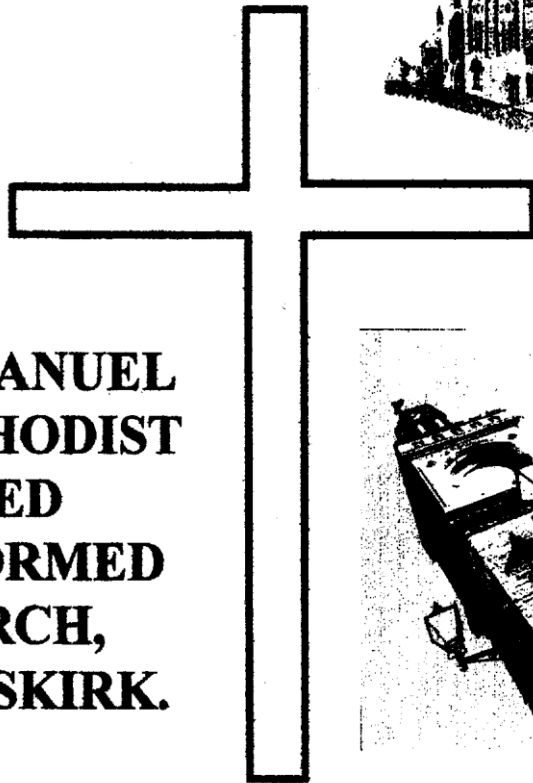
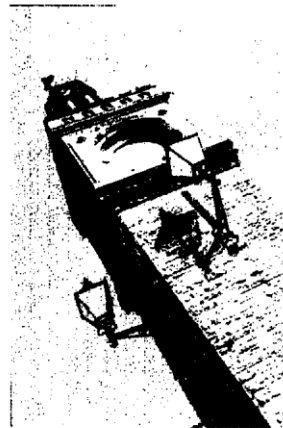


INTOUCH



**EMMANUEL
METHODIST
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH,
ORMSKIRK.**



SEPTEMBER 2010

REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER'S PEN

Friends,

All I want to say in this note, on behalf of me, Karen and Naomi, is “Thank you”.

I could sign off there but that sentence will not fill the space the Editor has waiting! So, let me elaborate:

Our thanks come in response to the many acts of kindness, good wishes, prayers and practical help that have come our way whilst Karen was in hospital briefly and since during her continuing convalescence.

Thank you to all who

- brought meals and cakes to the manse door – very welcome!
- brought/sent flowers, cards, reading matter, DVDs to watch and messages of goodwill
- offered to look after Naomi for an hour or two
- have kept us all in your thoughts and prayers
- offered to do a spot of ironing for us (except we don't do ironing, unless we need to!)
- have made allowances for my unavailability due to my nursing duties and increased responsibility at meal times, bathtimes, bedtimes etc and for tidying, hovering, washing etc (oh, and ironing when required).

For Karen, Naomi and me the last few weeks have affirmed that sense of belonging to a loving Christian family here. To misquote Tertullian: “See how these Christians love one another.” People often speak to me of the warmth of the fellowship we all enjoy here at Emmanuel and the loving care which we lavish upon each other especially when we are having difficult times. It is true and in many respects it is a network of support and encouragement that is unusual in the world at large.

This is not to say that Christians have the monopoly of being loving and caring. Of course that is not true. The significance is that in belonging to a church we belong to a loving caring community and in the world at large living in community is less common these days. I have always believed the sense of belonging is one of the most important features, indeed benefits, of being in the church.

The love we experience in community in the church is God’s love lived out by Christian people, seeking through the Spirit’s power to embody Christ’s ministry in the world. For this - another thank you:
Thank you, God!

Best wishes,
Melvyn

Ormskirk Methodist United Reformed Church exists to promote the worship of Almighty God, to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and, in the power of the Spirit, to serve neighbours in Christ at home and abroad. It seeks to play a part in transforming the unjust structures of society and promoting strong communities based on Christian values. As part of the World Church, it will strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain the life on earth.

“O God make the door of this house wide enough to receive all those who need human love and a heavenly Father’s care, and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hatred. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children or straying feet, but rugged enough to turn back the tempter’s power. Make it the gateway to Thy Eternal Kingdom, through Jesus Christ. Amen

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EMMANUEL NEWS

The next circuit meeting will be held at Rufford on Wednesday September 8th at 7.30pm

THANK YOU

Our grateful thanks for the kind messages and lovely cards sent to us on the occasion of our Golden Wedding anniversary. The love and care shown to us is greatly appreciated. We ‘give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, because His mercy endures for ever.’ Psalm 118

Ken and Betty Edwards

We would like to thank all of you for your loving concern, prayers, cards and gifts over the last weeks around Don's surgery. The ongoing support means so much to us. Thank you

Anne and Don Baldwin

Joan Foster would like to thank everyone who helped and supported in any way her market stall in aid of Christian Blind Mission and Burkina Faso that was held in June. The total amount raised was £350 that will be split between the two charities.

COFFEE DAY

You are warmly invited to a coffee day on 15th September at 23 Grimshaw Lane, from 10 – 12 , 2 – 4 p.m. in aid of Mvumi hospital and Mission Aviation Fellowship at which there will be a bring and buy stall.

Joan Foster and Joyce Boulton

TAPED SERVICES

If you would like to receive a taped copy of the Sunday morning Service, then please contact Ynyr Jones. Thank you

TAPE TALK

There will be a tape talk on 3rd September between 10 – 11 a.m. at 23 Grimshaw Lane to which everyone is welcome to attend.

THE GUILD

The Guild raised £216 95p including donations at the coffee morning held on 20th July in support of the new Langham Hall floor. Many thanks to all the Guild members who helped. Margery Stone held an afternoon tea-party on 6th July for much needed Guild funds. £51 was raised, and many thanks are due for all the donations received.

We have had 5 get-togethers during the summer, some very wet but all most enjoyable, and a good attendance at each event.

The last of our summer get-togethers will be held on Tuesday 7th September at 2 p.m. at the home of Glenys Oliver. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 14th September at 2 p.m. in the Lecture Room. New members will be very welcome to join us at any of our meetings. We are looking forward to seeing you refreshed from the summer break.

Freda Cottier

Nell Brumfit, a very long and faithful member of our Guild Died after a short illness in hospital on 29th July. She will be sadly missed by all of us. Our thoughts are with Margaret, her brother and family at this sad time.

EMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to join us at any of our meetings when our new session commences on 21st September which will be led by Rev. Melvyn Kelly. On 5th October 'The story of Southport Dramatic Club,' with Ray Mann, one of their experienced actors. He will be well known to all the regular subscribers, so we hope that all the 'Emmanuel Regulars' will come along on that night. Saturday 9th October at 7 30 p.m. in the Langham Hall 'Swiss Travel Wonderland.' A visual and musical presentation from John Westmorland. Tickets priced £5 include a cake supper and all proceeds are for the Refurbishment Fund.

Elizabeth Cumberlidge

WOMEN'S EVENING GROUP

The Women's Evening Group programme starts on Tuesday September 14th at 8pm with a talk entitled "Get me to the church on time!" by Carol Howard. We look forward to seeing you there.

Margaret Singleton

The Year of the Chickens

Some young people in Skelmersdale have raised £1,000 for Christian Aid to buy chickens for Angola.

Now it's our turn.

In anticipation of our joining with the Skelmersdale Circuit in 2011, the Joint Leadership Team has asked us to launch a joint project for the two circuits.

It was decided to use the MRDF Harvest project on Cambodia, which includes, among other things, providing chickens for Cambodia.

Each of our churches in both circuits, will be using material for our Harvest Services suggested by MCOD.

For the computer-literate, there are power-point presentations, drama and activities (which include tasting mustard!)

If anyone has personal experience of Cambodia, we shall be very pleased if they will share it.

We shall continue to work for this project for a year.

We shall hold a joint service at Burscough on October 17th at 6.30pm

We have invited a guest speaker from MCOD to tell us more about the project.

By working together, we hope to draw closer to one another, and even become a small miracle ourselves!

Who knows what God has in store for us?

Joyce Cundall and Monica Rhead

Methodists live longer than the average Brit

On Sunday 5th June 2010, Stanley Lucas of Cornwall died aged 110, (born on 15 January, 1900). Stanley was thought to be not only the oldest male member of the British Methodist Church, but one of the oldest men in the world.

Is this sort of longevity characteristic of Methodists? Seemingly, yes. An analysis of family announcements printed in the Methodist Recorder carried out by British Religion in Numbers, hosted by Manchester University, shows that in 1973 the mean age of death for Methodist laity was 77.9 years for men and 83 for women. By 2008 these figures had risen to 83.9 and 91.1 respectively – well above the life expectancy for the UK population as a whole (77 for men and 82 for women).

Dr Richard Vautrey, GP and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, said, “I’m sure there are many different factors at work for Methodists to attain these numbers. But I would guess that our emphasis on caring for our spiritual as well as physical health, avoiding excess, engaging with people in our communities and being good neighbours all help.”

The position for male Methodist ministers is similar, with a mean age of death of 83.4 years for those whose obituaries appeared in the 2009 edition of the Minutes of the Annual Conference and Directory of the Methodist Church. Since the Methodist Church began ordaining women in 1973, too few Methodist women ministers die each year to draw any meaningful conclusions.

And this is not a new pattern. Clive Field’s unpublished Oxford DPhil thesis of 1974 revealed that, until the beginning of the twentieth century, the death rate per 1,000 among lay members of the various Methodist denominations in Britain was appreciably below the national level, especially in Wesleyan Methodism. Published studies by Kenneth Brown (‘A Social History of the Nonconformist Ministry in England and Wales, 1800-1930’) and Tim Allison (‘An Historical Cohort Study of Methodist Ministers Examining Lifespan and Socioeconomic Status’ - University of Manchester MSc thesis, 1995) demonstrate similar trends. More information about the research by British Religion in Numbers can be found at <http://www.brin.ac.uk/news/?p=361>.

Methodist commentators, both in the Victorian era and since, were quick to point out that the longevity of Methodists was not accidental. They posited a clear link between a religious, 'clean' and virtuous life on the one hand and a long one on the other. The avoidance of physical and moral excess was especially advocated. The Church's annual governing body, the Methodist Conference, which met in Portsmouth, and begins every year with singing "And are we yet alive?", a hymn by Charles Wesley.

About The Methodist Church

The Methodist Church is the third-largest Christian church in Great Britain, with nearly 265,000 members and regular contact with over 800,000 people. It has around 5,800 churches in Great Britain, and also maintains links with other Methodist churches totalling a worldwide membership of 70 million. Its activities, both alone and with ecumenical and secular partners, are based on four aims known as *Our Calling*:

1. To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love
2. To help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care
3. To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice
4. To make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Joyce and myself have just returned from a week at the Keswick Convention and apart from the inspired preaching my eye caught some interesting facts about their finances and I thought they made interesting reading. In order to run the convention the budget is in excess of £950,000. This equates to roughly £70 per person per

convention week. Last year's gift aid reclaim from the Treasury was £130,000. In faith, plans are in place for next years convention and I am sure the plans will be achieved due to a prayer used at the local church we attended on Sunday morning.

‘Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.’

Thanks for your time to read this.

Duncan Boulton

REFURBISHMENT FUND

As we are now at the end of the current financial year (at the time of writing) I thought that you may welcome a detailed account of what has been collected during the year, 2009/2010.

During this period the income raised has amounted to £17,645 giving the fund the overall total of £135,083.

The income is made up as follows:-

Donations (individual and organisations)	£8,527
Efforts (see below)	£3,970
Interest	£1,309
Monthly envelopes	£2,357
Copper jar/5p's	£ 173
Gift Aid (2008/09)	£1,309

The Efforts for which so many people worked are as shown below:-

Saturday morning coffee £880	Bring and Share Lunches £354
Various concerts etc £1345	Scrabble afternoons £240
Antiques evening £230	Art Exhibition £224
Clothes Collection £376	Pamper massage £185
Sale of cards and programmes £136	

We thank all who gave of their money, their time and/or helped in any way.

Roy Cumberlidge

Church Stewards

The term of office for a steward is 4 years so unlike many other jobs you can get out after serving your time!! The job itself is very rewarding and can give a great insight into how the church runs even for those who have been around for a number of years. Full training will be given and do not feel that certain parts of the job would put you off as we always make sure that your own particular strengths are used to their best advantage. You do not have to be available every Sunday as the rota is planned in advance and the number of stewards should number eight, if we have a full complement, which means that we can easily fit around other commitments, holidays etc. If you feel that you can help or would like more information then speak to one of the other stewards.

Help us to help you?

Many of you will know that we order paper etc for printing at church in bulk, however if we do this in larger quantities the cost is lowered. Therefore should anyone want paper for their own use they could purchase it through church, which will help us keep our costs down and also any small profit can be used to subsidise the printing of the Intouch and weekly notices. If you want paper, plain white copy paper can be brought through myself for £3 per ream, and coloured paper for £8. N.B. Please note that coloured paper costs almost three times as much as white so if you are doing printing for church groups only use this for special things. If using the church copiers also, please

advise me if any items of stationery, toner etc are running low. If you have problems with the copiers also advise me as soon as possible so that I can call in the service people if necessary (or try to sort it myself!!)

If you wish to do any personal copying then this can be done but a donation, suggested at 5p per copy, should be made to the church.

Mark Taylor

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE SHOP

The first of the new season's coffee shop commences on 4th September. These sessions are from 10 30 – 12 noon, and primarily the money raised is for the Refurbishment Fund unless otherwise stated.

The proceeds of the coffee morning on 25th September will be used towards the cost of the harvest celebrations, organised by Lilian Graham. Our thanks are due to Elizabeth Cumberlidge for co-ordinating the kitchen rota throughout the summer. This year the rota will be organised by Pat Loch if you are willing to be involved. A team of three is usually enough. If you could organise and manage just one Saturday morning during the year it would be much appreciated.

This coffee shop is a relaxed chatty time for ourselves and visitors, and the toasted teacakes are a treat.

Pat Loch

PASTORALIA

Funerals We have commended loved ones into the hands of
God and

pray for the bereaved

23rd July

Theresa Parr – we remember her son
Tommy and his family

5th August

Eleanor Frances (Nell) Brumfitt – we especially remember Margaret and Don and the wider family in their loss

Baptisms We have received children into the life of the church

15th August

Bradley and Sophie Fairman

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A reminder that we will again be collecting shoe-boxes at the beginning of November. It is not too soon to look for suitable gifts for a needy child. Leaflets will be available later this month, and we have offered our church as a ‘drop off point. Further details next month.

Elizabeth Cumberlidge

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION		JUNE 2010	
Ormskirk	Doreen Stewart	£709 96p	
	Guild Donation	£100 00p	
	Sunday Coffee Donation	£100 00p	
	Carole & Don Payne	£534 81p	£1444 77p
Aughton	Dorothy Tickle	£306 32p	
	Lyn Jenkins	£506 44p	
	Donation	£ 30 00p	
	Donation	£ 20 00p	
	Doreen Stewart	£193 03p	£1055 79p

			£2500 56p
		2009 total	£2041 64p

		increase	£ 458 92p

This is within £10 of our deficit last year (£468 74p) so we are almost back to our 2008 total.

My sincere thanks to all organisers without whom this result would not have been possible, and to the 43 people who delivered and collected envelopes.

Doreen Stewart

ANNUAL CHURCH WEEKEND 25TH –27TH MARCH 2011

For our next Church Weekend we shall be returning to ABBOT HALL HOTEL, KENT'S BANK, details of which can be found on the notice in the link between the chapel and Langham Hall.

The weekend will commence with Friday dinner at 7 30 p.m., so there will be no need to stop off for a meal en route. We shall end with Sunday lunch at 1 p.m. This visit is a month later than our previous stay, so those people who don't have to rush home will be able to enjoy more of the South Lakeland in springtime. This is a church family weekend for ALL age. Abbot Hall has extensive grounds, good facilities, and a reputation for good food. Don't feel excluded if you are on your own or don't have your own transport. Why not take this opportunity to relax amongst friends and refresh yourselves mentally, physically and spiritually?

Further information, and booking forms are available from Dennis Helliwell. Please see me in church after service on Sunday, or contact me by phone.

Booking forms need to be completed and returned to me this month with a deposit of £25 for each adult.

Dennis Helliwell

Across the Minister's desk... by Rev. Melvyn J Kelly

In this article I give details of events etc that others have organised and asked me to publicise locally. In respect of any of these publications, organisations or events, if you require further details please contact Melvyn.

Online material

The Buzz – a resource for bringing the Methodist Connexion together to share successful ideas between churches.

See

www.methodist.org.uk/static/html_emails/buzz.htm

E-news - bulletin of the Methodist Church in Britain available at www.methodist.org.uk/static/html_emails/e-news_april_2010.htm

Merseynews: news from around the Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church. See

www.mersey.urc.org.uk/page5/page5.html

Joint Public IssuesTeam – www.jointpublicissues.org.uk

The Methodist Church – www.methodist.org.uk

The United Reformed Church – www.urc.org.uk

Emmanuel's own website www.emmanuelormskirk.org.uk

Publications (available to borrow from the foyer of the Langham Hall)

Christian Aid News Summer issue

Comment – The Fairtrade Foundation Newsletter

momentum Summer issue : Methodist Church and charities in partnership with Methodist Insurance

Movement - Magazine of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) Summer issue The Mission Issue

Grassroots – SCM's newsletter for members and friends

Courses and Events

Come as you are - a discipleship course and membership preparation course – starts Sept 9th at 8pm at the manse. Further details elsewhere in In Touch

Lancashire Prayer Conference at the University of Cumbria
Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 3JD on Saturday 18th
September 2010 (from 10 am to 4pm) *further details* 01254
812432 Registration £3 Concessions £1 All Welcome See Poster

merseypray Launch Event for the next prayer focus : Older
People Monday 20th September at bridge Chapel Heath Road
Liverpool L19 4XR 7.00 pm – praying for the well-being of the
city of Liverpool. www.merseypray.org An ecumenical
initiative of the Liverpool Free Church Federal Council.

Aladdin A Magical Pantomime presented by Southport Theatre
Thursday 9th December – Sunday 2nd January Box Office 01704
500036 or southportboxoffice@theambassadors.com

COME AS YOU ARE

Beginning on 9th September Melvyn will be running this
informal discipleship course. This 10-session course is intended
for those who are already familiar with the basics of Christianity
and would welcome the opportunity to think more about it and
deepen their own faith.

The course is suitable for those who have been going to church
for years and are already members, as well as those newer to the
faith. So don't feel you don't qualify!

Come as you are... can be used as a 'membership course' and for
those for whom this is appropriate Melvyn will offer the
opportunity to consider membership at the end of the course. If
you are considering entering into membership then do please try
to come along.

For those who are already members it provides an opportunity to
reflect afresh upon what that commitment means.

Making disciples is the underlying intention of the course. It aims to get people thinking about their faith and what it means in their day-to day life to be a follower of Christ. This makes the course suitable wherever you are on your Christian journey. So, do come along - you will be very welcome: Session 1 September 9th 8pm at the Manse.

STOP PRESS!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Congratulations are due to Rachael O'Connor who has been accepted for a place at Bangor University and Matthew Taylor, who has a similar place reserved at Carlisle. We wish them both every success, both as they begin their university life and as they move into adulthood.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AT EMMANUEL

- Sept 5th 10 30 a.m. Mr Albert Kendall
6 30 p.m. Rev. Stephen Foster
- Sept 10 30 a.m. Rev. Melvyn Kelly Communion
6 30 p.m. Circuit Service at Emmanuel
- Sept 19th 10 30 a.m. Mrs Helen Hindle
6 30p.m. Rev.Melvyn Kelly
- Sept 26th 10 30 a.m. Rev. Melvyn Kelly Harvest Festival
6 30 p.m. Rev. Melvyn Kelly Harvest Festival9

**Items for the OCTOBER edition by 18th SEPTEMBER
please to Bill Jones 10 Whiterails Drive, Ormskirk
L39 3BE**