

NewsShare

Good news, thoughts and reflections from our churches

Midge Hall : 150th Anniversary

The congregation at Midge Hall Methodist Church are getting excited about our plans for our 150th anniversary which will take place on the weekend 9th to 11th June. We are starting with a Messy Church on Friday 9th at 6.00 pm till 8.00 pm which will be Messy and Loud. Whilst this is primarily aimed at the children, it is open to all ages and everyone is welcome.

On Saturday 10th June we will have an open event which we have titled Com on and Celebrate which will begin from 10.00 am with coffee and tea being available and an opening by MP Seema Kennedy assisted by the Mayor of South Ribble. All the groups that use the hall will have displays and demonstrations. which will be interspersed by other groups as was as Lostock Hall Brass Band. There will be lots of activities as well as events and games for children both indoors and on our large field behind the Chapel.

On Sunday, we will have a traditional Sunday Service led by Rev Phil Gough, Deacon Ellen Monk-Winstanley and several ex Ministers who are coming back to celebrate with us. The Service will be followed by a Jacobs Join Lunch and at 2.00 pm, we will have a Songs of Praise led by our very own Midge Singers.

Everyone is welcome to join in all or any of these events and help The people at Midge Hall Methodist Church celebrate this wonderful achievement of 150 years on the same site. The Church has seen lots of changes during this time and is today a lovely welcoming building which has warranted our strap line,

**Small church...
BIG WELCOME**

Recognition of Long Service

On Sunday 26th February Whittle Methodist Church gave thanks, as a church, for Jim Atkinson's sixty years as a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church. When asked what has been his chief aim in these sixty years as a preacher, Jim replied: "I simply wanted to tell people about Jesus".

He was presented with a stone bird bath for his garden and a card with a photo on the front of the small chapel at Quernmore (the then Lancaster Circuit where Jim's Christian journey began) together with photos of all the churches of the Chorley & Leyland Circuit.



This year Geoff & Janet Horton and Rita Moss also celebrate 40 years in ministry. The long service awards will be presented at Circuit Praise on Sunday 25th June, 6.00pm at Chorley Methodist Church; please do join us to help celebrate!

2017 Priorities

Have you seen our Circuit leaflet regarding the exciting priorities that shape our ongoing development in the Circuit?

Copies are in churches. Please ensure everyone receives one!

Chorley & Leyland Methodist Circuit

2017

2017 has already been a busy year as together we explore the directions God wants to take us in. The Circuit Meeting in February accepted exciting proposals for our ongoing development and the Circuit Leadership Team has subsequently sought to clarify our vision priorities and begin to identify resources. This little document introduces three themes to inform you so you can...

get excited too! | pray for this work | get involved

We have the incredible resource of about 1000 people in our circuit churches! Let's get everyone on board fulfilling our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.

We have an inspiring launch booked - note the date!
Sunday 21st May - 3:30pm - Farrington Lodge, Leyland
Admission Free, Worship, Speaker Rev A. Adam Cooper, Tickets £10

All these mini articles, and much more, can be found in full on the circuit website:

www.chorleyandleylanmethodists.org

Social Care and the Church

Rev'd Andrew Mashiter

I'm really looking forward to the period over the summer when I'm on sabbatical - a precious gift to ministers from the church. Whilst I've promised to take some time for rest and relaxation - and a little more time to spend with the family - I have said that I want to reflect on how the church engages with the subject of adult social care. We're often told that we, as a society, face a "crisis" in this area.

As many of you will know, there are issues close to home that we as a family need to work through. But I guess that at times, many of us face the challenges of looking after and caring for elderly relatives, or indeed others close to us, with significant needs.

What is the church already doing to make a contribution? To what extent should it, or could it, do more? Should it be politically engaged to a greater extent? Should our local churches, as they seek to serve others in the name of Christ, be more proactive in addressing the practical needs found in our communities?

These are some of the things I want to be reflecting on - **and you may be able to help me!** What experiences (good or bad) do you have? Have you any creative ideas to add to the mix?

If you feel that you were able to share your thoughts, I'd love to hear from you. If you could give me a ring (01257 263251) we could make contact over the summer. Thanks in anticipation!

Andrew

Farewell and Welcome Services

On 23rd July, 6.00pm at Spendmore Lane we will be holding a farewell service for Revd Janet Pybon.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Tony Simpson to the Circuit as our new probationer minister. We will be holding a welcome service for Tony on 2nd September, 7.00pm at Spendmore Lane. Please feel free to join us.

Sabbatical

Andrew Mashiter will be on sabbatical from 1st July until 30th September 2017.

During this time Phil Gough will be acting as Superintendent Minister, but do feel free to contact any member of the staff team for pastoral needs.

Papa New Guinea

Janet Pybon and Carolyn Hothersall

The Lancashire District sent a mission team of four people to Papua New Guinea in February this year including ourselves from this Circuit. One purpose of the visit was to strengthen links with Rarongo School of Theology and Mission whose principal, Garo Kilagi, served as a Minister in the Lancashire District some years ago. We also aimed to raise the profile of women in church leadership roles, as these opportunities are only just emerging in PNG.

We were so warmly welcomed and experienced such humbling radical hospitality throughout the visit, from the provision of the best hut on the site with a larder stocked with ample food to last the whole time, to being showered with gifts of home-grown fruit from individuals and families, and many other gifts of beads, bags and a specially made meri-blouse each.

We experienced daily life at the school including the power-cuts and lack of water. Sleeping under nets and lathering ourselves daily in oily mosquito repellent went hand-in-hand with the exhaustion of the heat and humidity. During the visit we were involved in leading worship, speaking to groups of women, and being involved in some of the theology teaching at the school.

It was an amazing time through which we learned so much. It has had a massive impact on us and we were privileged to have been part of such an uplifting and rewarding experience.

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