



# IN TOUCH

February  
2018



**Emmanuel  
Ormskirk**

**Is Working**

Details - page 19



EMMANUEL METHODIST UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH,  
ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE, L39 2DE



## Message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

It's not something I do very often, but about twenty years ago when I was in my first appointment in Blackpool, I decided I would try and give up eating chocolate for Lent. I can't remember what motivated me to do this, but it must have seemed like a good idea at the time, and I was doing very well until I faced a dilemma in the last week or so. This happened whilst I was visiting a couple who had a just celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and who had been given chocolates as one of their presents, and I was offered one. In the moment the box was passed towards me a series of questions raced through my mind, to refuse and say "sorry I've given up chocolate for Lent" could sound a bit sanctimonious and fall in to the Pharisee trap of parading their piety. Yet to eat one would break my Lenten chocolate fast when I had got so close to the finishing line. My recollection is that I took a chocolate but somehow managed to take it away with me for later.

In reality what we choose to eat or abstain from during Lent has fairly little to do with what the season is about, instead it's how we let the forty days change us and shape us into better disciples of Jesus. I find the idea of a Positive Lent to be an attractive one, focusing on what we can do to make a difference to other people. Several years ago the *Live Life Love Lent booklets* were produced for children and adults, and they gave a positive action to be carried out each day. On a similar note **40acts.org.uk**, produced by the Christian organisation Stewardship, offers daily resources for individuals and groups to challenge us to make Lent into a positive experience for ourselves and those around us

*40 Acts "began 6 years ago, to turn Lent upside down, on it's head and instead of giving up, the idea was to give out with a simple generous act for 40 days. And so 40acts was created.*

*No one at Stewardship would have predicted that within 7 years over 100,000 folk would sign up and embrace Lent so differently. The acorn planted, put down firm roots, opened up and unleashed a wave of international generosity.*

*Purple clad bishops at Leicester station gave out sweet treats to amused commuters, school children in Exeter to Dumfries paid each other compliments. Gardens were weeded, chocolate distributed, new friendships created, old friendships renewed, presents delivered, skills shared, barriers removed, love exchanged and reconciliations made.*

*'40acts is a fantastic excuse to go and do something slightly out of the ordinary, to step out of my comfort zone and to start a conversation', observed one keen supporter.*

*40 days of generous acts has become an antidote to our self absorbed lives with our 'to-do lists', agendas and me first attitude."*

*Why not take a look at the resources, either on line or the paper copies that will be around Church, and make Lent a positive time for all.*

*Yours in His Service*

*Michael*

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 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



### **Taped Services**

**If you would like to receive a taped copy of the Sunday morning service, then please contact Ynyr Jones on 423474.**

## Services for February 2018

### 4<sup>th</sup> February:

10.30 a.m. The Revd Sue Guénault  
6.30 p.m. The Revd Peter Lyth

### 11<sup>th</sup> February:

10.30 a.m. Own Arrangement  
4.00 p.m. Informal Tea Service led by the  
Revd Sylvia Jacquest

### 18<sup>th</sup> February:

10.30 a.m. The Revd Sue Guénault - Parade  
Service  
6.30 p.m. The Revd Sue Guénault

### 25<sup>th</sup> February:

10.30 a.m. Dr. Malcolm Abbott  
6.30 p.m. The Revd Stephen Foster

## **SUPPORTING CHARITIES THROUGH RECYCLING**

STAMPS - for Methodist Homes. This is an ongoing collection. Stamps should be trimmed 1/4 inch (not from the postcards) and can be given to Elizabeth at anytime.

### **In Touch**

When our first monthly newsletter appeared in February, 1963, it had been agreed that it should be free for all families connected with Emmanuel, since it was an essential part of our outreach.

From the original 200 copies issued, numbers grew to 650 per issue with 10 issues per year - July/August and December/January being combined. To cut down the actual cost, we began to produce the newsletter ourselves. It grew in size but when we were in need of a large sum of money for Phase 2 of our development there were numerous requests for a charge to be made. We agreed to a compromise whereby at the beginning of the year a box would be placed in the main church foyer during February, into which those who wished to do so could make their contribution. Last year the box appeared to have been overlooked, with only a small amount collected.

You will find a box marked for that purpose on the table in front of you as you enter the main church foyer during the month of February. All contributions will be gratefully received.

*Dennis  
Helliwell*

## Ian Lewis Holland

Ian first became part of Emmanuel when the Boys' Brigade was formed; soon, he had also joined the Youth Club. It was Panto time and Ian had volunteered to be one of Snow White's dwarfs. Doreen remembers that Ian didn't wear his cap on stage - he'd found a better use for it. It held his script!! Always resourceful! In December 1985, along with a number of other club members, he was received into membership of the Methodist Church.

Ian joined the Army Medical Corps, and for some years we lost touch. We've learned since that he spent some time working in Canada before returning to North Wales, where he met and married Pauline twenty years ago.

His desire to help others led him to work in a Care Home in Llandudno. Somehow 'through the grapevine' he learned that Emmanuel had annual weekends at St. Winifred's in nearby Rhos-on-Sea - and one weekend about the turn of the century he popped in, out of the blue, to see us.

When Ian returned to the Ormskirk area nearly four years ago to be near his ageing parents, he was surprised to find that he was no longer on Emmanuel's membership. He knew that the vestry were in need of stewards and had his membership reinstated on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 to enable him to fill that vacancy. Pauline was welcomed into membership in early July, 2016. It seems likely that she will be moving from Hillock Lane, Scarisbrick back to Penmaenmawr to be close to her remaining relations. If so, our thoughts and prayers will travel with her.

*Dennis Helliwell.*

### ***Thank you***

Many thanks to Ian's friends at Emmanuel who were able to share the service taken by Sue at the new crematorium.

*Pauline Holland*

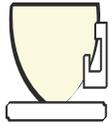
# TEA SERVICE

4.00 p.m. 11 th. February

Informal Tea Service led by

The

Revd Sylvia Jacquest



## AT EMMANUEL CHURCH

### Luncheon Club

On the fourth Wednesday of each month at 12.45 p.m .  
**Soup lunch with bread and cakes and tea or coffee**  
**£2.00 each**

**This provides an opportunity to enjoy the company of friends and share food. We welcome any Church friends to join us.**

For further information or if you would like to help in any way please contact Elizabeth (573372).



### **Joan Bronwyn Clapham**

Despite living in Marshside, Southport, and approaching her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Jean was a faithful and regular worshipper at Emmanuel's morning service.

She was devoted to the younger members of her family. No-one would choose to lose a loved one just before Christmas, but it did provide them with an unforgettable opportunity to excel themselves when erecting and decorating Emmanuel's large Christmas tree. Their work in decorating it in 2017 was impressive. This year it was simply stunning - and a real labour of love, standing tall above all the other trees at our Christmas Tree Festival. It lifted the spirits of all attending the services of Thanksgiving for the lives of Joan (and Alan), held at Emmanuel that week.

Joan would have loved it. We shall continue to remember all the family as they readjust to life without her.

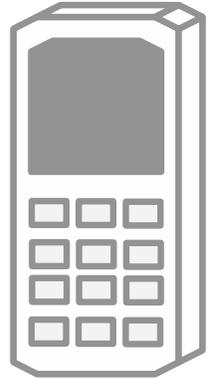
*Dennis Helliwell*  
*(in Anne Baldwin's absence)*



## Boys Brigade recycling

Used printer cartridges and old mobile phones. **Original manufactured cartridges only** but not copies or remanufactured.

Please pass your cartridges/phones to Ian Price or place them in the church porch recycle box.



## For the weekly notices

**Please e-mail me your notices at home, by 9 p.m. Wednesday evening to [jackie.a.cann@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.a.cann@gmail.com) so that I can print on Thursdays. I am usually at home on Wednesday evenings (580270) if you would like to phone**



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## **Emmanuel Fellowship -**

**Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 pm**

An evening with Ormskirk's own Graphic Artist, Angie Thompson.  
Do join us to hear about her work.

## **Soup Lunch**

Our next Soup Lunch is on **Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 12.45 pm**

You are invited to join us for food and fellowship in Langham Hall.  
A choice of soup with fresh bread, followed by something sweet. Tea or  
coffee (cost £2.00)

## Thornleigh - Annual Church Weekend - Grange-over-Sands,

**6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Although our Weekend seems a long way off, we do need to give them a realistic number of those going.

This is a weekend for all ages and, for newcomers, I can't think of a better way for you to get to know us. For those of us who are getting older, I know it's more difficult to predict the future, but if you are hoping to join us, we need to know. If you haven't been before, the one thing we have learned over the past years is that you will return home feeling much better than when you set off. Ask any of the folk who appear in the photographs of last year's event which are on the noticeboard on the right-hand side as you use the main Church entrance. You can also see last year's programme and menus. If you hope to come, or need more information, phone me on 01695 572847. Transport does not need to be a problem. We've always in the past found ways of getting you there and back.

Dennis Helliwell

# COLOUR ME IN



Jesus did something for us during Lent as many Christians now do.

**TIME TO LOOK IN YOUR BIBLE!**

## Alan Patterson

Alan Patterson died very suddenly on 23 November 2017. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and a sincere friend to many others.

Alan and his wife Flo have worshipped regularly at Emmanuel over many years. He had a quiet faith that translated into action across many different areas of his life. He loved the outdoor life as a keen walker, golfer and in developing his smallholding (where his fascination with agricultural machinery was employed). He was a keen music-lover and had enjoyed singing in choirs and musicals.

Emmanuel lost a good friend when Alan died. Many of us will remember the magnificent photographic record of our Flower Festival he produced on a DVD and the fascinating illustrated talks on the bridges of the Menai Straits and the flora of Australia he gave to Emmanuel Fellowship. He presented an enjoyable quiz at a fund-raising event.

Alan was an eminent and much respected eye surgeon, heading the Liverpool St Paul's Eye Hospital for many years before his retirement. He was held in high esteem by his colleagues and numerous, grateful, patients who benefited from his kindness, skill and research.

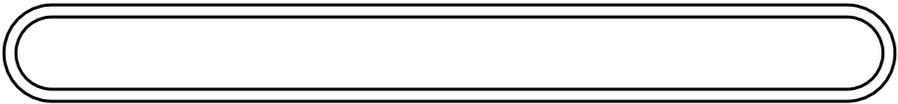
Alan was always ready to give of his time and talents to support local organizations and the community at large. He was Life Vice-President of the Ormskirk Pleasure Folk, President of both Aughton Green Probus Club and ODANTM and an active member of the local U3A and other groups.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his much-loved and loving wife Flo and all their family.

*Marjorie and Stan Bryan*

## **Wedding Bells**

On Wednesday February 14th (Valentines Day!), Sue is delighted to be presiding at the marriage of Jill Cohen and Tony Warren at Hesketh Bank Methodist Church. We wish them much love and prayers as they begin their future together as Mr and Mrs Warren.



## **The Hope Journey - Cross Factor**

**12th – 20th March 2018**

Our next journey will be to deliver the Easter Story to Y5 children. Mon 12th - Trinity, Skelmersdale, Tues 13th - Upholland, Weds 14th - Croston, Thurs 15th - Emmanuel, Ormskirk, Tues 20th - Burscough, Please put these dates in your diary now. You may want to be involved in just your church venue or across the circuit. A preparation meeting for volunteers is arranged for Tuesday 13th February 2.00pm at Emmanuel Methodist URC, Ormskirk.

Please consider volunteering to help with this important and very enjoyable act of mission. Thank you, Sue.

# Letter from Toby in Hereford

Dear friends, Did you hear that we had 8" snow here in December?

I liked it a lot but my missus said it was too slippery to walk far! Now our walks are all muddy and the river has swollen

We had good fun at Christmas when our house was full of kind people, laughing and talking together .

All but one was kind to me; the other was a big black dog. I didn't like him; he took my new bone. When I tried to get it back we had a fight...and he won. But I'm not scared; I come from the North! So I will fight him again next time I see him .

Last Sunday my mum and dad went to the Covenant Service at St Johns. I think they promised to try to be good for a year; but I 'm not going to promise!Not me I am Toby the Terrier... ha ha.

Toby.

PS Mum said they didn't promise to be good; they promised to trust God at all times



Now That I can agree with . woof woof



**The Guild**

**February 6<sup>th</sup> 2.00 p.m.**

Members own afternoon of nostalgia where we will be celebrating some of our own precious memories.

**February 20<sup>th</sup> 2.00 p.m.**

Get together at O'Briens for tea and a chat - a warm welcome to all.

## Saturday Coffee Shop

10.30 to noon Except  
August



Volunteers wanted for a Few Saturdays per year -  
Please contact Lilian Graham

## AT EMMANUEL CHURCH

**Please - entries for the IN Touch in as:-**

**Standard text entries to arrive on my email for 5 p.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the due publication(as usual) and 48 hours prior to that for material with photographs (jpg format) and any material containing artwork/graphics (pdf format).**

Nigel Cann, 24 Dyers Lane,

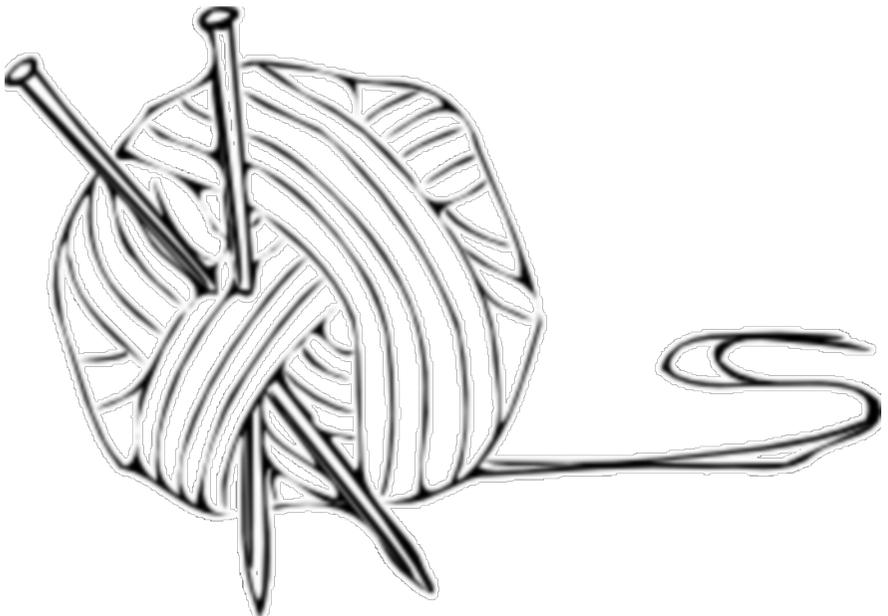
## **KNIT AND NATTER**

Every last Thursday of the month at 2.30p.m.

**Naturally Tea and Cakes will be part of it.**

The theme will be knitting **Crosses and hearts for Easter**

Jean Whalley tel **576284** contact Number.



## Emmanuel Lent Fellowship evenings

The season of Lent is a time of preparation and reflection, as we journey with Christ through the events leading up to his Crucifixion and to his glorious Resurrection. In order to help us to journey spiritually as a Church family, there will be four Lent Fellowship evenings of prayer, scripture, music and reflection. The sessions will take place from 7.00pm to 8.00pm on Thursday 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March. All are welcome to join us.

## Advanced Notice - Schools Outreach

In May we will be taking 'Life Journey' workshops into our Methodist Primary schools. This is a project that runs in conjunction with Scripture Union and offers the children the opportunity to look at the life journey of John Wesley. Through art and craft, drama and prayer the children will be given the opportunity to reflect upon God and how they can develop their own personal relationship walking alongside Jesus as their friend.

Provisional dates (to be confirmed) are May 8th and 22nd. We will need many volunteers to help us engage in meaningful and fruitful conversation with the children. So, if you are able to assist with one or both days, please contact Sue ([sueguenault@methodist.org.uk](mailto:sueguenault@methodist.org.uk) 07468 518260) and save the date in your diary. Thank you, Sue



Our monthly Messy Church sessions continue to bring great joy and fellowship as we celebrate the Gospel message through celebration and being messy. We have been delighted with the number of families that have attended our first three sessions. Our Sessions have included a welcome, a long creative time to explore the biblical theme through getting messy; a short celebration time involving stories, prayers, songs and film clips, and a sit-down meal together. So far we have explored ‘Messy Creation’ , ‘Who Is Jesus?’ and ‘A new start- the Story of Noah’.

Our next session will be on February 24th from 4.30-6.30pm when we will explore our God of love.

If you are interested in volunteering to join our teams organizing arts and crafts, games and sports, or catering, please contact Cheryl, Jane or Sue. We would also welcome people who can just come along and engage in conversation with our families. Thank you everyone for your prayers and support for this exciting new adventure, as we seek to spread the Good News message of Jesus Christ. Sue

## Old Teddies wanted!

The granddaughter of the Rev Janet Taylor, assistant priest in Croston, Mawdesley and Bretherton, is collecting teddies.

They will be sent to children who have suffered trauma in wars in Africa and the Middle East. It is hoped by cuddling the old toys it will give them some comfort. Please bring teddies to the Church office. For further information, contact Rev Janet Taylor 01772 615421.

Our own Rev Bear is now in Bolton raising funds for children affected by Street Trafficking. Thank you for looking after him whilst he was at Emmanuel, and for all the money raised for “All we can”. Thank you, Sue



# HALL / ROOM HIRE

AT

## EMMANUEL

### **Langham Hall**

Is multipurpose and available for hire plus has tables and chairs which can comfortably accommodate approximately 95 people **or** the tables and chairs can be packed away at one end of the hall giving a large clear area for other activities. In addition we have a wall projector screen ready for your talks and such like in the hall. There is also a kitchen which can be used by arrangement, next to the hall, that is well equipped and for many years has received the 5 star award for hygiene.

### **Lecture room**

Has seats for some 40 people, is set up with a wall projector screen and is carpeted.

### **Lounge**

24 seats are kept in the carpeted lounge which is ideal for a small meeting.

### **Enquiries to:-**

Lyn Jenkins                      01695 422573

Or

Bill Jones                        01695 574268