1 0.30am
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	Guild Christmas lunch at Leyland Golf Club	
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	One Voice Choir at Midge Hall Methodist church.	7.30pm
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	Potteries Trip (*2) 8.30am Amnesty International greeting card signing all morning	
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by the uniformed organisations International Aid shoe boxes will be received Church Christmas lunch following the service	10.30am
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Fabric committee	7.30pm
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	Elders Meeting	7.30pm
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Festival led by Revd Geoff Tolley	10.30am
	Lessons and Carols service (*3)	6.30pm
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Service	5 00pm
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day Service led by the minister	10.00am

\*1 Church and window Christmas decorations need to be in position **before** this event. Mince pies etc will be served after this service.

\*2 The coach will leave Lancaster Gate by the Leisure Centre at 8.30am.

Contact Lesley Lowe for information or to book a place.

\*3 Mince pies etc after the Lessons and Carols service.

In recent years the numbers attending some of the 'extra' seasonal worship events have been rather disappointing. Festive preparations may tend to dominate but we should not lose sight of the fact that the birth of Jesus is the reason why we celebrate. Please do try to attend whenever you can especially for one or more of the last three services listed above.

## CHURCH AND WORSHIP DIARY FOR JANUARY 2012



Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Worship led by Revd Geoff Tolley	10.30am
	'Mollie's Meander' ramble followed by refreshments for all at Greenbank Farm.	1.30pm 3.30pm
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Amnesty International	7.30pm
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by the minister Communion Ramble planning meeting at 125 Church Road	10.30am 7.30pm
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Fabric Committee	7.30pm
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by Ernest Wrennall 'History of Leyland' talk by Dr.David Hunt(*1)	10.30am 2.00pm
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Week of Prayer for Christian unity begins (*2)	
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	Elders meeting	7.30pm
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	Ramble	
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Worship led by the minister Parade Preston Guild Ecumenical Service in the Guildhall (*3)	10.30am 3.00pm
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lancashire Area meeting at Fulwood URC	6.30pm
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by Elizabeth McRobbie (*4)	10.30am

(\*1) Dr Hunt is the Borough historian and his knowledge of the history of the town is unrivalled. Please come to hear (and see) about **your** town told in an easy-to-listen-to style. Absolutely fascinating.

(\*2) There will be a service, probably at lunchtime, in a different church every day this week with one evening main service as the major event. Details will be available nearer the time

(\*3) Though the Preston Guild celebrations 'proper' take place in September, the united service, which is not just for church people who live in the City of Preston, is the first major event of the year. Admission is by ticket only and, though the closing date for application has gone, perhaps some of the 2000 tickets may become available later.

(\*4) Elizabeth McRobbie, a nationally accredited lay preacher, is the daughter of Bob and June Kay who now lives in Cheshire.