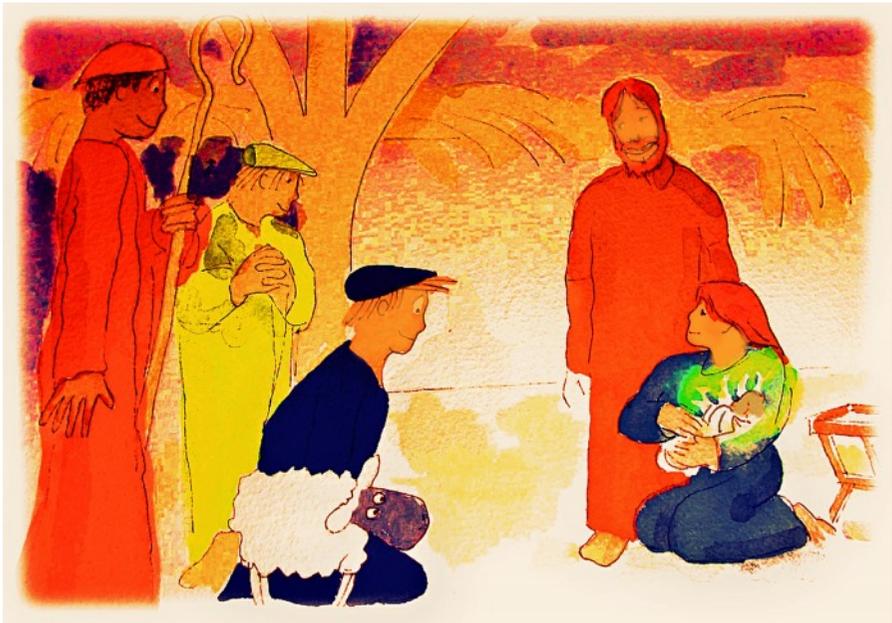




IN TOUCH

December 2017



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father. The Prince of Peace.



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



Message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

The beautiful picture on our front cover, is taken from an original oil painting by the artist Rev Kip Cooks. Kip has illustrated the children's story book, 'In a shed without a bed' written by Rev Sally Binymin. All proceeds from this book are to be used to buy gifts for those people who will spend this Christmas living on the streets. In the book, we see Mary and Joseph, homeless refugees, travel to Bethlehem where their baby is 'born in a shed without a bed'.

On the final page of the book we see people who have visited the new-born baby, leaping with joy as they spread the good news of the birth of God's Son. In Luke's gospel chapter 2:10 we read, 'And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

The reality is that for many people Christmas is not a joyous time of year for many different reasons. As a Church community we have a message of love, a message of a baby who came into the world to show us God's love and how we can help to build communities built upon Christ's values of peace, justice for all people, tolerance and understanding. This Christmas we will give out hand-knitted angels to the people in our wider community. Each angel will be adorned with a label that says simply, 'A gift of love at Christmas'. We will send boxes of gifts to children through the project Operation Christmas Child, and we will donate toys and food items for families in need. All these actions will witness to the love we receive from Jesus the Christ-child.

John's gospel 1:14 says, 'The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.' I pray that as 2017 draws to a close and we move into 2018, we will continue as a church family to find ways of giving people a glimpse of the glory of God, that we will continue to work together to bring peace, joy and justice into the lives of others, and that we will continue to proclaim the good news of our Saviour Jesus Christ, born in a shed without a bed.

Every blessing

Sue

The Nativity comes to Ormskirk

On Saturday 16th December, from 10.30- 1.00pm, the Churches Together in Ormskirk will be witnessing to the true meaning of Christmas through music, drama and conversation. We hope that this will include characters from the Nativity story, including 2 real sheep and 2 real donkeys! As a Church, we have been asked to provide people who would be willing to dress up as nativity characters and wander around chatting to passers by. Costumes will be provided. So, if you are willing and able to take on the role of Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, Wise people, Shepherds or an Innkeeper, please see Rev Sue.

Thank you



Our monthly Messy Church sessions will continue after Christmas on January 13th from 4.30 – 6.30pm. We have been delighted with the number of families that have attended our first two 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’ and ‘Who Is Jesus?’. In January we will explore “A New Start” through the story of Noah.

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. Thank you everyone for your prayers and support for this exciting new adventure, as we seek to spread the message of God’s love. Sue

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 December 2017 and January 2018

3rd December - Toy Service

10.30 a.m. The Revd Geoffrey Farthing
6.30 p.m. The Revd Michael Tindsley - Holy Communion

10th December

10.30 a.m. Mr. Andrew Richardson
4.00 p.m. Rev Sue Guénault - Christingle Service

17th December

10.30 a.m. The Revd Sue Guénault - Parade and Nativity Service
6.30 p.m. Candlelight carol service - The Revd Sue Guénault

Sunday 24th December

10.30 a.m. The Revd Sylvia Jacquest
11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion - The Revd Sue Guénault

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 a.m. Family Celebration

Sunday, 31st December

10.30 a.m. The Revd Michael Tindsley. NO EVENING SERVICE

7th January

10.30 a.m. Mr. Malcolm Roxburgh
6.30 p.m. The Revd Michael Tindsley

14th January

10.30 a.m. The Revd Sue Guénault - Covenant Service
4.00 p.m. Informal Tea Service with the Revd Michael Tindsley

21st January

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

28th January

10.30 a.m. The Revd D. Reynolds. 6.30 p.m. The Revd Rick Preston

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.

Thank you

Christmas through the eyes of a child

On Monday 11th December, we are delighted that the children from Moorgate Nursery will be visiting us again to hear the Christmas story, decorate a Christmas Tree, sing songs and enjoy refreshments. Then on Tuesday 12th December we will be joined by children from our local school's to share in the 'Hope Journey - the presenting of the Nativity. These are wonderful opportunities to see Christmas through the eyes of a child. If you are able to help at either event, please see Sue. Thank you

Christmas in the Community

On Thursday 14th December at 12.30pm, Sue will be leading a short Carol Service in the Refectory at Edge Hill University. On Monday 18th December at 7.30pm, the Churches Together in Ormskirk will be leading an evening of Carol Singing in Weatherspoons, Ormskirk. On Tuesday 19th December at 2.00pm, Sue will lead a Carol Service with the residents of Courtfield Lodge Care Home. Everyone is welcome to attend these events. Thank you

"CHRISTMAS ANGELS"

We are busy with our Christmas angels, the total number grows and grows! This has been a wonderful team effort across all our Churches Together in Ormskirk, one that we pray will bring joy to many people. On Thursday 14 December from 2.00 to 4.00pm we will meet to attach the labels and have a short service of blessing, before distributing them around the town on 16th and 23rd December. Please come along and enjoy the fun, fellowship and cake. You don't need to have done any knitting, we will be delighted to see you! Any queries please contact Anne Baldwin at annebaldwin21@me.com or Jean Whalley.

We will be joined by pupils from Westhead School who are going to sing some carols to us.

If you are able to assist with the distribution of the Angels, please see Rev Sue. Thank you.

Thank You

Irene, Lester, Warren and families would like to express their sincere thanks to all their friends and extended family at Emmanuel for all their love and support with cards, messages, flowers and prayers during Stuart's illness and recent passing. Also a huge thanks to Sue and Mark, along with Michael, for their care and support during this sad time. Stuart will be greatly missed by all. Thank you for your continuing prayers and support. May God bless you.

Love from the Andersons xx

The Foodbank

Have asked if people could please donate some festive goods so that they can make up

Hampers.

Suggested items are:

Chocolate sponge, jam sponge, non-alcoholic Christmas puddings, mince pies, selection box, Christmas cakes, tins of ham or chicken, and biscuits.

Toby the dog says Hello from Hereford

Dear friends,

Some of you have been asking my missus thanks. When we came to live here in May missed all the rabbits in Ormskirk but found squirrels in the woods, I don't

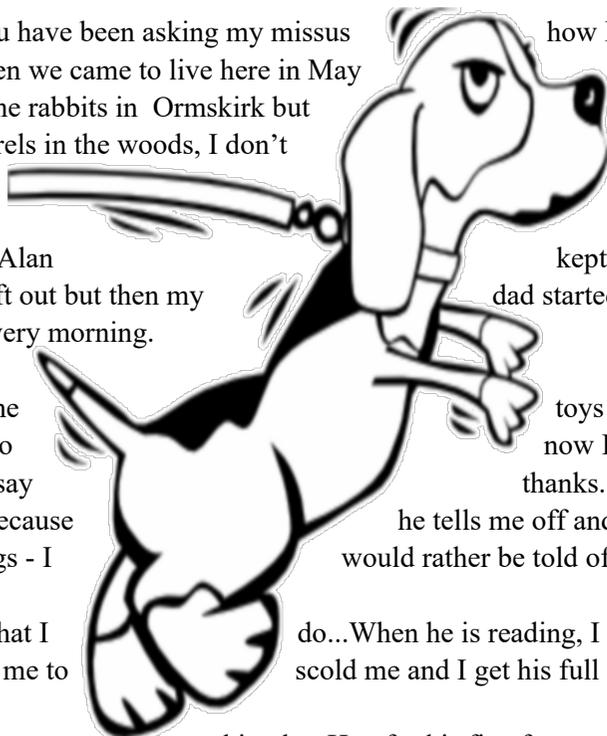
At first I missus and Alan and I felt left out but then my the paper every morning.

He makes me I like that, so lick him to say I like him because do bad things - I

So this is what I comes after me to

So thanks for and a dad

Toby Wayman woof woof



how I am ? I am fine I wasn't so sure, I now that I have miss the rabbits.

only wanted my kept sitting next to her, dad started taking me to buy

toys form old bottles and now I sit on his knee and thanks.

he tells me off and shouts at me when I would rather be told off than ignored.

do...When he is reading, I creep upstairs and he scold me and I get his full attention! Ha ha.

asking but Hereford is fine for me now I have a mum

Christmas Choir

Following last year's greatly appreciated contribution to our worship, we would like to gather a group of singers to perform Christmas songs during our Candlelit Service, at 6.30pm on Sunday December 17th. Rehearsals will take place on Thursday 7th, 14th and 21st December from 6.30-7.00pm You do not need to read music or have sung in a choir before. If you have a love of singing, please simply come along and join us for some musical fun and fellowship.

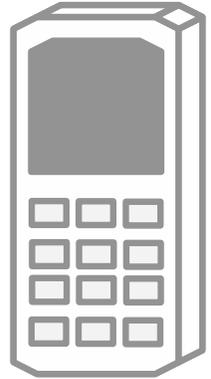


Boys Brigade recycling

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 so that I can print on Thursdays. I am usually at home on Wednesday evenings (580270) if you would like to phone



©visekart - IllustrationsOf.com/213227

EMMANUEL EVENTS

5 December, Tuesday, guild Advent service 2.00 PM

7, 14 and 21 December Thursdays, – 6:30-7.00 PM Choir -
and then 7.15-8.30pm Advent Fellowship follows the choir

9th of December Saturday, Christmas fair/Christmas tree Festival

10 December Sunday, 4.00pm Tea service with Christingle service

12 December Tuesday, Hope Journey (at Emmanuel) 9.00am

14 December Thursday, Christmas Angel gathering service (L. H.)
2.00-4.00 PM

17 December Sunday, 10:30 AM Nativity and parade service

17 December Sunday Candlelit service 6:30 PM

19 December Tuesday, Courtfield Lodge Christmas service 2.00 PM

23 December Saturday, 11.00 AM distribute angels and crib service at 4:30 PM

24 December Sunday 10:30 AM service **but** no 6.30p.m. evening service

24 December 11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10.00 AM service

House group dates Julian and Rebecca

We are meeting every 2 weeks and the next date is 6th December. Dates are occasionally subject to change so if you would like to join us please check beforehand to avoid disappointment!

The Guild

Tuesday, 5th December at 2.00 p.m.

We are holding our annual Circuit Christmas Celebration which will be led by our District President, Norma Holloran. The project this year is for Wirral Mothers and Children's Refuge. All proceeds will go to this fund - all are welcome. And 19 December 2.00P.M.

Christmas Party At Emmanuel- All WELCOME

Luncheon Club 2018

It is necessary to change our twice monthly hot meal. On the fourth Wednesday of each month, starting on the 24th January at 12.45 pm, we will hold a soup lunch with bread and cakes and tea or coffee at a cost of £2.00. This provides an opportunity to enjoy the company of friends and share food. We welcome any Church friends to join us.

We wish to thank all those who have helped in cooking, serving and washing up over 30 years. We are pleased that some of these helpers will continue. A special thanks to Miriam and Pam for their excellent cooking and organisation .

If you would like to help in any way with this new venture please contact Elizabeth (573372).

Emmanuel Fellowship - Tuesdays at 7.30 pm

12th December at 7.30 - Our joint Carol Service with the Women's Evening Group

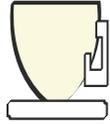
9th January 7.30 - Rev Sue Guenault - We look forward to having her to open our 2018 session.

Shoe – boxes

A big Thank you to all who have supported this appeal by filling a box or giving a donation towards the cost of the transport overseas., By the time you read this the boxes are likely to be at the warehouse for checking and packing. A fine amount of 51 Shoe boxes have been donated.



TEA SERVICES



4.00 p.m.

10TH DECEMBER

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

With Rev Sue Guénault

4.00 p.m.

14TH JANUARY

WITH REV MICHAEL TINDSLEY

AT EMMANUEL CHURCH

LUNCH CLUB

Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

12.45 p.m.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 11

A home-cooked lunch - 2 courses plus drinks

A recent delicious meal was:

Sausage and mash followed by fruit crumble and ice cream

All for £2.50 each

Please contact Bob (576703)
or Roy (573372)

Tribute to Sylvia Thompson

Emmanuel has lost a very loyal and much-loved friend, Sylvia Thompson. She never officially became a member of Emmanuel but her Christian commitment and loyalty to her Saviour, Jesus Christ, was never in doubt.

Sylvia was born in Huyton in 1941; she married Malcolm. Jane was born, followed by Peter. Sylvia had several jobs: she at one time was on the reception desk at Hants Lane clinic. Sylvia was a loyal member of Emmanuel's Women's Evening Group.

The family home after her marriage was, first of all, Haslam Drive, Ormskirk, and later Hurlston Drive, Ormskirk. When Mum and I moved into Haslam Drive, Sylvia was the first person to welcome us: this was typical of Sylvia. She had quite a sense of humour and was always ready to help people.

Sylvia was a keen bowler and she had a lot of friends at the Saracen's Head bowling club. Above all, Sylvia loved her family - they were very important to her. She loved the reunions with her extended family. She was devoted to Malcolm, Jane, Peter, and her grandchildren. It was an honour for me to have had Sylvia as a neighbour and a friend. Sylvia worked hard in Emmanuel's kitchen for the lunch club. She will be sadly missed by her many Emmanuel friends. Our sympathy, love and prayers go to Malcolm, Jane, Peter and her grandchildren.

Margaret Brumfitt.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AND FAIR

This year's event will be held on:-

SATURDAY DECEMBER THE 9TH.

Please keep this date free and consider what you can do to help. There are many jobs and ways you can help from small to large, both on the day and leading up to this major annual event in Emmanuel's calendar.

Firstly beforehand we need items for stalls making and providing, volunteers to run stalls, people to supply Christmas Trees for display and set them up. Then on the day before, setting up, followed the next day manning stalls, stewarding, being on the door, tidying up and many more jobs that will help make this another successful year. We also welcome any new ideas that you may have to make this event the best yet.

The Tree Festival will be in the usual capable hands of Lillian Graham 01695 423119 and the Fair in the less capable but willing hands of Mark Taylor 01695 722854. Please contact either of them with your offers of help etc as soon as possible.

We want this event not just to provide a monetary result but it is also one of the big ways in which we can provide evidence of our presence within the area and bring more people into our church and perhaps encourage them to become part of the Worshipping community here at Emmanuel

Thanks

Mark

A MAN OF FAITH

Tribute to Stuart Anderson

I first got to know Stuart when I joined a rambling club in which he and his wife were members; during many conversations whilst we were walking, climbing or clambering as part of the group, I realised this was a man of varied talents - come rain or shine, frost, wind or snow he had studied maps and found suitable routes and even found picnic spots or tea-rooms to satisfy end-of-walk thirsts. With banter and good humour he encouraged the faint-hearted, shouldered an extra back pack or given a leg-up over a stile.

The ups and downs of family life were taken in his stride and friends were very welcome at his door – what gave him all this wisdom when life for many seems so unfair? I found his trust and faith in God was the answer as he worshipped at Emmanuel Church; he invited others to join him on the special Days of this Church and displayed his faith in so many quiet, unobtrusive ways.

Stuart found a talent for painting and several paintings he has gifted are already proudly adorning walls of friends. His art has also been displayed on stage as he took part in various amateur dramatics for charity – he had a regular following for his enjoyable humorous characters and his talents also added to skills in scene building and furnishing.

Stuart's faith in God has been the lynch-pin of his life and he richly deserves to hear "Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant"! (Printed on page 18)

Gladys Pilkington

Saturday Coffee Shop

10.30 to noon
Except August



Volunteers wanted for a Few Saturdays per
year - Please contact Pat Loch

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 17th 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,
Ormskirk L39 4RW
Tel: 01695 580270
Email – nglcnn24@gmail.com

Each month we are praying as a Church for a different theme.

For December the theme is 'Light in the Darkness'. The Christmas period can be a difficult time for many people. Lord we lift those who struggle at this time to You. May the light of our Lord Jesus shine in the darkness and bring true peace.

For January the theme is 'New Beginnings'. As we share our covenant together as a Church and start on our new building project, may we know the joy of starting afresh with You, as You show us the way to walk with Jesus each new day.



Advent Fellowship - 'It's a Wonderful life'

The film 'It's a Wonderful life', is known for sharing a message of true value and meaning, and is annually watched by families and friends when Christmas time comes around again. But what can 'It's a Wonderful Life' say about advent, and about God's plan for the world? During three sessions we will watch snippets of the film and explore God's message of hope through the giving of his Son, Jesus Christ. The sessions will take place from 7.15-8.30pm on Thursday December 7th, 14th and 21st. All are very to come and join us.

**The verse below has been taken from Stuart Anderson's
Funeral card with the kind permission of his wife Irene.
It is copied here for the comfort of all who have suffered a sad loss.**

A limb has fallen from the family tree ..
I hear a voice that whispers Grieve not for me'.
Remember the best times the laughter, the songs ..
The good I lived while I was strong.
Continue my heritage I'm counting on you ..
Keep on smiling the sun will shine through.
My mind is at ease my soul is at rest ..
Remembering all, how I was truly blessed.
Continue traditions no matter how small ..
Go on with your lives don't stare at the wall.
I miss you all dearly so keep up your chin ..
Until that fine day we're together again

By Anon

KNIT AND NATTER

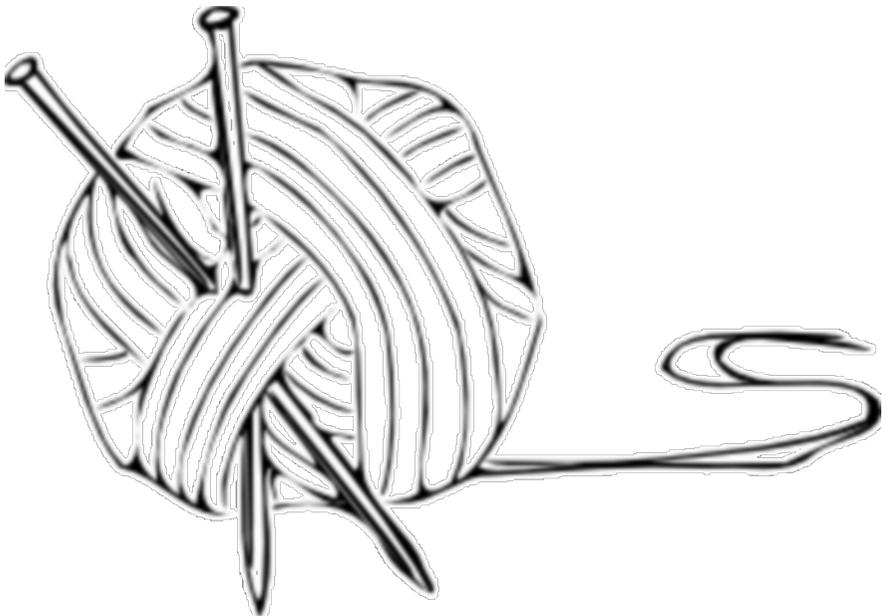
Due to the success of 'Knit and Natter' it has been decided to continue this in 2018 - every 3rd Thursday of the month at 2.30p.m.

Naturally Tea and Cakes will be part of it.

The first 2018 meeting will be 18th January.

The theme will be knitting gloves or mittens + for those with dementia.

Jean Whalley tel 576284 contact Number.



Spirit of Christmas



**A Church full of
Decorated Christmas Trees**

A GOOD DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY
EMMANUEL METHODIST
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

9th December

Saturday 10-30 to 4-00

**Many stalls, Live Christmas Music,
Father Christmas Here
All day Refreshments**

Admission by Programme £2.

Children Free

Derek Nuttall

As our November issue began to circulate, I received a phone call from Lilian to inform me that Derek had died suddenly at home earlier in the week, and that she herself had been readmitted to Preston Royal Hospital.

The previous month, Derek had celebrated his 90th birthday, so there was much to be thankful for, but they had both been to the Royal for a check-up and, whilst there, Lilian had slipped in one of the corridors and had been detained.

They were both active members of Emmanuel. Derek was secretary of the Wesley Guild (later to become Emmanuel Fellowship) when we joined forces with our Congregational (URC) friends.

Lilian, Derek and daughter Anne lived in Wigan Road and then Burscough Street before Derek's work required them to move up to Fulwood, Preston.

We remember Lilian and Anne and her family in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

P.S. Later that evening I received a phone call from Peter Harden in Northern Ireland to update me. He himself lost Charlotte after a lengthy struggle with Alzheimer's and wished to be remembered to his friends at Emmanuel.

Dennis Helliwell.

COLOUR ME IN



You've probably guessed that Jesus and his Mum are in the picture but who are the three people, facing his mum, that came to visit them with presents?

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

6th-8th 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

Jokes wanted

Do you have any short
jokes to send in for
publication in the

IN TOUCH?

PLEASE SEND THEM IN

FREE OF COPYRIGHT PLEASE

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