

THE

March, April & May 2024

ELBOW

The Magazine of Formby Methodist Church

Joy
To All

From the Editor

As I write, our Anniversary celebrations are about to really take off (see inside for all the details).

On the very same day as this edition of the 'Elbow' appears, my book on 150 years of Methodism in the Formby Community will be launched. It will be available @ £10 from Derbyshires in Chapel Lane and from Elbow Lane itself on Sundays. Copies can also be received by post - see p39 for details. All proceeds will go to Church funds.

Also in March there are two exciting events in Church - details on pp6,7. In April, we are delighted to welcome the Houghton Players from Southport for an evening of Magic and Mayhem (see p31). And on 10 May, we will welcome a very special guest - Dr Ian Tracey, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Organist, accompanied by Jack Watson, tenor.

In early June we will have our first Flower Festival for many years - see p33. This will be a very special event, which will require a lot of help from the congregation - if you can help, please speak to Vicky.

On Easter Sunday our guest preacher will be the Chair of District, Rev Dr Sheryl Anderson, and in July, we will be particularly honoured to welcome the Vice President of the Methodist Conference, Mrs Carolyn Godfrey, who will lead our 150th Anniversary Service. Do look out for further details of these services and other events.

The 150th celebrations obviously figure prominently in this issue of the 'Elbow'; however, you will also find articles on Easter and our Eco initiatives, including our gaining the bronze award (see p18). A big thank you to Jenny for all her hard work behind the scenes.

As ever, my sincere thanks to everyone who have helped me in whatever way with the compilation of this magazine - and particularly Graham and Helen. Also a very big thank you to all those - and there are many - who have helped me with the production of my book and are helping with the arrangements for the anniversary celebrations.

May I wish everyone at Elbow Lane a very Happy Easter.

**Copy deadline for the June - August 'Elbow' will be
12 May**

(NB That is also the date of our AGM)

SERVICES AT ELBOW LANE

3 Mar, 10.30	Holy Communion	Rev Sheila Prest
3 Mar, 6.30	Circuit Service	Lord Street West, Southport
10 Mar, 10.30	Mothering Sunday Service	Rev Derek Bowker
17 Mar, 10.30	Morning Service	Mr Nigel Mawdsley
17 Mar, 6.30	Evening Service	Rev Marie-Anne Kent
24 Mar, 10.30	Palm Sunday Service	Mr Rodney Hoyle
31 Mar, 8.30	Holy Communion	Rev Derek Bowker
31 Mar, 10.30	Easter Sunday Service & Holy Communion	Rev Dr Sheryl Anderson
7 Apr, 10.30	Morning Service	Rev Sheila Prest
14 Apr, 10.30	Holy Communion	Rev Derek Bowker
14 Apr, 6.30	Circuit Service	Lord Street West, Southport
21 Apr, 10.30	Morning Service	Christian Aid
21 Apr, 10.30	Evening Service	Rev Sonya Marshall
28 Apr, 8.30	Holy Communion	Rev Marie-Anne Kent
28 Apr, 10.30	Morning Service	Mrs Debs Attwater
5 May, 10.30	Holy Communion	Rev Sheila Prest
12 May, 10.30	Morning Service	Rev Derek Bowker
12 May, 6.30	Easter Offering Circuit Service	Rev Sheila Prest
19 May, 10.30	Morning Service	Mrs Shirley Potts
26 May, 8.30	Holy Communion	Rev Derek Bowker
26 May, 10.30	Morning Service	Miss Lesley Goddard

Minister's Letter

We can often be tempted off course: When I came to Formby we were in the Crosby Circuit and I knew my way around. However, when we moved to the Southport circuit in September 2023 I really didn't know how to get from one church to another. The area was alien to me. But fortunately I have a Sat Nav! Now you either love them or hate them I know. There are those who always read a map and maps I have to say are good but when you're in the car on your own then reading a map while you are driving is not an option! Sat Nav is great but I know that when it gets things wrong it can be disastrous like the difference between Bangor in Wales or Bangor in Northern Ireland!

You can travel using your own sense of direction! But that too can have dire consequences because sometimes its important to get to where we are aiming to go.

If we ask these questions this Easter: *"Where have I come from?"* Well we come from God. *"Where are we going?"* We are on a journey, we are on a trajectory. Maybe we don't know the way, so we need some navigation tools. Perhaps we need a Sat Nav to guide us or for some, an old fashioned and well trusted map. Jesus was the greatest Servant of all and showed by His example. The words of the Bible herald all of that and it surely as Christians has to be our very own Sat Nav.

If we think of our current world with indiscriminate bombing of the innocent, people suffering due to debt, those not able to heat their homes, people struggling to feed their children and those homeless living on our streets in poverty and children fearful and starving in our own nation - it is not surprising that sometimes we feel helpless and also fearful in the world of which we are a part.

Yet Jesus got on his knees and in faith prayed to his father safe in the

knowledge that God would never desert him and God would walk alongside him in all of that trauma and trial of Holy Week. And we too can know the same.

Thankfully we have a tried and tested Sat Nav. Jesus is our Sat Nav in all the traumas of this world. He showed by example the way to heaven. He is our compass and will help us navigate the unpredictable waters of this life

What will be will be and we need not be fearful of the uncertainties of this world for they are only temporary.

May we this Easter take the time out to pray, read the scriptures and follow the journey to Easter Day and to celebrate the risen Christ knowing that nothing in this world can ever separate us from the Love of God.

Love and peace

Sheila

Some Anonymous Observations for Lent

The shortest distance between a problem and its solution is the distance between your knees and the floor

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything

People are like tea bags - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are

Meditation has a digesting power and turns special truth into nourishment

Adversity does not make us frail; it only shows us how frail we are

Fight truth decay - study the Bible daily

Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church



Formby Methodist Church
Elbow Lane

150th Anniversary

Commemorative Events at Elbow Lane during 2024

Thursday 7 March, 7.30

Three Formby Artists

An illustrated talk by Joan Rimmer and Stephen Gerrard

Tuesday 19 March, 7.30

G:Force Gospel Choir, Formby

Seats for this concert should be reserved in advance and can be obtained, at no charge, via Eventbrite ([eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)) or from Formby Methodist Church on Sundays. Entry will still be by donation on the night.

Friday 12 April, 7.30

**'Magic and Mayhem'
The Gilbert & Sullivan Story**

The Houghton Players, Southport
Tickets £8.00 cash at the door

Friday 10 May, 7.30

**Ian Tracey (Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Organist)
with Jack Watson (Tenor)**

Thursday 6 – Sunday 9 June

Flower Festival

Tuesday 25 June, 7.30

Sefton Ladies Choir

Friday 11 October, 7.30

Aughton Male Voice Choir



Formby Methodist Church

Elbow Lane

150th ANNIVERSARY

Commemorative Event

(in conjunction with Formby Civic Society)

Thursday 7 March, 7.30 pm

Formby Past & Present

**A nostalgic journey in words and music
through Formby's past as illustrated in the
paintings of three Formby artists**

Presented by two Formby legends

Joan Rimmer and Stephen Gerrard

Entry by donation on the night

Ukraine - Two Years Later

Although Russian troops were massing near the borders of Ukraine in February 2022, we naively believed their denial that an attack was imminent.

Since then, an all-out war has resulted in tens of thousands of civilian deaths, and hundreds of thousands of military casualties. A quarter of the Ukrainian population has been displaced. Eight million are now refugees, spread across Europe.

Few of us realised that a war between the two countries really started in 2014, when pro-Russian regions of Ukraine rebelled and Crimea was annexed. Indeed, hostilities between the two countries had begun even earlier. Ukraine had joined the Soviet Union in 1922 and ten years later lost more than a million of its population in the 'Holodomor' famine, now widely regarded as genocide inflicted by Joseph Stalin, the Soviet leader.

Relationships between the two countries have always been turbulent, and Russia's possessive attitude towards its neighbour is deeply resented.

Ukrainian refugees in the UK are mainly women and children, for their men are needed for war service. So, they have organised themselves into self-help groups, painstakingly learning to read and write in English, as well as working full or part-time and keeping up their morale by organising groups for young and old. Choirs have sprung up, often assisted by British musicians. One member wrote movingly of how singing helped her cope with the mental trauma of her homeland fighting for survival.

Ukrainians are unceasingly grateful for our hospitality, but they fear our compassion may wear thin, as our attention has been diverted by news of the barbarity between Israelis and Palestinians. That conflict also has a long history of smouldering hatred on both sides. Wars rarely solve disputes. When wearied people recognise their futility, settlements may be negotiated. Forgiveness takes longer.

(from the Parish Pump)

The Story Behind the Hymn

'Thine Be The Glory'

This has to be one of the most popular and inspiring hymns ever written, partly because of the words and partly because of the tune. But while the tune was written by none other than the composer of the *'Messiah'*, Handel, how many people have heard of the hymn writer - Edmond Louis Budry?!



Budry was born in Vevey, near Montreux on Lake Geneva, Switzerland in August 1854. He studied theology in Lausanne and duly became a pastor in a couple of Swiss parishes. In 1889, however, he decided to return to the place of his birth, where he served as pastor in the Free Church there for 35 years. He retired in 1923 but continued to write hymns, many of which have been included in French hymnaries. Budry died in Vevey in 1932.

By far his most famous composition is *'Thine Be The Glory'*, written after the death of his wife, Marie. It was translated from French into English by Richard Hoyle in 1923. Its popularity was

cemented in 1933 when it was included in *'The Methodist Hymn Book'* - the first in Europe, in fact, to include the hymn.

Celebrating as it does the Resurrection of Jesus, with references to the appearance of angels in the scene of the empty tomb, it is a hymn which is sung particularly around Easter but also all year round; indeed, it is often sung at funerals, and it is usually played at the *'Last Night of the Proms'*, although the audience traditionally whistle the well-known tune, *Maccabeus'*.

Handel had initially composed the tune as a chorus, *'See the Conquering Hero Comes'*, for his oratorio *'Joshua'*, but well aware that he had come up with a good tune - he once told a friend "you will live to see it a greater favourite with the people than my other finer things" - he used it again in a later oratorio, *'Judas Maccabeus'*, where it depicts a military

victory. By all accounts, the tune was a great favourite of none other than John Wesley.

Indeed, its military connotations fit in well with the metaphor of the resurrected Christ as a victorious warrior who has vanquished death and the powers of evil. The central theme of the victorious Christ is drawn from 1 Corinthians 15: verse 55 asks:

*"Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"*

While verse 57 affirms:

*"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

The result is a hymn which perfectly displays the glory and brilliance of Christ's Resurrection. The first verse discusses the power of the Resurrection:

*"Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
Thou o'er death has won."*

The second verse tells us to quench our fear now that the Prince of Peace reigns.

*"Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom."*

The final verse tells Christ's people to shed any doubts they may have now that Christ has conquered the grave:

*"No more we doubt Thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without Thee,
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
though Thy deathless love,
bring us safe through Jordan
to Thy home above."*

And so, with its powerful and affirming lyrics and stirring tune, it is hardly surprising that this is a hymn which has given so much encouragement and achieved enormous popularity since World War II.

Alastair



Formby Methodist Church
Elbow Lane

150th Anniversary

Special Anniversary Services

Easter Sunday, 31 March, 10.30

Rev Dr Sheryl Anderson

Chair of Liverpool Methodist District

Sunday 14 July, 10.30

Church 150th Anniversary Service

Mrs Carolyn Godfrey

Vice President of the Methodist Conference

Sunday 6 October, 10.30

150th Anniversary of First Service at Elbow Lane

Rev David Somerville

Bury, ex Crosby Circuit

Everyone Welcome!

Also

6-9 June

Flower Festival

and many other special events

Rules of living well after 60

The King is 75. Last year he did 516 engagements, and he has no intention of slowing down. Instead, he was keen to be ‘back up and running’ as soon as possible after his recent operation. Is he right?

“Absolutely – you shouldn’t slow down,” says Sir Muir Gray, 80, former chief knowledge officer for the NHS. *“Ageing exists as a normal biological process but until the age of 90, it has little effect on your ability to look after yourself, engage with others or get about independently. In fact, paradoxically, as we get older, we need to become more active – physically and mentally. Ageing doesn’t make you feel old – disease and loss of fitness will.”*

A recent study found that people who had positive ideas about their own ageing (*“I have as much pep as last year”*) lived for an average of 22.6 years after they first participated in the study, while those who felt less positively about ageing, lived for just 15 years more on average.

Of course, getting older does involve some loss of energy. But slowing down a bit is never something to be ashamed of, and getting enough rest is the very cornerstone of leading a good life.

Exercise is also crucial as we get older. Focus on the four S’s: stamina, strength, skill (balance) and suppleness. Maintain your stamina by brisk walking every day for 30 minutes. And when you are ill, get up again as soon as you reasonably can. Otherwise, you are at risk of ‘deconditioning syndrome’, a physiological decline where muscle strength can decrease dramatically if you are over 70.

Thoughtfully review your personal life-balance. Try to find the ‘sweet spot’ between activity and rest. Gray advises: *“If you’re only doing activities, you are inevitably going to burn out. But if you only rest, you will become sedentary and you’re more likely to fall ill, feel disconnected and lonely.”* And don’t run on a hamster wheel of someone else’s making. This Lent, before God, rethink your real purpose and calling in life. And live it!

(from the Parish Pump)

Grandchildren don't make a man feel old; it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother.

Eco News

It was lovely to be part of the Christmas tree display in church. So much work went into each tree! We appreciated your positive comments and were encouraged that the number of Christmas cards sent to 'friends at church' is growing! Thank you to all who took part.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us with our coffee morning. We raised a total of £232.22. It will help us buy compost and plants for the planters that will enhance the front of church as part of the 150th anniversary.

Time to celebrate!! Our Church has been awarded a Bronze Eco Award for reaching targets in five categories (see over). Special thanks to the rest of the Eco group and the Property group but everyone has helped by supporting our initiatives and doing what they can to help look after God's awesome world. We should all celebrate as everyone contributes! Below are some actions from each category.

Worship - We celebrate God's creation in worship, pray for those affected by climate change, and have a Climate Sunday service.

Church Buildings - The lighting and heating have been made more energy efficient. We use biodegradable washing up liquid and you have used the recycling bins, reducing our general waste.

Church Land - We stock a bird feeder during the Winter, grow plants that benefit wildlife, and will leave the grass near the notice board unmown until June to encourage a greater variety of wildlife.

Community & Global (includes supporting local and overseas initiatives to reduce pollution, aid conservation and sustainability) - At church we use fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar, have fairtrade stalls and try to avoid products that contain unsustainable palm oil. We join the Formby & Freshfield Beach Litter Angels in their litter picks. If you want to join in with this initiative look at their facebook

page or contact them at beachlitterangels@gmail.com. We will put details of some of their events in the notices this summer.

Lifestyle (includes the way we travel, limit waste or pollution, reduce energy consumption, and make ethical choices when shopping) - Many of you walk, cycle, share car journeys or taxis and use the bus or train. You join in with a communal Christmas card scheme. We regularly share information and ideas on how to care for God's earth.

'Just One Thing' We like the concept that if everyone made small manageable changes in their lifestyle that benefit the environment (e.g. change to block soap, use white vinegar as a cleaner), these small changes would add up to give large benefits.

We know that everyone's circumstances and budget are different, and that some ideas we share would not be healthy, practical, or affordable for you! As we are sure that many of you have tips that you could share, please write down your 'Just One Thing' ideas for us and hand them to me or another Eco Group member.

Gilmooss Recycling Discovery Centre We intend to organise another visit soon. It is fascinating to see all the machinery working and a great opportunity to ask questions. Contact me if you are interested.

As the weather improves many of us will enjoy seeing the glory of Spring unfold and praise God for his beautiful creation. Let us also keep in mind those affected by extreme weather events, such as drought and floods, pray for them and find ways to help them.

Jenny Wallbanks (tel: 873208)

World Water Day, 22 March

World Water Day wants to focus attention on the global water crisis, and raise awareness of the 2.2 billion people still living without access to safe water. It hopes to inspire action to tackle the water and sanitation crisis. This year's theme will be *'Leveraging Water for Peace'*.



Bronze Eco Church Award Certificate

This is to certify that

Formby Methodist Church

has won a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

Worship and Teaching
Management of Buildings and Land
Community and Global Engagement
Lifestyle

Signed

Date

29 January 2024

CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk



Memories of 1974

In this 150th anniversary year, I thought it would be interesting to read some memories of past anniversary years. I did not expect to find any from 1874 or even 1924, but 1974 certainly seemed a possibility. And so it transpired - I have had an excellent response! Some were one-liners — they appear on the centre spread; others were more detailed - these follow below and on p22, and also on pp28,29.

Ed

Brenda Domville actually recalls the Centenary Service!!

On the day of the Centenary Service I was in the Church with my three young children, my husband Colin was not there, as he was on duty at Crosby Fire Station. It was a glorious hot summer day and all the doors and windows were wide open. The Church was packed with a very large congregation. My abiding memory is of a small girl, of about ten, who appeared in the doorway of the choir vestry, carrying a large cake, with 100 lit candles. However, fanned by the draught from doors and windows, it went up into one large flame! She was a very brave little girl who didn't panic and drop the cake, but instead bent down and put it on the floor in front of her. What the consequences would have been if her hair or clothes had caught fire doesn't bear thinking about. Nor does my husband's reaction, if he had got a call at the Fire Station to say that the Church was on fire, knowing that we were all inside!!!

Michael Roberts remembers turning 13.

That was the year when an older boy at school succumbed to meningitis and I became aware we are only here by God's grace. Rev John Wore had just become the Minister at Blundellsands and was later to take the confirmation classes I attended. I recall the fuel crisis and a change of government. There was also a new 'Doctor Who' - a 'local lad', Tom Baker.



We were at school

Left PE College to start my first job



Just 2 years old



Teacher in Sheffield



My son was born



Living in Kuwait





We were married!



Radiographer in newly
opened
Aintree Hospital



We were working in an office



We'd just moved to Formby
with 3 small children

Scout &
Brownie
Leaders



Bill Roberts - and no doubt he is not alone in this! - recalls 1974 as a significant year in the history of Liverpool FC.

In 1974 Liverpool beat Newcastle United 3-0 to win the FA Cup. Shortly after Bill Shankly resigned. A few days later Bob Paisley became manager.

However, he sportingly does not mention that 1974 was also the year that Manchester United were actually relegated!!

Jenny Hunter has fond memories of 1974!!

In September we moved to Formby. Mike had started a job in Liverpool and I came to St Luke's to teach. Our membership in the Methodist Church was transferred from Kirkby Lonsdale to Elbow Lane. We had not completed our purchase of a house on the Alt Estate so we stayed with a friend in Liverpool and I travelled to Formby by train. When we finally got into the house Mike went off to Nigeria (in the middle of a Coup!) with his firm, leaving me in Formby with two fireside chairs and a lilo for a bed! Happy days!

Alan Roberts recalls his involvement in what proved to be a momentous year for the Formby community - and a lasting legacy!

Anne and I attended a public meeting, at which all Council members were present. The objective was to gain support for a Swimming Pool in Formby; however, it soon became apparent that the Council had no intention of supporting the scheme. So I, for my sins, proposed we set up a committee to put pressure on the Local Authority. We started raising funds by holding various events. One Saturday morning we collected a mile of pennies! And our children collected jam jars then caught tadpoles from our pond to sell to friends - all in aid of the Pool!

And here we are 50 years on!

Time for the Great Daffodil Appeal

March brings us the Great Daffodil Appeal. This annual campaign is a fundraising initiative by the Marie Curie charity, which provides care and support to people living with terminal illnesses and their families.

The Appeal says: *“Right now one in four people don't get the care they need at the end of life. With your support, we can help bring end of life care and support to everyone who needs it, in their homes and in our hospices.”*

Here are some ways to participate:



- **Purchase a Daffodil Pin:** and wear it as a symbol of support.

- **Organise or Attend Fundraising Events:** many events, eg charity walks, bake sales, concerts, raise funds during the appeal.

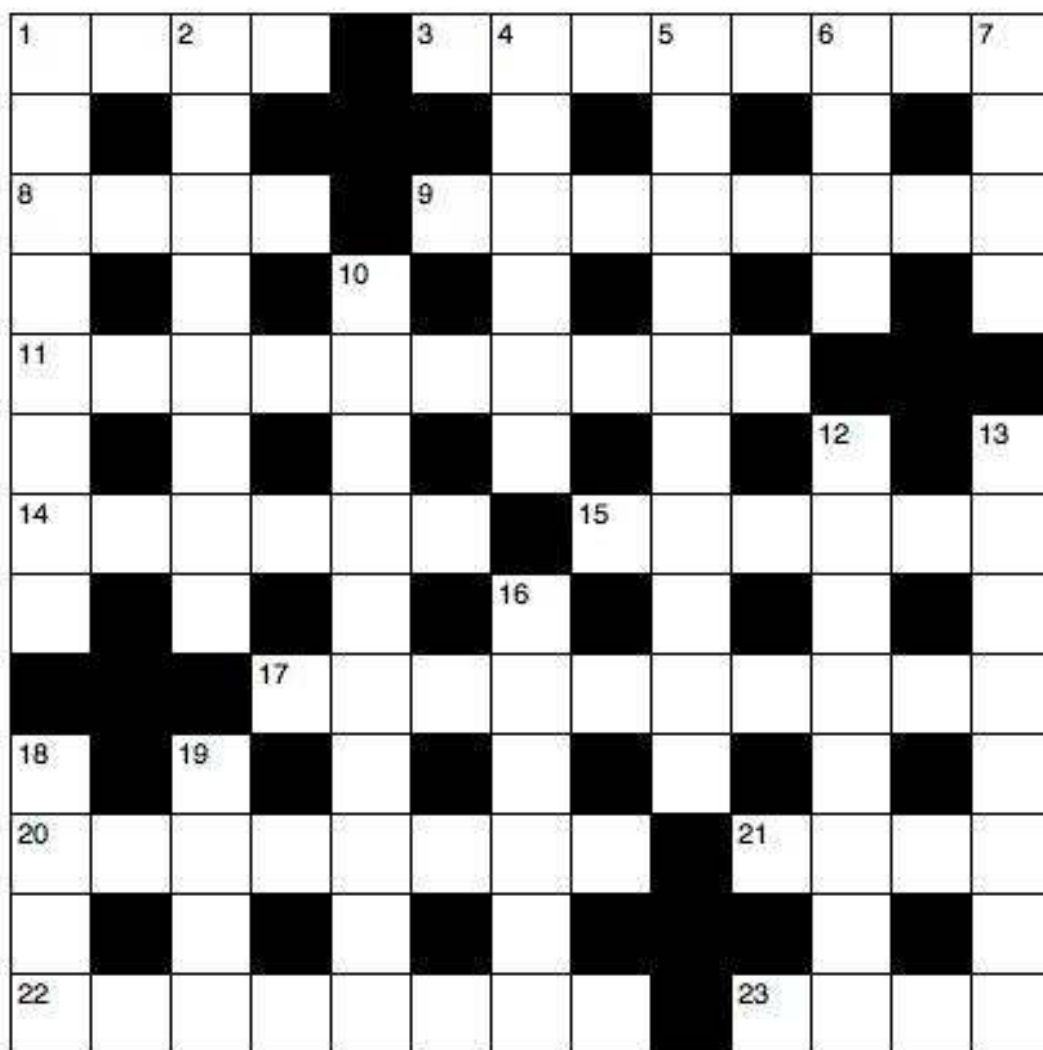
- **Donate Online:** visit the website <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil> to make a donation online, which goes directly to providing care for those in need.

- **Volunteer Your Time:** to help with activities during the appeal.

- **Spread Awareness:** use social media to encourage others to get involved and donate.

The Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal was established to honour the memory of Marie Curie, a pioneering scientist known for her work on radioactivity, as well as her dedication to providing care to those with cancer. The daffodil, a symbol of renewal and hope, was chosen to represent the campaign's message of support and care for individuals with terminal illnesses.

((from the Parish Pump))



Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the Christ's blood (4)
 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on _ _' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
 8 Seep (4)
 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
 14 'A city on a hill _ be hidden' (Matt 5:14) (6)

- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12-13) (6)
 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matt 26:36, 39) (10)
 20 'Only in his home town and in his _ _ is a prophet without honour' (Matt 13:57) (3,5)
 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matt 27:26) (8)
 23 Eye sore (4)

Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
 5 Pentecostal denomination, _ of God (10)
 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
 10 ' _ _ , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
 13 Jesus to Peter: ' _ _ of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

(Answers on p39)

Formby, Altcar & Hightown Churches Together

QUIET TIME WITH GOD

‘Journeying through Holy Week’

led by

Rev Jane Morgan

As we move into Holy Week this is an opportunity to spend some time in God’s presence and reflect on Jesus’ Journey to the Cross and how that can speak into our lives today.

Using a blend of music, prayer, art and science, this time together will help us to deepen our relationship with God, refresh our soul and enable us to live joyfully. Life is precious and we can live, even in the challenging times that we may all experience, knowing that God hold us close, loves us and wants the best for us.

All are welcome!

Sat 23 March, 10.00 –12.00 noon
The Bier House, St Peter’s Church, Formby

Wednesday Coffee Morning

21 Feb	at the home of	Brenda Domville
6 Mar		Barbara Hilton
20 Mar		Ann Webb
3 Apr		Pauline Seaman
17 Apr		Vicky Jenions
1 May		Barbara Giles
15 May		Mabel Walsh

We are a friendly little group and if you would like to join us please ring me and I will let you know the address of the venue. Vicky (873317)

A Simple Quiz on the Book of Exodus!

1. Who rescued Moses from the basket in the bulrushes?
(a) *Pharaoh's daughter* (b) *Pharaoh's maid* (c) *Pharaoh's wife*
2. How many plagues did God send on Egypt?
(a) *5* (b) *10* (c) *15*
3. What was the second plague?
(a) *frogs* (b) *water turned to blood* (c) *locusts*
4. What is the name of the sea the Israelites crossed to escape the Egyptians?
(a) *Dead Sea* (b) *Black Sea* (c) *Red Sea*
5. At what place did the Israelites arrive to find the water was too bitter to drink and God made it sweet?
(a) *Marah* (b) *Elim* (c) *Horeb*
6. Which bird did God provide for meat in the wilderness?
(a) *pigeon* (b) *quail* (c) *turtledove*
7. What guided the Israelites through the wilderness?
(a) *a star in the sky* (b) *Moses had visions telling him where to lead the people* (c) *a pillar of cloud and of fire*
8. When there was no water to drink, how did Moses provide it?
(a) *from earthen jars* (b) *from his rod* (c) *from a rock*
9. On which mountain were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments
(a) *Mount Sinai* (b) *Mount Nebo* (c) *Mount of Olives*
10. What Is the seventh commandment?
(a) *Thou shalt not covet* (b) *Thou shalt not commit adultery*
(c) *Thou shalt not bear false witness*
11. What was on top of the Ark of the Covenant?
(a) *two cherubim* (b) *candlestick* (c) *Aaron's rod*
12. What compelled the Israelites to form and worship the golden calf
(a) *they wanted to make a statue to the Lord*
(b) *they made it as a symbol of their freedom from slavery*
(c) *they didn't know what had happened to Moses*
13. What was the name of a man who was given the Spirit of God, to enable him to become a good craftsman, and assist with the building of the tabernacle?
(a) *Caleb* (b) *Bezaleel* (c) *Buz*
14. Who was Moses' successor?
(a) *Joshua* (b) *Caleb* (c) *Aaron*
15. For how many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?
(a) *20 years* (b) *30 years* (c) *40 years*

(Answers on p39)

A recent sermon at Elbow Lane on 'Second Chances' by Rev Ian Hu inspired Colin McLellan to write this article. A contribution by his wife Ivy appears opposite.

Mysterious Ways

In 1974 I embarked on a career change. Until then I had been working with a local accountancy practice to which I had been indentured whilst studying for my professional qualifications. Having qualified as a chartered certified accountant I had opted to remain with the firm with its large and varied client base. I then decided to experience employment in industry and enjoyed a successful career in a variety of posts throughout central Scotland.

I was born into a loving Christian family and brought up in the Church of Scotland, where both my parents were active members. I was a regular Sunday school attender, Boys Brigade member and when I was old enough I became a full member of the Church. During this time religious observance had been a large part of my life but regrettably as my career advanced and I moved from home, my church attendance diminished and soon had ceased completely.

It was only when I returned to my home town some years later after my marriage had failed, that I came to realise that there is more to life than sacrificing everything to the pursuit of career advancement, larger home, expensive cars and yet more financial reward. I rediscovered my faith, joined a local Church where the Minister insisted all members must contribute to Church life and suggested that as I could sing he would recruit me into the Church choir. I soon joined one of the foremost male voice choirs in Glasgow, a relationship that lasted for over 25 years until my retirement.

Choir rehearsals were after morning service so the choristers had to wait for the congregation to leave before we could begin singing. One Sunday I happened to pick up a copy of the Church of Scotland magazine, *'Life and Work'*, and spotted an advertisement for a Christian dating agency!

I was convinced that I would never remarry yet within three months of joining the agency, which had to be sponsored by a Church minister, I had met the most wonderful Christian woman and after a short courtship, conducted across central Scotland Ivy and I married and set up home in Glasgow. This was over 26 years ago and our marriage, careers and Church life have all flourished.

When we retired nine years ago we were both keen to move to the seaside and as Ivy had family in Merseyside we decided to move there and settled in Formby. During lockdown, after prayerful reflection and influenced by the weekly Zoom services and teaching we had experienced from Methodist Central Hall, we moved from the Church we had been attending in the village to join Elbow Lane, where we continue to enjoy the worship and fellowship.

As I reflect on our journey we never cease to be amazed that we have met, married, settled in Glasgow, retired to Formby and found happiness together throughout. The Lord does indeed move in mysterious way

Memories of 1974

In 1974 I was living with my parents and my three year old daughter in the Clubmoor area of Liverpool where I grew up. I had been at Teacher Training College in Darlington for three years before returning to live full time with my parents and daughter Marianne in Liverpool.

During the summer holidays I worked as a barmaid and a chalet maid in different holiday camps. While working in Weymouth I met a beautiful young man, Keith, and we fell in love. He lived in London with his mum and dad so meeting up wasn't going to be easy once we left the camp but we did it.

In January 1971, I spent a weekend with him in his family home in London. On the Monday he had to go to work, so was unable to come with me to the station. We waved goodbye looking forward with excitement to our next meeting.

We kept in contact by phone. But a fortnight after our weekend together, I received a very distressing call from Keith's brother to tell me he had been attacked and was seriously ill in hospital. Somehow I managed to afford the train fare to visit him. He was unconscious, wired up to tubes and monitors, and his beautiful thick dark wavy hair had been cut off so they could operate.

I remember whispering to him while he lay there, as I kissed his long beautiful hands, that I might be pregnant. Sadly, he never recovered and he died two days later. I found out that I was about three weeks pregnant when he died. I managed to complete my studies and qualified as a primary school teacher; and I gave birth to a beautiful little daughter, Marianne, later on that year.

I was very lucky that my parents and family supported us throughout and we were all overjoyed to welcome Marianne into our family. I did tell Keith's parents and in spite of the shock, they welcomed us and supported us with love and joy. We loved each other dearly and that bond of love stayed with us.

I applied for a teaching post with Liverpool Education Authority and got a position as a Primary School teacher in West Derby. My dad had said, "*Don't tell anyone you have a child.*" Not knowing how people in the work place might respond to my being an unmarried mother I took his wise advice.

After a year, however, I did feel the pressure of not being able to tell colleagues about Marianne. I confided in Elaine, one of the teachers I thought had become my friend and was relieved to find she was sympathetic, supportive and excited to hear my news. She encouraged me to tell the headteacher first and then staff about Marianne and in 1974 this is what I did. Marianne was now three years of age. To my joy and delight everyone was supportive and encouraging, indeed some were upset that I hadn't told them before.

Ivy Chapple

Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment ,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without wine,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,
..... then you are probably the family dog!

'MAGIC AND MAYHEM: The Gilbert and Sullivan Story'

Many years ago, two men were brought together to write a Christmas show. One was an up-and-coming young composer of 'serious music'; the other a failed barrister, with an amazing talent for writing comic song-lyrics. Nobody would have foreseen that this unlikely duo would go on to produce a dozen or so of the most famous musical shows of all time — works still regularly performed by professionals and amateurs alike, the world over. `

In 'Magic and Mayhem', the award-winning Houghton Players illustrate the fascinating story of Gilbert and Sullivan's often stormy partnership, through these immortal melodies and ingenious lyrics. This is entertainment that has stood the test of time, in an ever-changing world. Gilbert's satire rings truer and fresher today than they could ever have imagined: and it's all wrapped up in Sullivan's music — music that can switch from exuberance to poignancy in an instant, capturing all the magic and the mayhem of these iconic shows. Come and enjoy an evening with our talented soloists and chorus, as we celebrate these joyous shows, in all their melodic, humorous glory! (see opposite)

Houghton Players
Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Presents



Magic and Mayhem!

The Gilbert and Sullivan Story

Friday April 12th: Elbow Lane Methodist Church,
Formby 7:30 p.m.

Saturday April 13th: Hesketh Bank Community Centre
7:30 p.m.

Friday April 19th: EDDA, Ainsdale 7:30 p.m.

Saturday April 20th: Holy Trinity Parish Centre
Southport 7.30 p.m.



TICKETS £8.00 FROM RAY DUTTON 01704 578232
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FLOWER ROTA

3 Mar	Iola Douglas	Margaret
10 Mar	Michel & Annette Lempereur	Margaret
17 Mar	Jane & Alastair Gillies	Barbara
24 Mar	Sylvia Robinson	Barbara
31 Mar	Barbara Hilton	Vicky
7 Apr	David Miles	Vicky
14 Apr	Brenda Domville	Margaret
21 Apr	Angela & Alan Tulley	Margaret
28 Apr	Pauline Poynton	Barbara
5 May	Mo Swain	Barbara
12 May	Jean & Roy Allan	Vicky
19 May	Edna Gilmour	Vicky
26 May	Peter Warren	Margaret

Please put your donation in the envelope provided, sign it and whether you can gift aid your donation, then give it to the flower arranger as listed above. Thank you.

Vicky (873317)

Ladies Fellowship

Our average attendance this year has grown to over 30 members. We are enjoying an excellent programme and anyone who would like to join us for an afternoon of fellowship is most welcome.

Programme for March

- 7th Shirley Potts - *'School Worker Trust'*
- 14th Ruth Bloom - *Musical Chair Exercises*
- 21st Visit to Lady Green Lady Centre
- 28th Rev Sheila Prest (Maundy Thursday)

Our new April - August programme will be available soon. For further details contact Irene Watts (876219)



Formby Methodist Church

Elbow Lane

150th ANNIVERSARY

Special Commemorative Event

Thursday 6 - Sunday 9 June

10.30 - 4.00 Thursday - Saturday

10.30 - 11.30 Sunday Service

Flower Festival

Also

Exhibition on the history of Elbow Lane

Refreshments available

Free admission, all donations welcome

Norma Murrain designs Christian jewellery and has produced a version of the Coventry Passion Cross (www.silverfishjewellery.co.uk). As Easter approaches, she contemplates the Coventry Passion Cross

The Coventry Passion Cross

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement that bought us peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:4-6

Coventry Cathedral uses as its emblem the Coventry Passion Cross – three nails together forming the Cross of Christ.

The first nail is the carpenter's nail and focuses us on the purpose of the nail. We are reminded that Jesus worked as a carpenter before entering His ministry. As He sat there in His carpenter's workshop, smoothing and working the wood with love, did He contemplate the rugged cross on which He would one day be crucified? As He hammered nails into wood, did He ever accidentally hammer one into His finger, and as He felt that pain, did He foresee the nails of His crucifixion? As He carried large logs into His workshop did He contemplate the cross he would one day carry to Calvary?

The second nail is the nail of Passion, it represents the nails in Jesus' hands and feet that He accepted because of His passionate love for us.

The third nail is the nail of Promise, like the promise He made to the dying thief on the cross. It was that if we believe in Him, then we will reign with Him in paradise. This is the nail that Christ offers to you and to me. Will you accept this nail as a sign of His passionate love, His forgiveness of your sin and promise of eternal life for all who will come to Him? If so, why not pray the following prayer this Eastertide?

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you that you have a plan and a purpose for my life, thank you for your passionate love for me, thank you that your blood was shed for my sins, thank you for your promise of eternal life. As I think about that nail of promise, I receive your passion, your grace and your forgiveness, may I fulfil your plan and purpose for my life. In Jesus name, Amen.



(from the Parish Pump)

Why we should all be like donkeys!

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They can survive on poor fodder and can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there; where else would it have been?

And on Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Why did He deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. So, Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the king of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.



Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work he has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Perhaps that is something we should learn — to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.

(from the Parish Pump)

Mr Bates v the Post Office: not the only one

"We're here because the Post Office told every single one of us sat here today, told us over and over, "You're the only one." And that was wrong. That was a lie, actually. Because... well, look at us. Here we all are. And from this moment forwards, none of us will be the only one ever again."

By now, we know what the Post Office did all those years ago. It's hard to believe that hundreds of innocent sub-postmasters were repeatedly lied to and prosecuted in 'the biggest miscarriage of justice in British legal history'.

Yet when Horizon, the computer system rolled out to each post office, incorrectly showed huge account shortfalls, these were blamed on sub-postmasters. They were told that nobody else had any issues, that they were the only one. Except that they weren't – **and the Post Office knew this.**

But still the Post Office went ahead and prosecuted these sub-postmasters. Some went bankrupt, some went to prison, some even committed suicide.

The anger and outcry against the Post Office is welcome. The cry for justice is right. We all want to live in a society where justice is done. As Jules Gadsby of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity says:

"As Christians, this should be close to our hearts. The Lord is a God of justice. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne (Psalm 89:14). And Christ stands by those who suffer. He doesn't look on from a distance, but as one who, at the cross, has experienced it Himself. He reveals this through His people, reflecting His character and His priorities."

We may never have to battle like Alan Bates and the sub-postmasters. But each of us will, in some way, be called to be a mouthpiece for truth and justice in our workplaces, homes, or community. In doing so, we show what God is like. And we show those facing unfairness and injustice that they're not alone. We are there with them. God is there with them."

(from the Parish Pump)

Church Food Bank

Thank you for all the donations for the Food Bank throughout the year. It is good we are able to support our needy families, especially at Christmas when it is much harder for them. 26 families were given hampers this last Christmas.

Hard times are not expected to cease any time soon - our donations would still therefore be appreciated.

Phil Morgan

Why saying hello is important

What lessons can Christians learn from a London rail worker who was recently honoured by King Charles, for talking 29 people out of taking their own lives? Maybe something about the power of conversation and being willing to 'stop for a chat.'

Rizwan Javed helped to save each life over a period of eight years, by being alert and and willing to engage people in conversation, often approaching vulnerable individuals in difficult situations. He was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours earlier this year.

Anglican priest Jemima Prasadam's style of talking with people has been described as 'bus stop theology.' She put it into action on the half-mile walk from her home to her church in inner-city Birmingham with high unemployment and poverty. Her engaging approach is featured in *'Stick with Love'*, a recent book by the Bishop of Kirkstall.

She explained: "I don't go out looking to talk to people, but I am ready to do it. I don't pass anybody without saying 'Hello' and when I leave, I always say 'God bless you.' Meetings happen on a daily basis, but often only last as long as it takes for the bus to arrive. People often say they are not religious, but I say we are all spiritual beings, and they agree. So, I simply tell them that weak and simple people like me call that God."

Sadly, we are living in a society where conversations are being closed down. People who might have chatted on the bus or train, are now deeply involved with their mobile phones. Supermarkets are phasing out staffed checkout points, so that elderly people and others who live alone are deprived of those conversations that can make a difference to their day.

Jesus asked questions as a vital component of His earthly ministry. His deep conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in John chapter 4 begins with Him asking for a drink. So maybe we, as Christians and churches, need to be looking out for more chances to start conversations, to give people the opportunity to open up about their lives. In our busy, rushing-around world, there are many people out there who are just longing for a chat.....

(from the Parish Pump)

Who is hiding in your car?

You may not be the only one enjoying the comfort of your car this winter! According to recent figures from the RAC, if you have left your car standing alone for even a week, then anything from rats, squirrels, mice, foxes and even snakes may have moved in!

A squirrel stockpiling nuts in a car air filter, ten mice nesting under a windscreen, rats living in engine bays, and foxes chewing brake hoses, are only some of many culprits listed this year as having caused a breakdown. There was even a baby python found behind a wheel trim!

Last year the RAC responded to over 300 incidents of vehicle damage caused by animals - a 55% increase from the 196 recorded in 2018. A spokesman for the RAC, said: *"Finding a rat or mouse in your car is not only a nasty shock, but often the cause of very expensive damage. Our best advice is to make sure no food is left inside. Also, check for unusual smells in the vehicle, and be mindful of any dashboard warning lights that don't disappear after a minute or two."*

(from the Parish Pump)

Moses and Climate Change

When Moses went up the mountain one day to meet with God, the Lord said he had both good news and bad news for him. Moses asked, "What's the good news?" God replied:

"I shall visit plagues upon the Egyptians. I shall cause their rivers to run red with blood. I shall cause frogs to infest their houses, and lice to infest their bodies. I shall cause flies to swarm upon them. Their cattle shall die; boils will infect both man and beast. I shall cause hail to destroy their crops; and locusts shall devour anything green that is left in their land. Darkness will cover their land for three days and nights. I shall then lead you through the wilderness as a pillar of cloud by day, and pillar of fire by night. I shall split the waters of the sea. I shall feed you with Manna that forms upon the ground until the children of Israel reach the Land flowing with milk and honey."

Moses replied, "So Lord, what could possibly be the bad news?"

"You, Moses, shall write the Environmental Impact Statement!"

No One's A Stranger Twice

150 Years of Methodism in the Formby Community

by

local author

Alastair Gillies

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

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

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