

THE

September – November 2024

# ELBOW

The Magazine of Formby Methodist Church

All are  
welcome

## *From the Editor*

Amazingly, this is the 30th issue of the '*Elbow*'!! Yes, it's been going for over six years!! I for one just cannot believe it. My thanks to everyone - and Graham Watts and Helen in particular - for all their support, encouragement and contributions.

Of the six years, this has probably been the busiest, as we celebrated our 150th anniversary. Since the last '*Elbow*' we have had three events, all of which have been extremely successful - see pp10,11 for more memories and photos of the Sefton Ladies Choir concert and the Flower Festival, and pp12,13 for our Anniversary Service and lunch.

This issue covers what is usually a particularly busy time in the Church calendar, and this year is certainly no exception. As well as a special service on 6 October to commemorate the first service ever held at Elbow Lane (see p5) and the Aughton Male Voice Choir in concert on 11 October (see p5 & back cover), we have our Harvest Service on 22 September; and, of course, Remembrance Sunday is on 10 November - you will find several relevant articles throughout this magazine. And sadly, since the last '*Elbow*', we have lost four well loved members - Alan Roberts, Susan Howden, Angela Tulley and Nicky Williams. We will remember them.

Happily they are still with us, but nevertheless, we have had to bid farewell to our District Chair and Superintendent Minister. Rev Dr Sheryl Anderson retired in July - indeed, her retirement service was the day before she led our Anniversary Service, which meant, for reasons which I won't go into, she brought us a special celebratory cake! Sheryl has been a good friend to us, especially in the '*Interregnum*'. Rev Marie-Ann Kent has retired as Superintendent Minister - unfortunately, we only got to know her during her final year in that post, on our joining the Southport Circuit, but even in that time she has been a great help and a good friend.

Dare I say it, but Christmas is fast approaching! It begins at Church with the Christmas Fair on 30 November, complemented as last year with our Christmas Tree Festival - and also, for the first time, a special event! (see p30). And remember not to buy any calendars for 2025 until you see our own Church calendar, with lots of photographs from a memorable year and particularly, of course, our wonderful Flower Festival. It will certainly bring back many happy memories!

# SERVICES AT ELBOW LANE

15 Sept, 10.30	Morning Service	Mr Nigel Mawdsley
15 Sept, 4.30	Circuit Service	Leyland Road, Southport
22 Sept, 8.30	Holy Communion	Rev Derek Bowker
22 Sept, 10.30	Harvest Service	Rev Derek Bowker
29 Sept, 10.30	Morning Service	Rev Patrick Evans
<b>6 Oct, 10.30</b>	<b>150th Anniversary of First Service at Elbow Lane and Holy Communion</b>	<b>Rev David Somerville</b>
13 Oct 10.30	Shoebox Service	Rev Sheila Prest
13 Oct, 4.00	Circuit Service	St Philip & St Paul with Wesley ,Scarisbrick Road, Southport
20 Oct, 10.30	Morning Service	Mr Keith Trencher
20 Oct, 6.30	Evening Service	Rev Ian Hu
27 Oct, 8.30	Holy Communion	TBA
27 Oct, 10.30	Bible Sunday Service	Mrs Jean McKenna
3 Nov, 10.30	Holy Communion	Rev Sheila Prest
10 Nov, 10.30	Remembrance Sunday Service	Rev Derek Bowker
17 Nov, 10.30	Morning Service	Miss Lesley Goddard
17 Nov, 6.30	Evening Service	Rev Patrick Evans
24 Nov, 8.30	Holy Communion	Rev Derek Bowker
24 Nov, 11.00	Circuit Service	Leyland Road, Southport

*“A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory”*

## **Minister's Letter**

### ***“O you of little faith”***

I remember when we moved into our present house 40 years ago, we bought a brand new dishwasher. We were excited and sat transfixed while it swished and whirled and clicked as the programme went through its cycle for the first time. I think we thought that unless we watched it carefully it might forget to rinse or stop before the dishes were clean!

I remember the strange feeling of anxiety it engendered. Delegating responsibility is never easy to the conscientious worker. What was really going on in there behind that closed door? How could we be sure it wouldn't leak? We felt we had to hover around and supervise just in case!

Soon we grew to leave well alone and now, as in most households, it is regarded as a machine we can trust to do the job without us even getting our hands wet.

It seems to me that our faith in God is a bit like this. We say we believe in his power and love, but we still have our doubts. We pray for strength and guidance and then keep fussing around in a state of indecision about what we should do. We know God cares, but we still worry and fret over things. When we put our trust in God it's even better than putting our dishes in the dishwasher. We can go and get on with our life with confidence, secure in the knowledge that God knows what he is doing and he will not let us down. It reminds me of some verses from Matthew 6 25-30 :

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear....look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet your father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ”*

Dear God, help us to live our lives without needless anxiety; increase our faith and help us to trust you for all we need secure in the knowledge of your loving care. May we surrender ourselves to you as we embark on another year in the Methodist Church in Formby and may your kingdom blossom as we navigate new waters in the life of your church.

Love and peace  
Sheila



## 150 Events Still to Come

**To all our friends at Formby Methodist Church**

**Congratulations on your special anniversary ..... the best is yet to come!**

**May God bless your celebrations with joy and love**

**Marie-Anne on behalf of the Circuit**

After a well-earned break, the 150 Team will soon be preparing for our final events of this very special anniversary year.

On Sunday 6th October, we will have a special service to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the very first service to be held at Elbow Lane. Our guest preacher will be Rev David Somerville, whom many will remember with affection as he preached in our Church many times before moving to Bury a few years ago. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any report of the service 150 years ago, otherwise that would have made the choosing of the hymns a little easier!

On Friday 11th October, the distinguished Aughton Male Voice Choir (Lancashire Choir of the Year 2022) will be our visitors. They will sing a variety of songs old and new, including some special requests made by members of Elbow Lane! (See back cover for further details).

Bad news. Unfortunately, our Celtic evening in November has had to be cancelled, due to unforeseen circumstances. However, the good news is that it will definitely take place in 2025! I am also hoping to invite Ian Tracey and Jack Watson to return for another concert. It would be a great shame not to continue the momentum of 2024 - albeit on a rather reduced scale!

Finally, we will conclude our 2024 celebrations as we began - with a Christmas Tree Festival, during the first week of December. And on Thursday of that week, there will be a special Christmas evening! (see p30 for details)

*Alastair*



# FLOWER FESTIVAL

Since the last 'Elbow', we have enjoyed a memorable concert by the Sefton Ladies Choir on 25 June. We will long remember the young soloist, Maisie, singing two songs by Andrew Lloyd Webber,



especially in his 'Pie Jesu', duetting with her teacher.

In fact, all the various events so



far have been successful in every respect, be it attendance, enjoyment or donations received. But I think it is fair to say none more than our Flower Festival. This was by far our most ambitious undertaking, with the Church decorated throughout with so many beautiful flower arrangements, depicting many favourite hymns, by Liz Broad and her colleagues from her Tuesday Flower Class and members of Formby Flower Club. The display was supplemented by a craft stall and historical exhibition, not forgetting some delicious refreshments. Every session was well attended - and donations passed the £2000 mark! So many church members helped in so many ways - a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this event such an outstanding success. As a reminder, here are photographs of just some of the beautiful displays - they speak for themselves.



**And as a further reminder of the Festival, we will be producing a calendar showing many of the flower arrangements. We are aiming to have these available for sale by November at around £5, which will be considerably cheaper than those in the shops.**







# Church Anniversary

## Sunday 14th July

On 8th July 1874, the foundation stone of Elbow Lane Methodist Church was laid. Since then, this momentous event in our churches history has been commemorated almost every year - and usually at the beginning of July. This year was no exception.

And as it was a particularly special anniversary, we had two very special guests - Rev Dr Sheryl Anderson, the outgoing Chair of District - indeed, her retiring service had been held just the previous day - and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey, the new Vice President of the Methodist Conference.

Sheryl, who has been a very good friend to us at Elbow Lane, especially by guiding us through the difficult yers of the 'Interregnum, led the service, while Carolyn gave a very appropriate address, looking forward to the next 150 years!



The Church was bedecked with flowers - thanks to our wonderful flower ladies - and at the close of the service Steve Gee took the above photo of the congregation. Our Minister, Rev Sheila Prest, and Sheryl and Carolyn can be seen standing in the aisle.





Following the service around 75 people enjoyed a sumptuous buffet lunch organised by our Senior Church Steward, Tim Andrews, with his team of helpers. The beautifully laid tables with flowers, printed menus and plenty of fruit juices looked amazing.

Happily, speeches were kept to a minimum! Alastair gave a brief review of the year so far and what was still to come, while Sheryl spoke about her retirement and explained why she had brought a cake for us to enjoy!! We were delighted that Rev Geoff Barnard, who ministered at Formby during the 1980s, his wife, Audrey and daughters Kathy and Sarah were able to join us, and Geoff reminisced about the major events during his ministry here, the highlights being the Canadian exchange and the hospitality given to the Catholic and Protestant youngsters who came to Formby in the summer holidays during the Troubles.



All in all, a memorable day indeed - and a fitting tribute to and commemoration of 150 years of Methodism in Formby.



# HOLIDAY AT HOME

The Holiday at Home Team would like to express their sincere thanks to the Church Council, Property Committee and Church Members at Formby Methodist for their support for Holiday at Home 2024. Formby Befriending Scheme is fortunate to have had this support on a day-to-day basis from 2013 and the past fortnight is just another indication of our Church's generosity in making the premises available for six Holiday at Home events.

I would like to say a personal thank you to the Church members who volunteered their time and energy to help serve refreshments and give a warm welcome to those attending the various events. Along with a small team of FBS volunteers, this additional help was much needed and appreciated.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year Holiday at Home has taken place in the Formby area and we had around 300 people attending 22 different events, mostly hosted by our local churches. We don't have the final total yet but we know that over £1,000 has been raised in donations for various charities.

The feedback received from those who came along to Holiday at Home events has been very positive. Those people who aren't usually able to attend social activities because of limited mobility, were especially appreciative of the free transport and help which enabled them to attend.

Thanks again to Formby Methodist Church for their part in providing a warm and welcoming environment and lots of friendly faces.

*Winnie* (on behalf of the Holiday at Home Team)



## ***Fauré's 'Requiem'***

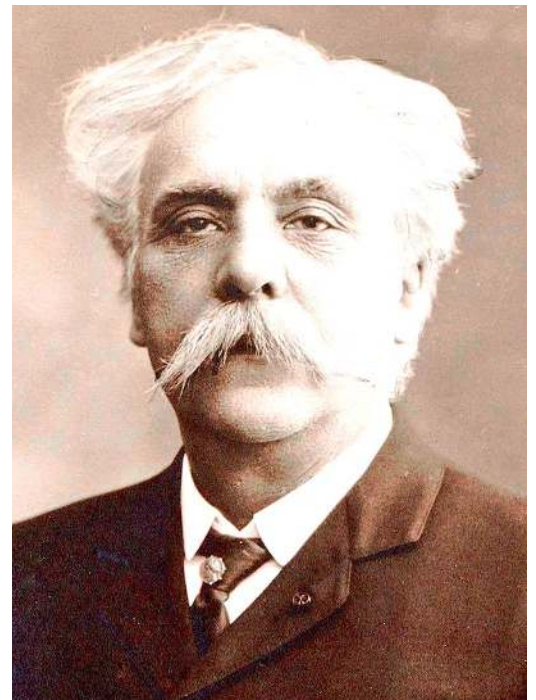
### **A Serene and Beautiful Masterpiece**

I have to confess that I am not a great fan of choral music. However, there is one piece which I do find very much an exception. Indeed, the piece is in itself unique - it is Gabriel Fauré's '*Requiem*'.

*Fauré was born in Pamiers in the south of France in 1845, the son of a country schoolmaster. His musical talent became apparent when he was a boy. "I grew up, a rather quiet well-behaved child, in an area of great beauty," he said. "But the only thing I remember really clearly is the harmonium in that little chapel. Every time I could get away I ran there...I played atrociously...but I do remember that I was happy; and if that is what it means to have a vocation, then it is a very pleasant thing."* Nevertheless, as a protege of Saint-Saens, no less, he made good progress and in time duly became organist of the Church of La Madeleine in Paris.

One of his earliest compositions was a beautiful choral work, the '*Cantique de Jean Racine*'. Fauré composed this in 1865 when he was just 20 years old, and still finishing his studies at the École Niedermeyer. Yet however youthful, it has all the hallmarks of the great composer: a serenity and a delicacy in setting the words, and a clarity of line and beauty of proportion that makes the work sing out its prayer.

But it is for his '*Requiem*' that Fauré is most famous and this is certainly the most frequently performed of all his works. Yet curiously, it had a lukewarm reception at its first performance. That was in 1888 at the funeral of an important Parisian architect in the Church of the Madeleine. Afterwards the priests there told Fauré that the church's own musical repertoire did not require a new addition, and so for over 20 years, the '*Requiem*' was virtually ignored.



This was largely due to the fact that Fauré's '*Requiem*' is very different to the many Requiem which had preceded it. Mozart's, for example, has an element of anger, while Verdi's is on a massive scale, with a huge



orchestra and choir and is in many ways more like an opera. And later ones, such as Berlioz's and Britten's, are very much more bombastic.

Fauré's '*Requiem*', however, is unique, in ignoring the anguish, loss and horrors of Death and Judgement Day and concentrating on the true meaning of the word - rest. His '*Requiem*' is about peaceful acceptance and release, and the music is serene, elevating and comforting - it is unusually gentle for a Requiem. It provides musical solace by focusing not on the morbid, but on the restful and fear-free nature of death.

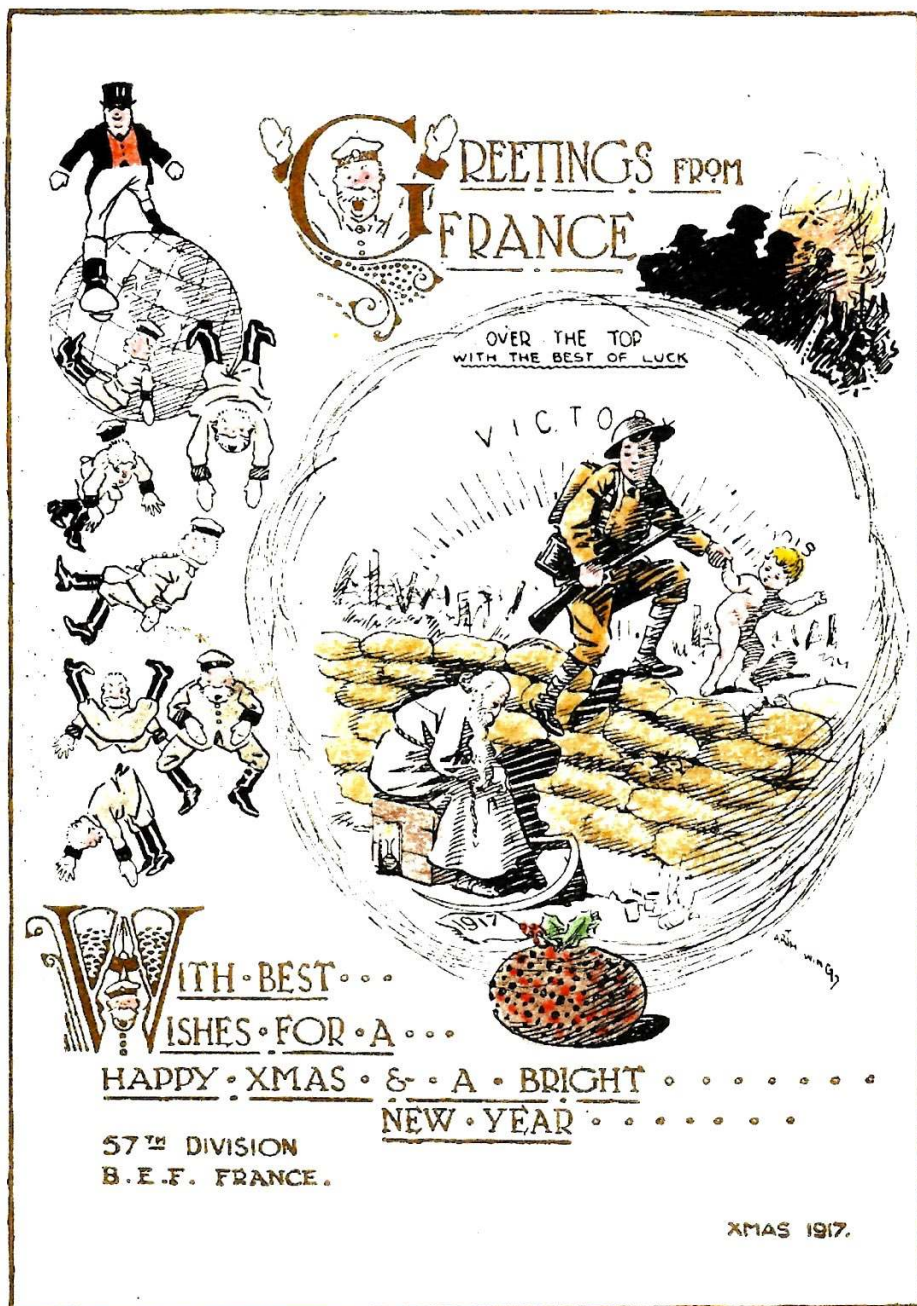
At its heart is the composer's resigned, yet nevertheless optimistic, approach to death and eternal life. He wrote, *"Everything I managed to entertain by way of religious illusion I put into my Requiem, which moreover is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest. It has been said that my Requiem does not express the fear of death, and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than a painful experience..."*

While the opening movements - the '*Introit et Kyrie*' and '*Offertoire*' - are sombre, the '*Pie Jesu*' and '*Sanctus*' are beautifully ethereal, culminating in the glorious final movement, the serene '*In Paradisum*', which is nothing short of heavenly, and surely one of the most spiritually blissful moments ever written.

At the end of his life, in 1924, Fauré said to his sons, *"When I am no longer here, you will hear it said of my works, 'After all, that was nothing much to write home about!' You must not let that hurt or depress you. It is the way of the world."*

His concern was ill-founded, however, for many of his compositions, whether orchestral, instrumental or choral, have become standard works in concert programmes. Indeed, his music is more popular than you might think - do you remember the introductory music for '*Listen With Mother*'? He wrote that - although, of course, not intentionally! But none more so than his '*Requiem*'. It is only around half an hour long, there are many recordings available and it is frequently performed at the Phil. For anyone not familiar with this piece of music, or indeed choral music in general, I thoroughly commend it to you, not only as an ideal introduction to choral music, but also as providing in a unique way a glimpse of God's world of beauty and harmony.

*Alastair*



### 57th (Second West Lancashire) Division 'Second Line' Territorial Force Infantry Division - Christmas 1917

The 57th (Second West Lancashire) Division was a 'Second Line' Territorial Infantry Division serving in France and Flanders from early 1917 to 1919.

In 1914 the original Territorial Force (TF) soldiers were only obliged to serve in the UK, as 'home defence', replacing Regulars going abroad. Whilst many Territorials quickly committed to overseas 'Imperial Service' with 'First Line' units, those who did not or were too young to go overseas, together with recruits, were placed in 'Second Line' units. 'Second Line' Divisions (each around 17,000 men) were then formed. Later a 'Third Line' formed, solely for training in the UK.

When conscription was introduced in 1916, gradually 'Second Line' divisions were posted overseas. The 'First Line' West Lancashire Division, almost all units of which were already in France, was numbered as the 55th Division in January 1916. The 'Second Line' Division went to France in February 1917 numbered as the 57th Division. It included the 2/10th (Scottish) Battalion of The King's (Liverpool Regiment), the 'Second Line' of the Liverpool Scottish.

Initially, the 57th Division took over trenches near Armentières, Erquinghem and Bois Grenier under the command of II ANZAC Corps and then moved north to the Ypres Salient, taking part in the Second Battle of Passchendaele (October 1917). In August 1918, it took part in the Second Battle of Arras and then the Battles of the Hindenburg Line and the Final Advance



(Left) The 57th Division Badge, a D-shaped stirrup signifying the interest of the Earl of Derby, a powerful influence in West Lancashire and later Secretary of State for War

(Right) Dicky's Dash Trench Raid Memorial Cairn, 2/10th Bn. The King's (Liverpool Regiment) at Bois Grenier [2nd Bn, The Liverpool Scottish], 57th (Second West Lancashire) Division



My thanks to Liz for these poignant World War I Christmas Cards sent home from the Trenches. Liz explains opposite. Ed.





The image on the front shows the official 55th (West Lancashire) Division Christmas card for 1918. This example was sent by the General Officer Commanding the division, Major-General Sir Hugh Sandham Jeudwine KCB, to his bank, Coutts (Royal Artillery Branch), and is personally signed. Jeudwine had commanded the 55th Division from January 1916 when it was re-formed from the first-line Territorial Force battalions of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), The King's (Liverpool Regiment), the Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment) and the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment with the addition of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. The division was completed by the West Lancashire Artillery, Royal Engineers (including the divisional signal company), the Field Ambulances and other supporting Territorial Force units.

It shows an infantry soldier of the division. On his right forearm he wears the four inverted blue 'service' chevrons, each representing a year of service on the Western Front. Liverpool Scottish veterans who had served overseas in 1914 were entitled to a fifth chevron in red. Near his shoulder he wears the divisional insignia, the 'Red Rose of Lancaster' with five green leaves on either side. Five-petalled roses also appear at the bottom right-hand corner. The divisional motto 'They Win or Die Who Wear the Rose of Lancaster', is taken from a poem written by an officer of the division's Royal Field Artillery (275th Brigade), Lieutenant Leonard Comer Wall of West Kirby, killed in action in June 1917.

Behind the soldier are shown outlines of French miners, a typically conical 'crassier' slag heap, pit heads and chimneys representing the highly industrialised mining area of huge strategic importance that the Division had successfully defended throughout 1918, particularly during the Battle of Givenchy in April when it was the only British division to yield no ground.

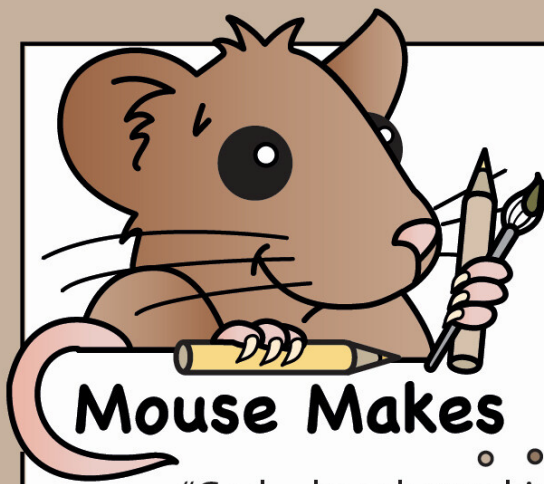
*My cousin Ian Riley has had a lifelong interest in all things World War I related and each year sends a Christmas card based on a contemporary design, containing fascinating pieces of information. I think he and Alastair should get together sometime!*



J E S U S  
L O V E S Y O U



Wendy checked the message on her mobile



## Mouse Makes

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples  
\_\_\_\_\_ you, O God!  
May all the peoples praise you!  
The land yields its harvest;  
God, our God blesses us."

*Psalm 67:5-6 NIV*

"God ... has shown kindness by  
giving you rain from heaven  
and crops in their seasons.

He provides you with  
plenty of \_\_\_\_\_. He fills  
your hearts with joy."

*Acts 14:16-17 NIV*

"Honour the Lord with your wealth  
and the first part of your harvest."

*Proverbs 3:9 ERV*

"Let us fear and respect  
the Lord our God.

He gives us autumn and  
spring \_\_\_\_\_.  
at the right time.

He makes sure that we  
have the harvest at  
just the right time."

*Jeremiah 5:24 ERV*

O A G A T H E R A I N S  
S V O G M A U T U M N P  
O G D O P R O D U C E R  
I H J O Y V S H A R E I  
L A N D H E P R A Y D N  
T H A N K S G I V I N G  
Y P F E R T I L E E P S  
B L E S S E D D E L R W  
S E A S O N F O O D A A  
U N R E W K I F R U I T  
N T T E N S C R O P S E  
N Y H D P R O V I D E R

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN  
NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE  
FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY  
BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

*Find the words from the questions too!*

## "Lest we forget"

Through stories and film  
I remember the devastation of war in Europe  
my guts twist  
my mind reels  
my heart breaks  
I think of the little girl able only to imagine  
her father's embrace  
Grandad's and grandson's shared dream of playing footy in the park  
lost when grandad died in a trench  
Of the young sailor who said,  
"How can anyone love me, mum when I look like this?"  
"Son, I'll always love you."  
"But mum you won't always be here."  
During that war and after  
Nations joined together to end that war  
to create and maintain peace  
in the hope that such a war could never happen again  
On Armistice Day we stand in churches  
parade through cold damp streets  
wear blood red poppies  
"Lest we forget"  
those who gave up their tomorrow for our today.  
"Lest we forget," we say as war still finds a way.

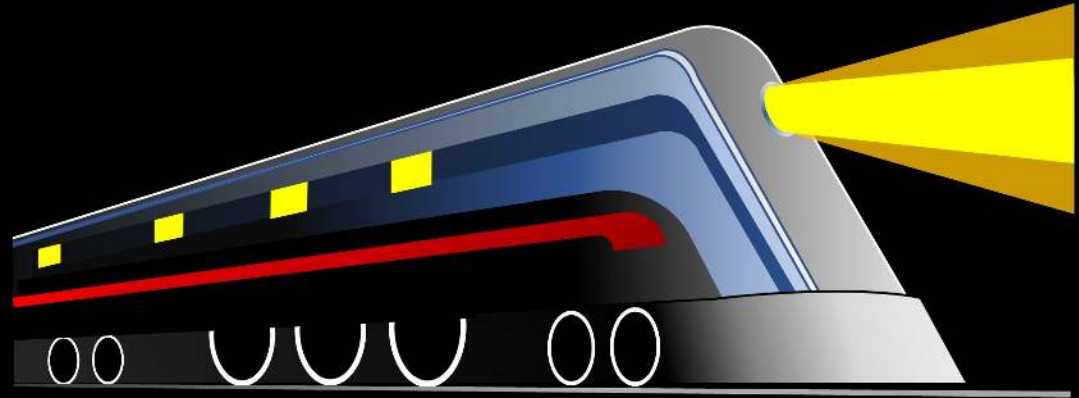
Ivy Chapple



## Farewell Trees, Hello New Car Park!

It is always sad when a tree has to be taken down, whatever the reason. Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to the long-established chestnut trees at the corner of the car park, as their roots had caused considerable damage to the surface of the main car park. This has now been relaid and repainted, but before doing so, there was no option but to remove the trees, otherwise the life of the new car park would be very short indeed!





**BUILD A CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX FOR A CHILD IN NEED IN UKRAINE**

**SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**10am to 4pm**

**Formby Methodist Church, Elbow Lane**

**FREE REFRESHMENTS & BACON ROLLS ALL DAY  
FREE ADMISSION ● NO OBLIGATION**

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## The Story Behind the Hymn

### *'O Valiant Hearts'*

This is a particularly significant year of Remembrance, as in June there were the very poignant commemorations of the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Only a handful of the soldiers from that momentous campaign could be present - and it was a very moving experience to see them there.

I was particularly struck by a beautiful piece of music which the band played - *'The Supreme Sacrifice'*. I hadn't heard that tune for a long time - and it set me thinking why that should be. And it proved to be a fascinating and revealing piece of research.



It was written for the poem *'O Valiant Hearts'* by John Arkwright. This was frequently sung in churches and at the Festival of Remembrance for many years - until it was decided that the words were no longer 'pc'. Indeed, I understand that the words no longer appear in any hymn book - and their disappearance also meant that the accompanying tune is rarely, if ever, played as an instrumental. Until, that is, the brave - and if I may say so, wise - decision was taken to play it at the D-Day commemoration ceremony in June.

Arkwright's poem has been set to several tunes, including one by Gustav Holst, but none are more fitting than *'The Supreme Sacrifice'*, composed by Rev Charles Harris while he was vicar of Colwall in Herefordshire.

The poem itself was written in 1925 by Sir John Stanhope Arkwright, the great-great grandson of Richard Arkwright, the cotton spinning industrialist. Sir John had been born in London in 1872 and for a time was MP for Hereford - as such, he would no doubt have been well acquitted with Rev Harris. He wrote his poem out of a genuine empathy with and sympathy for the soldiers and their relatives following World War I.

Nevertheless, the words are clearly glorifying war, perhaps making the dead soldiers out to be martyrs rather than having little choice but to go off to fight - the proverbial 'cannon fodder' of the generals. Verse 5 is perhaps the most problematical, with its analogy between the death of soldiers and that of Christ - this could almost be seen as sacrilegious, comparing as it did the deaths of soldiers to that of Christ.

*O valiant hearts who to your glory came  
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;  
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,  
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.*

*Proudly you gathered, rank on rank, to war  
As who had heard God's message from afar;  
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave,  
To save mankind—yourselves you scorned to save.*

*Splendid you passed, the great surrender made;  
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;  
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,  
Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God.*

*Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,  
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,  
While in the frailty of our human clay,  
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self same way.*

*Still stands His Cross from that dread hour to this,  
Like some bright star above the dark abyss;  
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes  
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.*

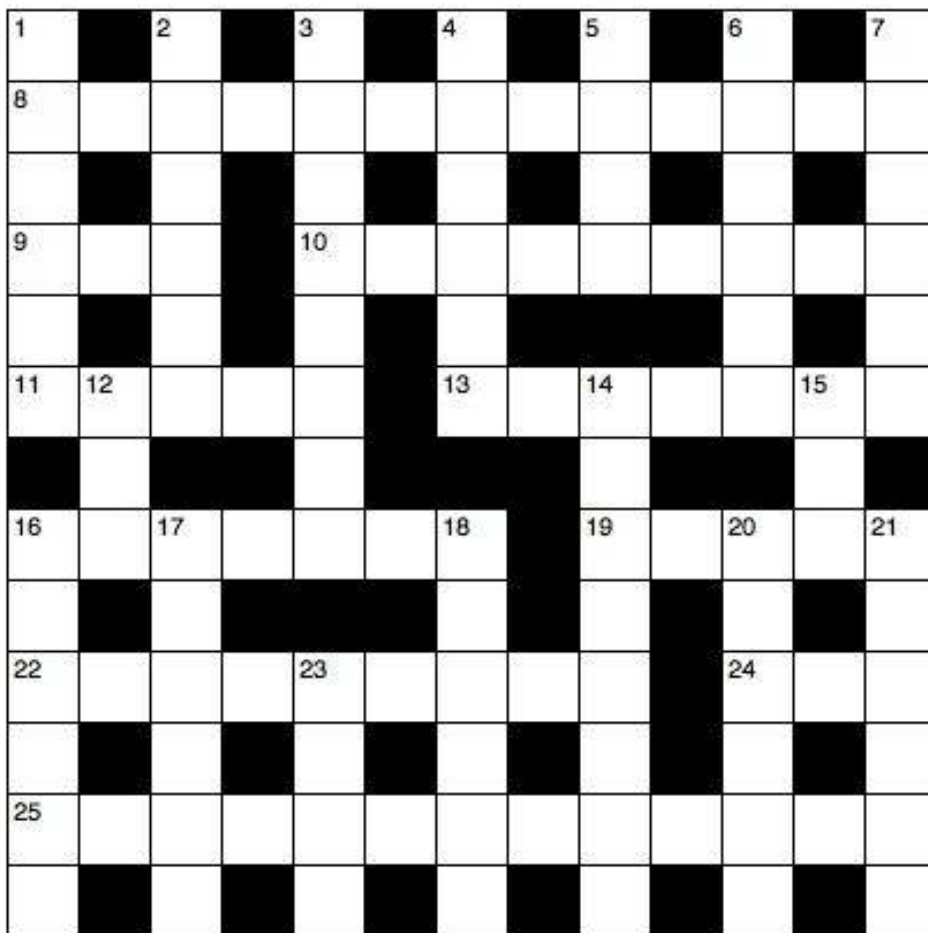
*These were His servants, in His steps they trod,  
Following through death the martyred Son of God:  
Victor, He rose; victorious too shall rise  
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.*

*O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,  
Whose cross has bought them and Whose staff has led,  
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land  
Commits her children to Thy gracious hand.*

And so many clergymen pressed for the banning of the hymn from hymn books and Remembrance Services; even a suggested compromise of omitting verse 5 was rejected. I will steer clear of expressing my own views - except to say that I feel the verses must be seen in the context of the time, and they have given comfort and consolation to many a soldier's widow over the years. I also think the tune itself is a poignant and entirely appropriate piece of music for a Remembrance Service, as it was at the D-Day commemoration. I will be playing it on Remembrance Sunday.

*Alastair*





### Across

- 8 The ark of the covenant was kept here for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)  
 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put to cleanse from infectious diseases (Leviticus 14:14-17) (3)  
 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4)  
 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have –' (Malachi 1:3) (5)  
 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)  
 16 'Jesus bent down and – to write on the ground' (John 8:6) (7)  
 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)

22 Book between Exodus and Numbers (9)

24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under – the –' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)

25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

### Down

1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)

2 See 24 Across

3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)

4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)

5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus –' (John 11:35) (4)

6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her – and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)

7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)

12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the – of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)

14 Second city of Cyprus (8)

15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)

16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)

17 Braved (anag.) (6)

18 – of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)

20 'Woe to those ... wise in their own eyes and – in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)

21 'Neither – nor depth ... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)

23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

(Answers on p39)

## **LADIES FELLOWSHIP**

We held our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August. 31 members attended and five apologies were received. Our healthy financial situation enabled us to make the following donations amounting to an amazing £1400:

£500 - Formby Methodist Church

£300 - Ukraine Welcome Centre

£100 each to - MacMillan, Action for Children, Southport Samaritans, Southport School Workers Trust, The White Chapel Centre (Liverpool), Southport Lifeboats and 'Valleys of Hope Mission' near Kampala, Uganda.

Recently three new members have joined us from the United Reformed Church. We start our weekly meetings again on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm in the Maple Leaf Room, and we extend a very warm welcome to any who would like to join us.

### **PROGRAMME**

5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Members Afternoon – 'Getting to Know You'
12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	'The Green Fly Years' – Pat Atfield
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	'Reminiscing' – Audrey Wright
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	'Climbs in Bolivia and Mexico' – Alan Williams
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Rev Ian Hu
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Chair Exercises with Ruth Bloom
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	'Sri Lanka' – Anne Baldwin
24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Sing-a-long with Maggie and Mandy
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Members Afternoon
7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Rev Pat Willis – retired Waterways Chaplain
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	'Sefton Road Mission' with songs with Steve Gerrard
21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Rev Patrick Evans
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	'Keyboard Café' with Kareena

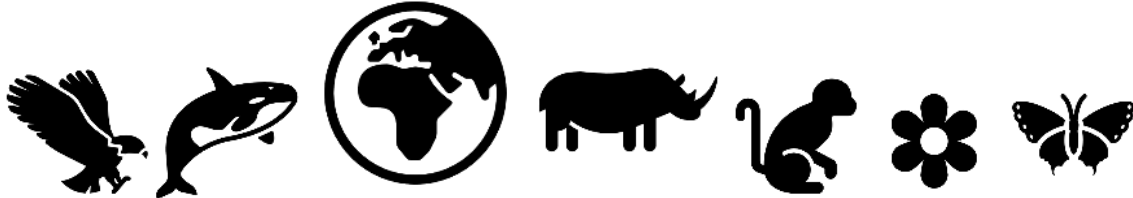
Our December programme will involve a visit to Lady Green Garden Centre, a Christmas Celebration and hopefully a visit from Woodlands School Choir. We will keep you informed.

Irene (876219)

# Eco News

## Climate Sunday

Sheila our Minister led our Climate Sunday service in June. The church was bedecked with beautiful flower arrangements for our Flower Festival. The Adventurers and Henry reminded us how wonderful and precious God's creation is and that we are all called to be good stewards of God's world.



Jenny Hunter gave us several practical tips; some are listed below: -

- put your kitchen roll in a cupboard or a drawer as you will use less if it isn't out within easy reach and use old cloths/rags instead
- stop using cling film ..... wash out plastic freezer bags and pull those over food containers instead
- buy teabags which don't contain plastic and so will go in the compost heap

Clara told us that she had written to her MP to tell him her concerns about factors that drive Climate Change, in particular about deforestation of vast areas of rainforest due to palm oil production. Mr Dowd, her MP, responded in a positive way. A copy of his response is on our 'eco church' board.

Clara left us with three challenges: -

1. 'Can we do anything to replace trees being cut down?'
2. 'Can we buy fairtrade products?'
3. 'Can we buy sustainable palm oil products or avoid buying products that contain any palm oil?'



## Trees

Clara reminded us that trees not only support a huge variety of wildlife, but also provide oxygen and clean the air. At church, as the roots were the main problem, we will not be able to replace the trees that sadly had to be cut down. Instead, the eco group has sent a donation to the International Tree Foundation (ITF) so that new trees will be planted elsewhere to benefit both wildlife and people. ITF works with communities here and in Africa to plant the right tree in the right location and empower communities to protect and benefit from the landscapes around them.



9th - 22nd September is Fairtrade Fortnight. Fairtrade changes the way trade works through better prices, decent working conditions and a fairer deal for farmers and workers in developing countries. Many supermarkets now produce their 'own brand' fairtrade essentials like tea and coffee.

## **Palm Oil**

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) campaigns against unsustainable production of palm oil. They say that palm oil is in nearly 50% of the packaged products we find in supermarkets, everything from pizza, doughnuts and chocolate to deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and lipstick. It isn't easy to work out what products are 'OK', especially when the print size of listed ingredients is usually so tiny! However, I have found that some well-known brands of margarine contain sustainable palm oil. Shortbread biscuits usually contain butter instead of oil. For more ideas, ask me or Sarah Jones.

## **Churches Count on Nature (CCoN)**

Churchyards and churches' green spaces provide thousands of acres of green oases in communities. Hundreds of churches have held 'Nature Count' events - including us! The mammals, birds, wildflowers, insects, and fungi in our outdoor spaces are recorded to go on the National Biodiversity Network, aiding our understanding of what is happening to wildlife around churches and helping us to take more targeted action for nature's recovery.

The Adventurers helped us one Sunday morning (9<sup>th</sup> June) and a small group of us continued our survey two days later. We logged lots of plants, but only a few birds and insects. We hope to gradually encourage more wildlife! The bees certainly enjoy the extra flowers at the front of church.

Thank you to all of you who have left a little wildlife patch in your gardens, I'm sure it will have benefited our local wildlife.

## **Christmas Card Display**

Finally, just a reminder for those who are super organised! We will again be displaying your single Christmas cards sent to your friends at church.

Jenny Wallbanks (873208)

## **Christmas Craft Fair**

**Saturday 30 November**

By the time you read this, our annual Christmas Fair will be less than three months away and, as you know, this is our only fund raiser purely for our Church. We are appealing for items for both the Bottle Tombola and the Chocolate Tombola, as well as good quality items for the White Elephant stall. Also, if anyone feels that they could help in any way with planning for the Fair, please do contact either Anita or myself.

*Margaret Nicholas (871929)*

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

**Saturday 30 November - Sunday 8 December**

Coinciding with the Christmas Fair, and following the success of last year, which began our 150th celebrations, we will be having another Christmas Tree Festival, which will effectively round off our celebrations. This will be in Church, so entry to the Fair will again be through the Church, to ensure as many visitors as possible see the trees. They will be on display until Sunday 8 December.

So would all those who loaned their trees for decorating last year - or if your organisation would like to decorate a tree and in so doing get some free publicity - please speak to either Jane or myself. Your tree will be returned in time for your own Christmas decorations.

*Vicky (873317)*

## **An Evening of Christmas Carols and Flowers**

(in conjunction with Formby Civic Society)

**Thursday 5 December, 7.30**

This is a new event for our church. Liz Broad, the brains behind our Flower Festival, will be demonstrating some seasonal displays, and she and I will be talking about Christmas traditions and the story behind some of our well-loved carols. And there will be plenty of opportunities to sing some as well! Admission will be by donation and Liz's displays will also be raffled off at the end of the evening.

*Alastair*

Christmas may still a few months away, but as a taster, here is the story of a very famous reindeer, who first appeared in September 75 years ago! Ed

## The Birth of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer!

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1949, the Christmas song 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' was released, sung by the American movie-star and singer Gene Autry, nicknamed the 'Singing Cowboy'.

The song was adapted from a poem/story written by Robert L May for a children's colouring book: it was an assignment given him by his employers, the Chicago-based Montgomery Ward retail group. It was published in 1939, and 2.4 million copies were distributed free in its first year.

May initially considered the names Rollo or Reginald for his 'ugly duck' reindeer, but eventually settled on Rudolph. Concerned about how to make the reindeer distinctive, he was looking out of his office window when a thick fog blocked his view. This gave him the idea for Rudolph's bright red nose, enabling Santa to see where he was going.

Robert May's four-year-old daughter was used as a sounding board while he created the story, but it was initially rejected, partly because of the unfortunate associations of a red nose with chronic drunkenness at the time! However, May's friend and colleague, Denver Gillen, drew a 'cute reindeer', which persuaded the managers to go for the idea.

The story-poem was turned into a song by May's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks. Several popular singers rejected it before Autry took it on; his recording reached No 1 on the Billboard chart in Christmas week 1949. It sold 2.5 million copies in the first year. Up to the 1980s it was the second best-selling record of all time!

On 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014, the United States Postal Service issued a series of postage stamps featuring Rudolph.

(from the Parish Pump)



My thanks to Irene's daughter Debbie for these fascinating and sobering facts! Ed

**The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be in the 16th century - and especially if you were poor .....!**

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. But if they started to smell, brides would carry a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub of hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of nice clean water, then the sons and other men, then the women, and finally the children. The babies were last. But by then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it – thus the warning, *"don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"*

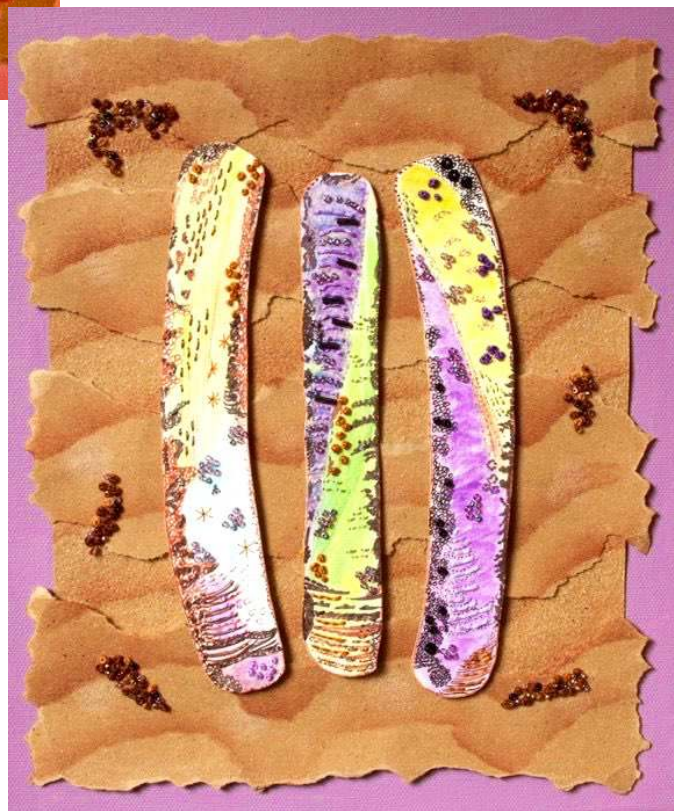
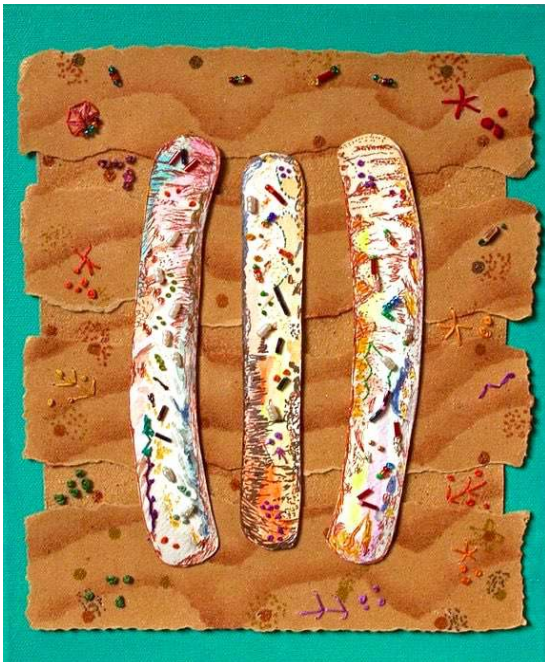
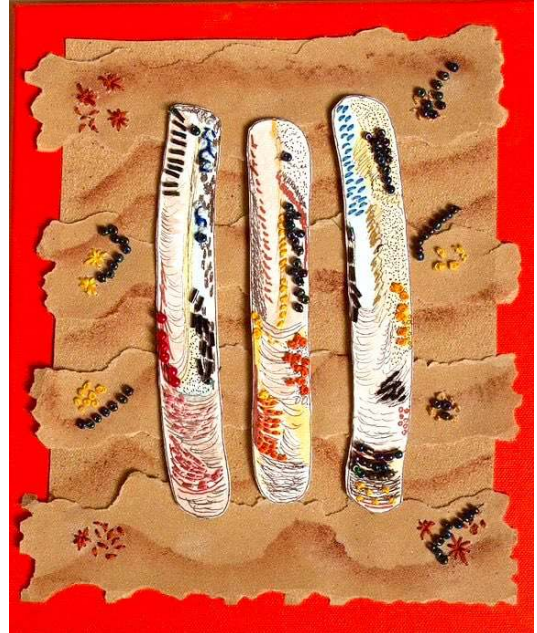
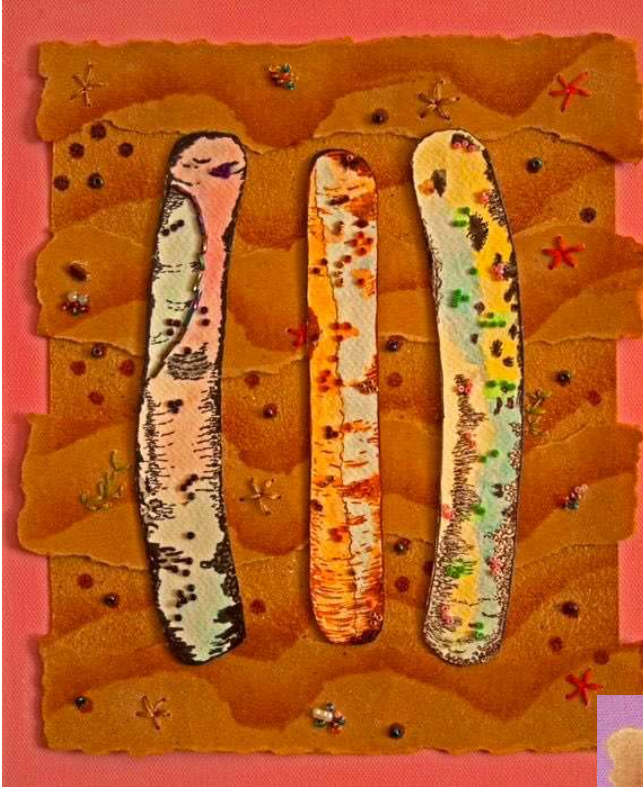
Houses had thatched roofs, with thick straw piled high and no wood underneath. As it was the only place for animals to get warm, all the cats and other small animals lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall out of the roof – and so it would be *"raining cats and dogs!"*

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family the middle and guests got the top – the *"upper crust"*.

Plates were usually made of lead. Food with a high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing death by lead poisoning. This happened most often with tomatoes, so they were long considered poisonous.

Ale and whisky were usually drunk out of lead cups, a potentially lethal combination which would often knock the imbibers out for a couple of days! They could easily be taken for dead and duly prepared for burial – the victim would be laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days while the family would gather round and eat and drink while they waited to see if the 'corpse' would wake up. Thus the custom of *"holding a wake"*!

Ann G, Anne W, Christa, Irene, Jane, Jenny, Margaret, Marie & Nicky from the Craft Group recently completed a project led by Anne Webb. It was inspired by razor clams on a beach. Here are some examples.



No previous experience necessary.  
Come and join us!



# No One's A Stranger Twice

## 150 Years of Methodism in the Formby Community

by

local author

**Alastair Gillies**

"It was not until I had the privilege of reading this carefully researched and thoughtfully written book, beautifully illustrated, that I came to realise the breadth and depth of the history of Formby Methodist Church within the Formby community. Enjoy! You are in for a treat."

(Rev Dr Sheryl Anderson, Chair of Liverpool Methodist District)



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With kind support from

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## **Let's run with perseverance!**

*'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us.'* (Hebrews 12:1)

With the Paris Olympics still so recent, this imagery can really speak to us. The Christian is like a highly trained athlete, and the surrounding 'stadium' is filled with champions and heroes of the past; they watch *US* - and we draw inspiration from *THEM*.

Because we are in training spiritually, it is obvious that every 'sin' is to be treated in the same way as by a modern athlete - for whom drug-taking, indeed any form of cheating or breaking the rules, is out!

But Christ's athletes are also to be careful to shun 'everything that hinders.' The wrong running shoes? A faulty diet? In the Christian's case, if the problem area is not an actual sin, what is it? Why, it is anything that, while in itself may be legitimate, but which nevertheless is a weak point, and 'hinders' progress.

The artist Rubens in the 17<sup>th</sup> century created a painting of Thetis - the mother of Achilles in Greek mythology - dipping her son into the supposedly protective waters of the river Styx. But, because she held him by his heel, this single part of him was untouched by the water. Achilles grew to be a mighty warrior; yet, during a fateful battle, an arrow that pierced his vulnerable heel was the means of his downfall.

The Achilles heel factor affects every single one of us. There comes a moment when those who mean business with Jesus Christ become aware that the Holy Spirit is quietly speaking within: *"You're blocking the blessing in your life at this weak spot of yours.... by holding onto this object... by entertaining this objective... by persisting in this relationship... by continuing this activity. Let it go."*

What is this 'thing'? No one else can spell it out for us. It is between us and Christ alone. There need be no sudden crisis, no emotional surge. But the thing that 'hinders' is firmly - deliberately - to be discarded; no longer to have any part in our Christian living. And the sunshine of heaven smiles down upon us as we run on....

*(from the Parish Pump)*

The Flower Quiz which was part of the Flower Festival proved very popular, and tricky - only four all correct entries! So if you haven't seen the answers, here they are.

- 1 Roses are red, .... **Violets** .... are blue (7)
- 2 Winter falls (9) .... **Snowdrops**
- 3 Sad ringers (9) .... **Bluebells**
- 4 Parsley, sage, .... **Rosemary** .... and thyme (8)
- 5 A four leafed .... **Clover** .... is supposed to be lucky (6)
- 6 Friend of the 'Flowerpot Men' (4) .... **Weed**
- 7 'A lonely little .... **Petunia** .... in an onion patch' (7)
- 8 A flower with '*bouquet*'? (8) .... **Hyacinth**
- 9 Which flower symbolises thoughts? (5) .... **Pansy**
- 10 False stone? (8) .... **Shamrock**
- 11 Common name for myosotis (6,2,3) .... **Forget Me Not**
- 12 Planet, insect and cart? (5,3,4) .... **Venus Fly Trap**
- 13 Goat's drinking vessel? (9) .... **Buttercup**
- 14 Bovine error? (7) .... **Cowslip**
- 15 Deceive with hand warmer (8) .... **Foxglove**
- 16 "... **Laburnums** .... *dropping wells of fire*" (Tennyson) (9)
- 17 Nepeta is commonly known as (7) .... **Catmint**
- 18 Part of the eye (4) .... **Iris**
- 19 He fell in love with his own reflection (9) .... **Narcissus**
- 20 Do you wear these to wash the dishes? (9) .... **Marigold**
- 21 Sounds like monster and child (6) .... **Orchid**
- 22 You might need this to get into the toilet! (5) .... **Lupin**
- 23 Sounds like we are following a snapper! (6) .... **Crocus**
- 24 Dare king of the jungle to cross a short river (9) .... **Dandelion**
- 25 Tea comes from this plant family (8) .... **Camellia or Thecae**
- 26 Prudish rambler? (8) .... **Primrose**
- 27 The snake's insect is missing! (6, 7) .... **Vipers Bugloss**
- 28 I'm half crazy all for the love of this flower (5) .... **Daisy**
- 29 Hasten healthily? (9) .... **Speedwell**
- 30 Warm this girl? (7) .... **Heather**





# ***‘Songs Old and New’***

## **Aughton Male Voice Choir**

(Lancashire Choir of the Year 2022)



with

**Guest Soprano**

**Liz Thornton**

**Friday 11 October**  
**7.30**

**Formby Methodist Church**  
**Elbow Lane L37 7AF**

Refreshments will be served at the interval

**Entry by Donation at the Door**