The Methodist Church

SPHERE

HAPPY METHODIST CHURCH NEW CONNEXIONAL YEAR

1 September 2026

bamber bridge methodist church

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH IN FAITH



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FROM THE EDITOR



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT

I would really like to hear what you think about SPHERE and would welcome any new ideas. So, if you would like something including : an article or birthday or anniversary. Please contact me : **Eric Chatburn**
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The deadline for the December issue is

Monday 9th November 2026



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You can find our Privacy Notice online at :
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A Pastoral Letter from Rev Sharon Thraves

September – a new chapter

The arrival of September brings with it a new season in our year. As leaves turn to gold, fruits ripen and days shorten, it can seem that autumn is all about endings. Yet it is also a time for new beginnings as children return to school, young people embark on student life at college or university and some in Methodist Ministry begin work in a new Circuit.

I am also beginning something new, as I take on the role of Superintendent in our Circuit. It is a new chapter in my story / my faith journey; one that I hadn't necessarily anticipated, but as the Latin origin of the word 'intendere' suggests, sometimes we are called to 'turn our attention'.

So far 2026 has been a challenging year for our Circuit, with unexpected changes and some instability. In truth, the next 12 months will continue to be a challenge as we remain to have a ministerial vacancy. However, I am praying that as September marks a new Connexional year for Methodism, this can be for all of us also, a new chapter with fresh hope.

Amongst the challenges, there is good news; we have our new lay worker, Katharine starting to work with us in our mission to children and young people and our newly reformed mission group means that we will also be working alongside Deacon Rebekah-Joy.

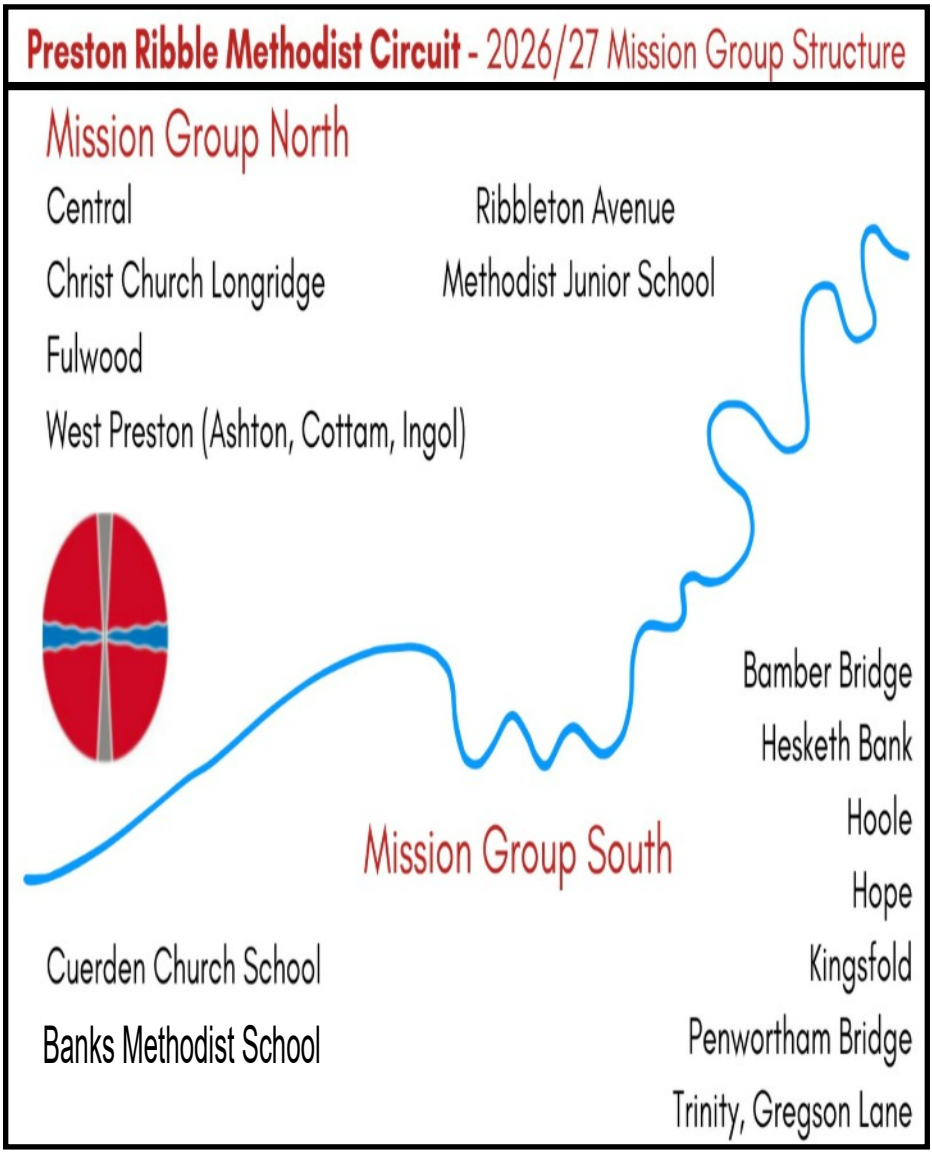
I want to thank you all for the practical support and prayers that have come my way over the last few months. We continue to watch - over one another in love.



Sharon

Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit

And then there we 2 ....
Mission Groups that is.



Rev Sharon Thraves - new Circuit Superintendent
Katherine Phillips - New Circuit Lay Worker

Becoming a Methodist Deacon
My story so far.

Dear friends,
It is with huge gratitude, but also sadness that I'm saying goodbye to Bamber Bridge Methodist Church this Summer as I move on to Bury for the next two years. It has been a wonderful experience getting to know you all and working with Sharon. I've learned so much and you blessed me with the opportunity to preach my first sermon, so THANK YOU!!

The story of how I got to you is a long and twisting one, but I'll give you the edited highlights.

I wasn't raised Christian – in fact I'm the first in my family to go to church in 4 generations! I chose to go to the Church of Scotland Sunday school in the village I grew up in in rural Scotland when I was very young, but that was mostly for the free juice and biscuits. After that I had very little to do with faith or church until I was 15. During one of the most turbulent times of my life, when my future seemed uncertain and everything was a bit chaotic, I had an experience of God that made me feel safe for the first time in years. It was at that point that I would say I became a Christian. God has been there, showing Their presence through everything since. It has involved some twists and turns and some ups and downs (though sometimes I've only seen God in hindsight) but God's promise to never leave or forsake me (Joshua 1:5) is a certain one.

It's hard to pinpoint exactly when my call to ministry happened – that has definitely been a 'slow burn', but I have spent the intervening twenty-something years discerning where God wants me and how God wants to use me. I would encourage anyone – whatever stage of life you're at – to pray the simple prayer "Here I am, Lord. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8) and see where God takes you.

>>>>> more on the next page

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My story so far.

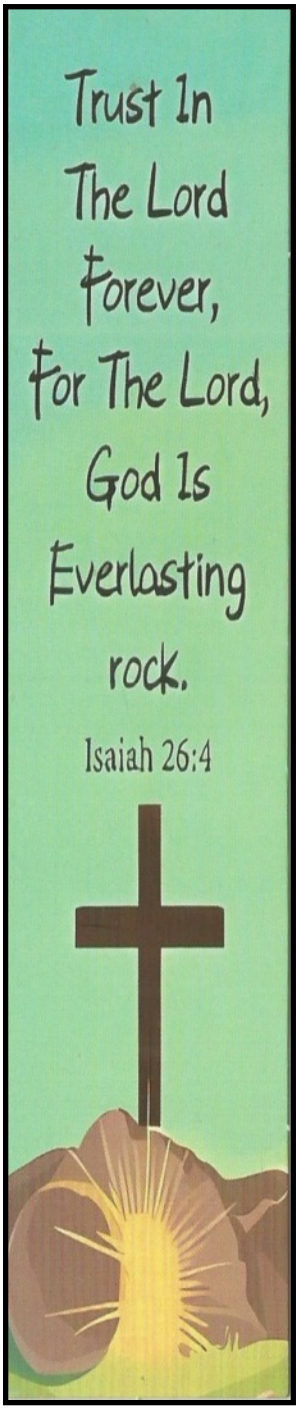
As I now contemplate the second year of my three year training as a Methodist Deacon – a year which will include discussions about such scary things as probation and stationing – I am so blessed to be on this journey. I have passed my first year and had some wonderful experiences; I've got to know my siblings in the Methodist Diaconal Order and really started to feel like part of that community and I've learned a great many things about a great many things. So all this means that I can go forth, knowing God is with me and I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13), even when I doubt that coming up to assignment deadlines!

So once again, thank you for your support and prayers. I wish you all every blessing and pray that our paths cross again.

Love, Kai



This photo was taken after the service on 23rd of August when Kai came to say her "Goodbyes"



A Grain of Mustard Seed

As part of the Circuit Service on the 14th of June, Churches were invited to submit poems based on parables in the Bible. The parable for Bamber Bridge was "A Grain of Mustard Seed"

Tom Bange and Lesley Ross submitted poems, but on the day only the one from Tom was used.
So, please find below, one of the three that Lesley submitted [the others will appear in later issues of Sphere] and on the next page is a reminder of the ones from the other churches.

A tiny speck upon the palm
So small it goes unseen
Yet planted deep in quit earth
It grows a mighty green

A simple seed the least of all
Becomes a sheltering tree
Where weary birds come to rest
And find their canopy

So is the kingdom of the Lord
From beginnings small and still
It spreads its branches far and wide
To shelter bless and fill

www.PageBorders.net

Preston Ribble Circuit Service
14th June Our story: Our song
Poems based on parables

Hesketh Bank (Matthew 13:1-9)
The parable of the sower
A farmer was sewing his seed,
a good harvest wasn't achieved.
There were thorns, birds and stones.
When he saw this he moaned.
'I should have got rid of the weeds!'

All ground can bear fruit,
When the soil is well nurtured
No seed is wasted

Hope (Matthew 13:24-30)
The parable of the weeds
There once was a farmer online,
Who planted good seed in a line,
But trolls in the night
Dropped weeds out of spite—
Now truth and fake posts intertwine.

His crew said, "Let's clean up the feed!"
He said, "Hold on—don't rush what you weed.
You might pull what's true
While sorting the skew;
Let both grow till harvest we need."

When the final sort day comes through,
What's fake will be filtered from true,
The wheat gets its place,
The weeds lose the race—
And justice logs in right on cue.

Bamber Bridge (Matthew 13:31-32)
The parable of the mustard seed
A seed foreknew
*Planted by **YOU***
*Just for **YOU***
To become anew
*By accepting **YOU***
When the world called
The seed stalled
Then not by choice
I heard Your voice
Again I knew
*I was renewed by **YOU***
For Your will to do.
*Thank **YOU***

Central (Matthew 13:33)
The parable of the yeast
The yeast of grace was infused,
In three measures she used.
It worked through the night,
Away from sight,
Until all were renewed.

Fulwood (Matthew 13:44)
The parable of the hidden treasure
Got 'old of me spade and went t' field,
Earth were so 'ard it'd barely yield,
But treasure I found
To that field I was bound.
Wi' joy I bought it and t' deal was sealed.

Catch a glimpse of a new life in the Spirit
And you long for the treasures which fill it.
No riches on earth
Can compare with the worth
Of a life lived as Jesus would will it.

West Preston (Matthew 13:45)
The parable of the pearl
There once was a hunter who spied
A beautiful pearl of great size.
He sold all his hats
And even his cats
Till he'd money enough for the prize.

TGL (Matthew 13:47-50)
The parable of the net
Of folk our Lord had a net full,
His angels became very prayerful.
Bad ones were cast out,
And without any doubt,
They cherished the ones that were wholesome.

Penwortham (Luke 2:13-21)
The parable of the rich fool
There was a man with some fertile land.
So rich was he that he planned
to sit back and enjoy. God said "Come on boy,
if you're dead, it might just as well be sand!"

Rich man with full barns.
But such wealth is worthless if
not rich towards God.

Summer fair

We would say the summer fair was a great success. Considering the weather took a turn for the worse many people from the community came along and had fun.

We want to thank everyone who came along to support our first summer fair, the volunteers who we couldn't of done the day without. To Lawrence and Carol beavering away in the kitchen cooking burgers and hot dogs.

Dunbia provided the burgers free of charge which enabled the cost to be reasonable, a huge thank you to them who support our community with their generosity. We think that the tired feet, aching backs and legs where well worth it.

We have had excellent feedback from those who attended and many new faces came through the door, it's great we can show the love of God by providing these events and it brings everyone together which is great to see.

The bouncy castle that was booked had to be cancelled due to the weather and the fire engine was out so was unable to attend.

Now we are cracking on with the Christmas fair, which means Lynton has to start growing his beard for his role in playing Santa.



Please look out for other events and try to support us if you can, we really appreciate it.

Many thanks Wendy and Sarah







Summer

Song : One Day at a Time

One day at a time, sweet Jesus
I'm only human, I'm just a woman
Help me believe in what I could be and all that I am
Show me the stairway I have to climb
Lord for my sake, Teach me to take one day at a time

One day at a time, sweet Jesus,
That's all I'm asking from You
Just give me the strength to do
every day what I have to do
Yesterday's gone sweet Jesus and tomorrow
may never be mine
Lord help me today, show me the way,
one day at a time

Do You remember when You walked among men?
Well Jesus You know if You're looking below
It's worse now than then, cheating and stealing,
violence and crime
So for my sake teach me to take one day at a time

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT :

This song was featured on Songs of Praise on 14th June 2026 In an episode entitled Songs of Praise Sings Gospel. I had heard the song before, but it really resonated with me this time. It really made me think. Yes, yesterday has gone, never to return. Today has it`s own problems and concerns and tomorrow, well, tomorrow may never come. You only have to listen to the news to realise that. So, I am grateful to Our Lord, for every day that he gives me as I approach my 78th birthday in September. My prayer each night is to say thank you for the energy I have been given to carry out the day`s tasks, to ask for a restful night and [God willing] that I will awaken the next day to serve God to the best of my abilities.

Eric Chatburn

Messy Café News

Messy cafe has been running for nearly a year now and we have regulars who come along, however at the last one in August we had many new faces through the door which is encouraging.

The vision that both Sarah and myself had is coming together now with lots of support from God who gives us the strength to carry on. We offer an extensive menu, free crafts and toys for the children. We are always short of volunteers so if you are able to help out the first Saturday of the month then let us know. We also could do with some help at 5 pm Friday, the day before as we go and set up the crafts ready for action on Saturday at 9am.

Many thanks, Wendy and Sarah





You're invited!

Join us for the cause, the chatter or the tasty treats.

Your generosity will help raise vital funds so that Macmillan can continue to support people with cancer, whoever and wherever they are.

Bamber Bridge Methodist Church
MacMillan Coffee Morning

Date : 17th September 2026
Time : 10am to 1pm
Look forward to seeing you.

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

COMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



One Voice

COMMUNITY CHOIR

Singing Together, Stronger Together



FINALISTS IN *Songs of Praise*

FINALISTS IN *Llangollen Eisteddfod* CHOIRS

SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER | **7PM START**

A variety of songs and genres

BAMBER BRIDGE
COMMUNITY & WORSHIP CENTRE
Station Rd.

TICKETS £10 *to include light refreshments*

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM

Sarah Singleton 07855964779

Wendy Yates 07906862430

or call at the
COMMUNITY CAFE
on a Wednesday or Thursday
9 – 12

Come and enjoy an evening of beautiful music, community and joy!

Final Reflections from this year`s MWiB Conference

Hello again from the MWiB five: Brenda, Linda, Lesley, Chris and Kath.

We have seen what blessings are offered to us by facing the Wilderness times, by climbing our personal mountains and now we look forward to what waits for us at the Waterside, trusting in our guide the Rev. Leonora Wassall. This is apt as we are staying in the lovely Glendower Hotel in Lytham, so it is very easy to place ourselves by a literal waterside: however, the waterside we seek is one of spiritual renewal.

Water is an amazing element; being vital, essential to all life on Earth. It seems to come from nothing - vapour collected in clouds, dropped in rainfall to collect in the smallest of streams or the mightiest of oceans. It has the ability to revive or to destroy with equal measure; not surprising that God uses this element as a primary symbol that He knows man can understand at the most fundamental level: the same water that can save the man's life can equally destroy his crops. I think of Noah, his family, the Ark.... they all survived but those who turned away did not.

The word water is mentioned in the Bible 722 times, which makes me think that it is important to God, it could almost imply that God loves water. One of the first acts of creation He does is to create that life giving water. (Genesis 1 v 2) ....The Earth was formless & empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.... (verses 9-10) ... And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place and let dry ground appear" and it was so. God called the dry ground 'Land' and the gathered waters He called 'Seas'. And God saw it was good....

Final Reflections from this year`s MWiB Conference ….continued

Watersides are often places of meeting with others. They can also be places of God calling you or of transfiguration. How many times in the Bible are people called to God, or their lives totally transformed at watersides? We have already thought of the miraculous transformation of creation in Genesis, now let us think of other times when God has chosen this element to transform lives.

In Exodus we read of Moses and the parting of the Red Sea, here God is clearly showing His almighty power and authority, allowing the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt: He uses the water to allow freedom from bondage & oppression, showing there are ways to go through periods of challenge or testing. A way to a new life. In the River Jordan through baptism He marks new beginnings - a cleansing.

At the lakeside Jesus called to some of His disciples to come and follow Him - interesting that He also chose the waterside to restore Peter, who had decried Him three times - so God chose that place for Jesus to again ask Peter, three times: 'Do you love me?' By the rebuttal of the original denial Peter was restored and told to go and "Feed my lambs" "Take care of My sheep" and to "Follow Me and be the cornerstone of My church." The emotions Peter must have experienced, as he was transformed at that waterside, are beyond any words I can write here.

How often in life do we feel like failures? Always remember that what we may view as a failure; He views as a chance for restoration - as He did for Peter whose very soul was crushed by his denials of Christ.

There are so many references to the healing, restorative powers of the Life Giving Waters in scripture:

Final Reflections from this year`s MWiB Conference ….continued

Isaiah 12 v 3: ...with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation...
Isaiah 43 v 2 ... When you pass through deep waters - I will be with you...
Isaiah 43 v 3 ... I will pour water on thirsty land and streams on dry ground.…

Both Matthew and John refer to the eternal life giving properties of drinking from the Living Water...
Samuel 22 v17 says that ... He drew me out of deep waters....
Psalm 23 .... He leads me by the still waters and restores my soul....
At the end of the Bible in Revelation 22 v 1 we are told of the angel who showed the river of the water of life -
In 21 v 6 Jesus said; "I am the Alpha and the Omega. The Beginning and The End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the Water of Life"...

With these few examples we are assured of God's constant care and attention to our needs - If we will just accept life from the one who shows us the way. In all our lives there will be times of turbulence as well as calm - rather like the water of the lakes and seas.… Have you noticed that in times of stress or joy there is always one waiting to share with you - always waiting for you to seek Him out with the same loving invitation: "Drink from me all who are thirsty"...

Are you asking yourself: How do I meet with God by the waterside? How can I be restored? How do I drink from the water being offered? This can be difficult when one is under stress, suffering self doubt, feeling unworthy of receiving His care. These are times to recall the assurances given throughout scripture: Remember His love: He will carry you through. n Joshua we hear of the Ark of the Covenant and the promise of new beginnings, Both Matthew and Luke say how Jesus calmed the stormy waters. He is in control of all - being fully man and fully God.

Final Reflections from this year`s MWiB Conference ….continued

So as we did in the Wilderness or upon our personal mountain, go and find that place/space where you can be quiet, collect your thoughts, listen and be prepared for the refreshing drink that He offers to you.

For the Spirit that hovered over the formless deep, who created order and form, is still hovering today. Still sovereign over all. Still bringing order to all that is formless in our lives - and all we have to do is reach out and drink from that beautiful cup that holds the Living Water of Eternal Life.
Jesus still waits for you by your waterside; He is ready to repair your empty nets; He is listening to you and ready to call you to your purpose.

I hope that you enjoy your the time at your Waterside.

Kath Cox.

This is the poem written by
Rev. Leonora Wassell
and was read at the end of
the Waterside session.

I came to the water with a heart to heavy to carry, feet dragging through sand and stone, eyes seeking, not sure what, but knowing I needed to see.

The river whispered before I spoke, its current weaving secrets between the reeds and the sunlit ripples. and in that quiet murmur, I felt a presence that was not of the water alone.

A hush fell over me, the world's noise fading to thin hum. I knelt at the edge, letting my fingers brush the cool surface, and in that gentle touch: I knew, You were there.

No fire, no trumpet, no blaze of glory, only the soft pulse of life flowing. the light dancing on waves like promise, and Your voice - Not in words - but in the hush between them.

"I am here. I have always been here."
I stayed until the sun bent low, until the sky mirrored itself upon the water, until my heart felt lighter than it had in years. And as I rose to leave…
I carried with me the quiet certainty that wherever waters flow there You wait... Still, Patient, endlessly near,
Inviting me to return
To listen to meet with You again.

Rev. Leonora Wassell

COMING *Mark Your Calendars* EVENTS



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Visit SANTA in his SLEIGH!

Write a letter to SANTA!

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

10.30 - 3PM

BAMBER BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

ADULT & CHILDREN'S TOMBOLA

RAFFLE WITH EXCELLENT PRIZES!

POPULAR JAR STALL

SWEET STALL

GIFT STALL

GLITTER TATTOOS & FACE PAINTING

SWEET STALL WITH CHRISTMAS TREATS

CAKE STALL

LUNCHES

JEWELLERY STALL

MEN'S SHED STALL

ARCHERY

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

The Cantonese Fellowship in BBMC

Who We Are : We are a Christian fellowship made up mainly of Cantonese-speaking people living in and around Preston. Most of us moved to the UK from Hong Kong following the launch of the British National (Overseas) visa route in 2021. Others have lived in the UK for many years, while some of our members come from elsewhere, including Malaysia. Although our backgrounds and journeys are different, we share a desire to know Jesus Christ, worship together and grow in faith.

Why We Began : The arrival of many people from Hong Kong has brought welcome growth to Chinese churches in Preston and across the UK. Alongside this growth have come new pastoral and practical needs. As Preston's Cantonese-speaking community grew, it became increasingly clear that there was a need for regular worship and teaching primarily in Cantonese.

How We Began : Before we began in January 2026, many of us had been worshipping in local churches. Through the Lord's provision, by December 2025, a group of around ten brothers and sisters, together with Pastor Yuen, were ready to commit themselves to forming the fellowship. We still needed somewhere to meet, so our search for a church home began.

While we waited to hear from local churches, we held our first service in a member's home on Sunday, 4 January 2026. God answered our prayers through the warm welcome of both Fulwood Free Methodist Church and Bamber Bridge Methodist Church, each of which offered us a place to worship.

After meeting at Fulwood Free Methodist Church for three months, we moved to Bamber Bridge Methodist Church. We still remember the excitement—and the nerves—surrounding our first service there on Easter Sunday, 5 April 2026.

The Cantonese Fellowship in BBMC

It was an especially busy day, but with the generous support of Reverent Sharon and the BBMC Stewards, everything went smoothly.

One moment remains particularly vivid: the spring afternoon sunlight streamed through the skylight and bathed the communion table and Bible in light. To us, it was a beautiful reminder of God's presence and faithfulness.

Looking Ahead : When we began, our hope was simple: to provide a spiritual home where Cantonese-speaking people could worship God, grow in faith and support one another as they build new lives in the UK. That remains at the heart of our fellowship.

We are still a young fellowship, and many aspects of our future ministry are being prayerfully considered. We hope to become an established, sustainable and outward-looking church community, serving both the Chinese community and the wider community in and around Preston. We are currently in the process of choosing a permanent name, and we look forward to sharing it with you once a decision has been made!

Lastly, we are deeply grateful to BBMC for welcoming us so generously. May God bless you all, and please do keep us in your prayers—for wisdom, unity and faithfulness—as we seek God's guidance for the road ahead.

"Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!"

Psalm 90:17 ESV

ShiChun Tang

COMING *Mark Your Calendars* EVENTS

Supported by the Bamber Bridge, Walton le Dale and Eastern Parishes Community Hub

Singing 4 You

Come join us, in a relaxed, environment. There is no pressure, you can hum, sing, listen or tap along.

Come and Singalong



Sunday 13 September 1.30pm to 4.30pm
St Aidan's Church Community Hub, Station Road, Bamber Bridge.

Singing 4 You Community choir are hosting a free singalong event.

A variety of songs from old time music Hall and war time favourites to modern musicals and pop.

Enjoy refreshments and good company.

Please contact: Community@southribble.gov.uk or ring 07724 834031 to book a ticket.



Canalside Ramblings



(Some names have been changed to protect identities)

Lester and Mary invite you to rest awhile……

It was uncomfortable in the summer heat wave. The steel heat magnet called a narrowboat became unbearable in the midday sun. This Sunday, the day of rest, could be another withering day for Dim, Kosy, and Lollop the dog. They were at Slimbridge the famous bird sanctuary location, just off the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. Lollop needed her morning walk, and so the three of them set off over a stile, across a parched field to the village. Not too far ahead lay the small historic Parish Church of St John's .They were told the building was always open to sightseers and well worth a visit. It made a good destination promising respite and a cool sanctuary.

Small country churches do not always have weekly services .Today was different and a congregation were gathering. Kosy and Dim realized that with Lollop in tow their hope of going inside for a refreshing break had taken a blow. While happy the church was being used for its purpose they were a little disappointed, and slowly turned away toward the Lych gate. It was then they were spotted by the Verger who called out: 'We don't usually see dogs in here for Sunday service, but come on in!'

Dim and Kosy hesitantly agreed but made clear that they would not allow Lollop to disrupt the Book of Common Prayer. The Verger reassured them, 'Don't worry come in.' 'Well OK,' said Dim,' but at the first sign of trouble she will be evicted '(the dog). As they sat down Lollop sniffed around the pew. There on the floor she found that the Women's Institute had thoughtfully provided a lovingly cross stitched dog cushion (or was it a prayer kneeler?). More likely made for humble prayer it was quickly re-purposed for her dog bed! It was out of sight and Kosy and Dim were just relieved that she was settled and quiet.





Canalside Ramblings

continued from page 23



Welcome and introductions were over, page one of the Common Worship was open, and all was going well. The Vicar cheerfully announced the first congregational hymn will be, 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven'. How appropriate they thought as they had much to thank God for on what was turning out to be a lovely morning. It was not just a building, but a place of worship, prayer and peace.

Now you know the feeling, you are in another Church, and you are never quite sure if the custom is to immediately stand ready to sing, or await the conclusion of the musical introduction. With wrong timing you can be stood embarrassingly alone among a group of strangers. On this occasion all rose together and, …….Praise my soul the King of … Wuff! Wuff! Heaven…, to His feet thy tribute…. Wuff! Wuff! Yes Lollop had joined in enthusiastically!

Dim panicked, and prepared for an early exit, when to his surprise prayers were answered again. Lollop seemingly thought the singing was not to her standard, and so settled quietly back on to her ecclesiastical bed. Maybe it was the hint of Lavender in the stuffing that kept her so mellow? We will never know.

Kosy and Dim were so happy that this space and time was provided for them with this small Church community. There are many ways to show Gods love, and to put others first. This often means taking a risk, spending time outside our comfort zone ,and occasionally putting aside our personal preferences just to bless and care for others. In Philippians Chapter 2 v 3 and 4 we are encouraged to *'value others above ourselves, 'and to, 'look to the interests of others'*. This attitude starts with a right mindset, and Christians would say this maintained by thoughts constantly prompted by the Holy Spirit.



Kosy and Dim often see plaques on the canal network simply 'in loving memory of', and that's fine. Others record acknowledgement of individuals in the past, who have given much of their life to building and preserving our wonderful canal heritage. That is as it should be, although inevitably overlooked are the poor who grafted, and often lost their life .At best they are a number, not a name.



Canalside Ramblings

continued from page 24

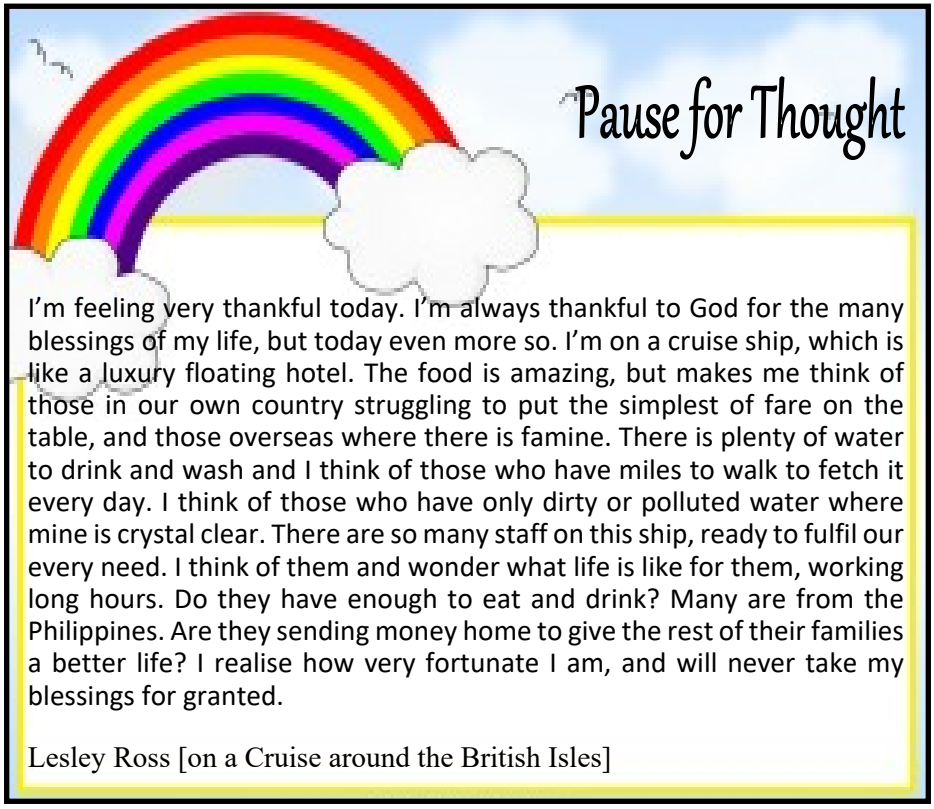


This plaque stands out as it is located at the end of the largest flight of locks in England. Tardibigge Locks on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal has 30 locks that rise or lower boats 220 feet in under 4 miles.

Lester and Mary knew the boaters passing through had completed an exhausting challenge and so it is a message with compassion.

We don't know if Lester and Mary were prompted by God, but they certainly displayed a knowledge of what it is to look to the interests of others.
Thinking of boaters rather than themselves they invite them **'To Rest Awhile'.**

Don and Kath, now near Bromsgrove -top of Tardibigge Locks resting awhile!



I'm feeling very thankful today. I'm always thankful to God for the many blessings of my life, but today even more so. I'm on a cruise ship, which is like a luxury floating hotel. The food is amazing, but makes me think of those in our own country struggling to put the simplest of fare on the table, and those overseas where there is famine. There is plenty of water to drink and wash and I think of those who have miles to walk to fetch it every day. I think of those who have only dirty or polluted water where mine is crystal clear. There are so many staff on this ship, ready to fulfil our every need. I think of them and wonder what life is like for them, working long hours. Do they have enough to eat and drink? Many are from the Philippines. Are they sending money home to give the rest of their families a better life? I realise how very fortunate I am, and will never take my blessings for granted.

Lesley Ross [on a Cruise around the British Isles]



2nd Sept : TGL Community Chat 1pm to 2-30pm [1st Weds each month]

3rd Sept : TGL Community Chat 1pm to 2-30m [1st Thurs each month]

5th Sept : Welcome service for Rev Sharon as new Circuit Supt and

Katherine Phillips as the New Circuit Lay Worker at 2pm at Hope Church

6th Sept : TGL Covenant service at 10-30am followed by a Faith lunch

13th Sept : Come and Singalong event at St Aidan`s BB [see page 22]

17th Sept : MacMillan Coffee Morning at BBMC [see page 13]

17th Sept : BBMC Church Leadership Team meeting at 2pm

23rd Sept : BBMC Church Council Meeting at 7-30pm

4th Oct : BBMC Harvest Festival service at 10-30am

14th Nov : One Voice Choir concert at BBMC at 7pm

14th Nov : TGL Christmas Fair 10am to 2pm

28th Nov : BBMC Christmas Fair [see page 19]

29th Nov : BBMC Church Anniversary service at 10-30am

Please uphold these events in your prayers and keep an eye on church notices and notice boards for more information where necessary

Brain Teasers

Can you guess the words and expressions?

wheel
wheel
wheel
wheel
DRIVE

APPLE π

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horobod

D

engine

VEG

NoonT

camping
NIGHT

go
go

T i m e
ABDE

PO

Just say what you see and solve these puzzles if you can.
You can find the answers on page 31….. Good luck !!!



DID YOU KNOW TRUE or FALSE

1. Whether you're using the meteorological or astrological seasons, a baby born on the first day of Autumn will always be a Virgo.

2. Shakespeare popularised the term Autumn in his sonnets. Before his day it was mainly known by the name 'Harvest.'

3. The Aurora Borealis is most active around the Autumn and Spring equinoxes

4. Fastelavn, which is sometimes called Scandinavian Halloween, takes place on the 29th of October.

5. Bees are at their busiest during Autumn as they make a bumper-load of honey to last throughout winter.

6. The tradition of bobbing for apples started in Roman Britain as a dating game.

7. Research shows that Autumn babies tend to be healthier and do better in school.

8. Daylight saving time means that the clocks go forward in Autumn, so you'll lose an hour in bed.

9. Autumn starts and ends earlier in the Arctic circle.
On Svalbard, an island near the North Pole, Autumn arrives in August and ends when the sun begins its four month hibernation in October.

10. Autumn might just be the least romantic time of the year, since it's when couples are most likely to break up.



You can find the answers on page 31



A Year at St Yorick`s

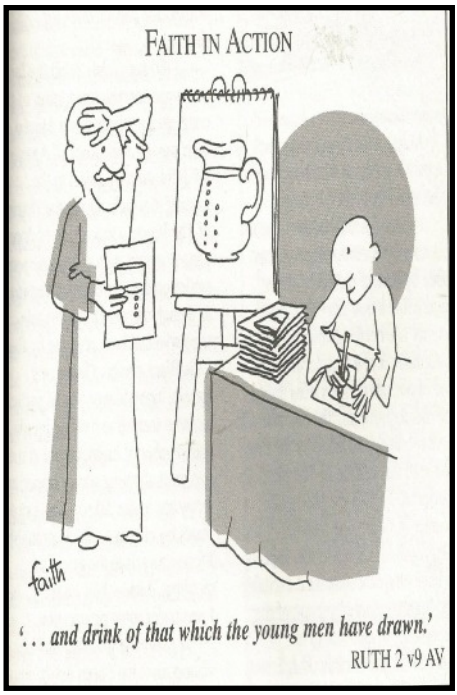


Adrian Plass

The images below have been copied from the book "A Year at St. Yorick`s" written by Adrian Pass. Thanks to Maurice Perry for loaning me the book. Watch out for more items from it in future issues of our magazine. [The editor] The book is a look at Anglican parish life with humour and compassion and not too dissimilar to Methodist church life.

Adrian Plass (born 1948) is a British author and speaker who writes primarily Christian humour, but also short stories, Bible commentaries and novels with a more serious tone. His most popular books are a series concerning The Sacred Diary of Adrian Plass which is a humorous, fictional satire of Christian life and which has sold over a million copies worldwide. Adrian Plass is an Anglican, who lived in Tunbridge Wells Kent and Hailsham East Sussex for most of his life before moving in 2010 with his wife Bridget to Yorkshire, to live in the Scargill House community. In 2012 they moved to County Durham, where they now live.





AN ALPHABETICAL ANGLICAN POEM

taken from the book - A Year at St. Yorick`s by Adrian Plass

A is for Anglican ladies in hats,
B is for Belfries where Bishops Breed Bats,
C is for Candles and Chapels and Choirs, Curates, Commissioners, _ Crosses, Collections,And Change for the better,
D is for Damn that vain previous letter,
E is for Everyone does what he wants,
F is for Funerals, Follies, and Fonts,
G is for God and for Graveyard as well,
H is for Heaven and Heating and Hell,
I is for Icons and Inter—church whist,
J is for Jenkins (who may not exist),
K is for Kingdom, the King and his search,
L is for Leaving his Lambs in the Lurch,
M is for Matins and Mass and Modernity,
N is for Notices reaching eternity,
O is for Outreach and sowing the seed,
P is for Praise which we don't seem to need,
Q is for Quiet—time (see the above),
R is for Raising the Roof with our love,
S is for Sin and Surprise and Salvation, Synods and Sexual Orientation, Suffering, Sadness, Sermons and Smells,
T is for Time and the Telling of bells,
U is for Unity, one With another,
V is for Vicars who'd rather not bother,
W stands for a World in decline,
X is for Xmas, a promising sign,
Y is for Yobs and Youth fellowships too
Z is for all of us, Z is for Zoo.

By Adam Booth

Solution to the puzzle on Page 27

1 – Four-wheel drive
2 – Apple pie
3 – Up to you
4 – Robin Hood
5 – Design
6 – Engineer
7 – Vegetables
8 – Afternoon tea
9 – Camping overnight
10 – Time to go
11 – Long time no see
12 – Polite



Solution to the puzzle on Page 28

1. False
With the astrological seasons they might be a Libra

2 False

3. True

4. False
It actually takes place in Spring

5. False

6. True

7 True

8 False,
The clocks go back in Autumn

9. True

10. False



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