

THE

June, July & August 2026

ELBOW

The Magazine of **Formby Methodist Church**

Hope
for all

From the Editor

What is happening to our weather?! I am writing this while escaping from the heatwave - it's just too hot to be outside! Either way, we always seem to be complaining - it's either raining or it's too hot!

I must draw your attention to what is a critical time in not just our own Church but also the Circuit. Sheila has given a clear explanation of the situation which we are facing (see p6) but if you require any further information, do speak to her - or Tim or Jenny.

Saturday 28th March was a particularly happy day in the life of our Church, as we celebrated the wedding of Brian & Trish (see p8) - there haven't been many of these in recent years! It was a truly lovely and memorable occasion.

This is a busy time, especially for those of us involved like me in the Civic Society. We are planning our celebrations of the 250th anniversary of Formby's first Lifeboat Station - not just the first in the country but the first in the world!! For more details, read the Scrapbook which John Phillips of the Civic Society and I have produced (see p16). It's free but we do ask for a donation of at least £5 with proceeds to the Southport Lifeboat (Formby's own lifeboat has, of course, long gone).

And we have an exciting weekend of celebratory events to look forward to - I do hope that you will be able to support at least some of them (see p17). I would particularly like to highlight two of these events which will be taking place in our church. On Friday 26th June, '*River Voices*' will be in concert (see pp29 & back cover); and on the Sunday, we will have a Service of Commemoration of lives saved, and, sadly, lives lost. This will be led by our good friend Rev Ernie Grimshaw.

And the following Sunday (5th July) we are delighted that Rev Phil Gough will be leading our Anniversary Service.

Last November, I gave a talk in our church on '*Major Richard Heywood MC, Formby's Unsung Hero*'. He was an extraordinary soldier and sportsman - and he was a Steward at Elbow Lane! I know some of you were not able to attend that evening, but you will have another opportunity on Wednesday 17th June, 2.00pm, when I will be giving my talk in Crosby Library (admission free).

My thanks to all those who have helped in any way with the production of this edition of the '*Elbow*', and a special thanks as always to Graham Watts for yet another beautiful cover for the '*Elbow*' and to Helen, who has been an invaluable help in the production of the magazine.

I wish you all a very enjoyable - and perhaps just a little less hot! - summer.

Next '*Elbow*' Copy Deadline - 21 August

SERVICES AT ELBOW LANE

7 June, 10.30	Holy Communion	Rev Sheila Prest
14 June, 10.30	Morning Service	Rev Derek Bowker
21 June, 10.30	Morning Service	Mr Colin Fyles
21 June, 6.30	Evening Service	Mrs Debs Attwater
28 June, 8.30	Holy Communion	Rev Derek Bowker
28 June, 10.30	Service of Commemoration of Formby's lifeboat station*	Rev Ernie Grimshaw
5 July, 10.30	Church Anniversary Service**	Rev Phil Gough
12 July, 10.30	Holy Communion	Rev Sheila Prest
19 July, 10.30	Morning Service	Rev Derek Bowker
19 July, 6.30	Evening Service	Rev Christopher Humble
26 July, 10.30	Morning Service	Mr J Clifford Hill
2 Aug, 10.30	Holy Communion	Rev Sheila Prest
9 Aug, 10.30	Morning Service	Mr Andrew Lovelady
16 Aug, 10.30	Morning Service	Rev Sue Edwards
16 Aug, 6.30	Evening Service	Mr Colin Fyles
23 Aug, 10.30	Morning Service***	Annette James
30 Aug, 11.00	Circuit Service	Lord Street West, Southport

***250th Anniversary of Formby's Lifeboat Station
(first in the world!!)**

Service led by

Rev Ernie Grimshaw (Ex Royal Navy Chaplain)

****Church Anniversary**

Service led by

Rev Phil Gough (Secretary of the NW Methodist District)

*****Climate Sunday**

Service led by

Annette James (Eco Church)

Minister's Letter

Hi All,

As we begin to move into the summer months, I'm reminded how often Scripture invites us to pay attention to the quiet, steady work of God. Not the dramatic moments, not the mountaintop experiences, but the slow, faithful rhythms of life as we enjoy the sunshine and warmth, and the longer hours of brightness.

June brings longer days and light evenings. It reminds us that God's grace often arrives not in sudden flashes, but in the gradual brightening of hope. Perhaps this month offers us the chance to notice where God is softening our hearts and preparing us for the future.

July often invites us to rest - holidays, slower routines, moments to breathe. Rest is a gift, a way of remembering that we are held by God's love rather than driven by our own efforts. Jesus himself withdrew to quiet places, not to escape life but to be renewed by it. Hopefully each of us can find a pocket of stillness this summer, a place where we can simply be and let God meet us with gentleness.

And then comes August, a month that often feels like sitting on the threshold of a new and busy September. In August, the year is not yet new, but something in us begins to prepare for what's ahead. Gardens ripen, leaves turn golden, and we see the fruit of what has been growing unseen for months. It's a reminder that God is always at work in us, even when we feel dormant or uncertain. The Spirit nurtures growth and perhaps brings to the harvest things we didn't even realise were taking root.

Through these summer months, may we be prepared to receive rest and treat it as a gift from God to realign ourselves for the future. May we trust the quiet work of the Spirit within us and carry a sense of gratitude and give thanks for the wonderful creation which surrounds us.

Whatever this season holds for you, travel or home comforts, busy days or peaceful ones, I pray that you may know that God walks with you in every moment. Nothing in your life is too small for God's attention, and nothing is too heavy for God's care.

Every blessing

Sheila

Welcome PJ!

At the May Circuit Service the new Circuit Children & Families Worker, P J Grayson was commissioned. PJ has already visited our Toddler Group and we look forward to welcoming him to other events in the coming weeks.

Connect Group

We hope to start a Connect Group with a view to meeting and exploring the Bible together, to study themes relevant to our lives and times today and to seek ways to pray and grow together to serve the Lord Jesus. Each meeting will start with praise and worship followed by a time of prayer, leading into a Bible study of the chosen topic and a group discussion of the issues raised. Initially we would plan to meet fortnightly in a member's home. Our first meeting was on Wednesday 3rd June at 7.00pm.

If you would like to join the Group, speak to one of the members:
Irene Watts, Liz Morris, Winnie Pickering, Ivy Chapple, Colin McLennan, Trish Ashworth, Phil & Eileen Morgan

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FORMBY, ALTCAR AND HIGHTOWN

A new initiative for CTog, is for members of our various churches to meet together once a month for a short time of prayer. Formby Methodist Church is hosting this event on Saturday 20th June at 10.30am. The invitation is extended to everyone.

Not forgetting Ukraine



The crisis in the Middle East has distracted world attention from Ukraine. But the country is still at war, and its people still need help.

Numerous Christian relief agencies are active now in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries, providing emergency aid to those affected by the ongoing conflict.

If you would like to send some support, you could do it through one of the key organisations below who mostly work through partners on the ground, channelling humanitarian assistance and long-term care to displaced families, the elderly, and children. These organisations work directly with local churches to ensure aid reaches those in the most need, often providing both physical relief and spiritual support.

Blythwood Care; CAFOD; Christian Aid; Mission Without Borders; Operation Mobilisation; Salvation Army; and Ukraine Christian Ministries

Possible Rearrangement of the Churches in Our Circuit

Over the past year or so our Circuit Leadership Team has been prayerfully reviewing how our churches can best serve their communities in the years ahead. This has included looking honestly at our resources, our mission opportunities, and the changing patterns of church life across the area. The churches have been asked to have conversations to discern the best way forward for their own church ie. Formby Methodist for us.

A 40min video was released and circulated highlighting various problems going forward regarding workloads, and if you haven't accessed it already speak to Tim Andrews or Jenny Wallbanks. Two meetings of the church were arranged for everyone to attend; one held in May and another in June. The Church Council members were then asked for a secret vote covering various options with some options subdivided. The Circuit Meeting will then agree on the arrangement of the churches within the Circuit structure later in June for this September 2026.

This rearrangement will not be about loss, but about strengthening our shared ministry. Our church may wish to stay "as is" and encourage deeper collaboration between neighbouring congregations looking possibly towards our sisters and brothers in other denominations in Formby. However there are also a number of possibilities looking to group churches in small hubs for example like ourselves and Ainsdale and Liverpool Road or you may even consider all the churches going together as a whole Circuit. Lots to think about.

We wish to support our ministers and lay leaders more sustainably in the future.

We in Formby wish to create new mission opportunities and help us grow even more but must be realistic that although we are growing, our congregation is ageing and certain office holders are overstretched with varying responsibilities. In other words we believe as Methodists in the "priesthood of all believers" and it requires all of us to pull together and help those who are overburdened by offering help no matter how small. Our church office bearers need to feel supported, and valued.

From September, the Circuit will be organised according to the result in late June and we will continue to focus on worship, discipleship, and community outreach. Formby may decide to stay either as they as a single worshipping community or alternatively allow us to work as part of a hub as mentioned with our two nearest Methodist Churches. We may wish to work more closely together - planning joint services, sharing leadership, and/or exploring fresh ways of being church. in our local context through *Churches Together in Formby*.

We know that any change can bring questions, and we want to reassure you that this is an opportunity to draw nearer to one another, to strengthen our fellowship, and to continue serving Christ with hope and imagination.

By now there will have been opportunities for conversation, prayer, and shared planning as we move forward together. Please hold our circuit, its leaders, and each congregation in your prayers as we seek God's guidance for the road ahead.

"For we are God's co-workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9) and together, we trust that God will lead us into a future filled with possibility.

Sheila

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast the doctrine, spirit and discipline with which they first set out."

(John Wesley)

LADIES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

- June 4 Shirley Potts – *The Role of Hospital Chaplains*
- 11 Craig Horan – *Bee Keeping, Honey and Candle Making*
- 18 Elaine Allen – *Arthur Askey and Tommy Handley*
- 25 Methodist Women in Britain - *Strawberry Cream Tea*
- July 2 Rev Patrick Evans
- 9 Rev Sheila Prest and Annual General Meeting
- 16 Anne White – *What's the Recipe Today?*
- 23 Rev Peter Lythe – *Thailand*
- 30 *Singing with Maggie and Mandy*

We have enjoyed the first five months of this year with good attendances, Speakers and Fellowship. We welcome anyone who would like to join us on 25th June for our Cream Tea when we will be raising funds to support the Methodist Women in Britain Projects – '**Stick 'N' Step**' a charity that supports children and young people with cerebral palsy and '**The Crossing Point**', a domestic abuse service and registered charity, serving the people of Merseyside since 2014.

We meet every Thursday in the Maple Leaf Room at 2pm and our meetings are open to anyone who would like to join us.

Irene Watts (876219)

Sea Sunday - 12th July

Sea Sunday is the day each year when churches worldwide come together to pray for seafarers, and to support The Mission to Seafarers' frontline ministry to them.

Seafarers are essential to everyday life, yet many work unseen, facing long periods away from home, isolation, and often dangerous conditions. Sea Sunday offers an opportunity to pause, and give thanks for the men and women who keep our world moving.

The Mission to Seafarers works in ports across the world. In 2025 alone, it made over 48,000 ship visits, provided shore leave transport for more than 150,000 seafarers, and ran programmes on family support and suicide prevention. These moments of care — a visit on board, practical help ashore, or someone to listen — can make a profound difference to seafarers far from home.

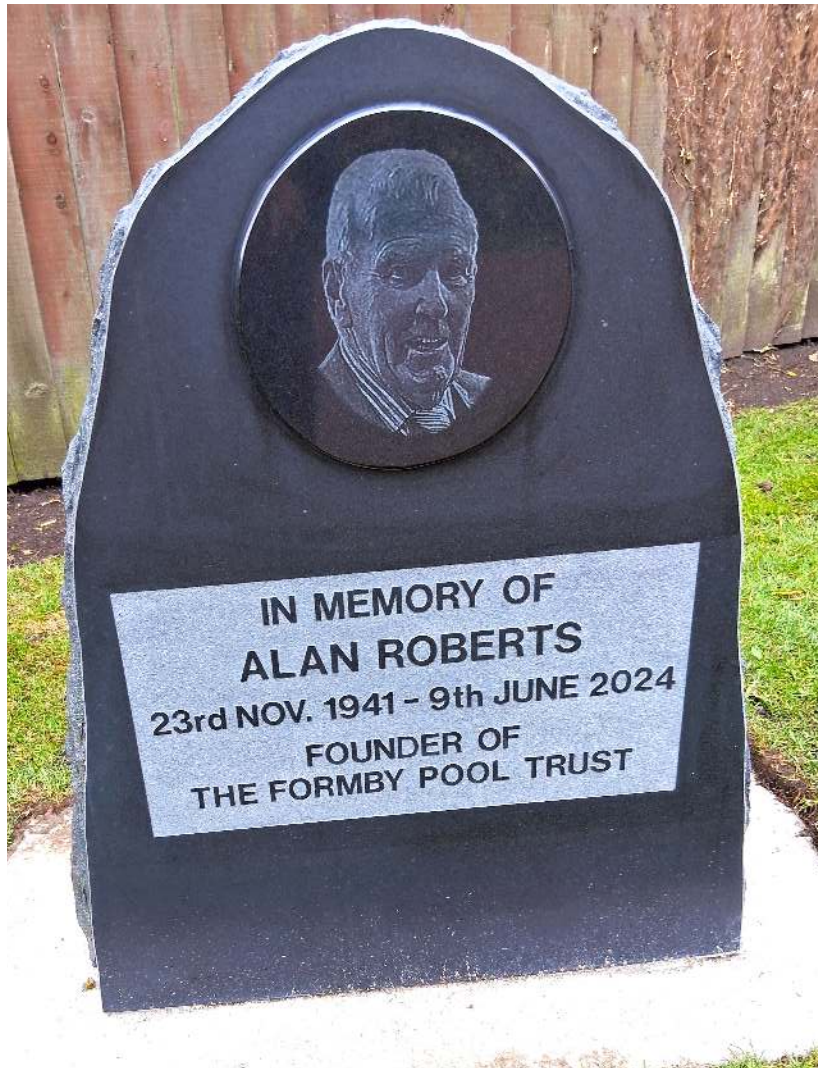
For Sea Sunday 2026, the theme is *'Harbours of Hope: The Church Alongside Seafarer'*, inspired by Matthew 25. This theme celebrates the local church as a place of welcome, refuge and hope — a community offering both spiritual and practical safety to those who work at sea. Congregations are encouraged to stand alongside seafarers through prayer, hospitality, generosity and justice.

(from the Parish Pump)

Remembering Alan



On 11 May, a ceremony was held at Formby Pool to unveil a memorial stone to Alan Roberts, founder of Formby Pool Trust and a dear and loyal member of our Church. Alan's funeral was held at Elbow Lane on 26 June 2024; the church was packed to overflowing, and the service was led by our Minister, Rev Sheila Prest, so it was fitting that she also gave the memorial address (see opposite). Her beautiful words recalled Alan's deep commitment both to his church and his local community.



Welcome Friends, we gather today to set this stone in memory of Alan Roberts. It represents a culmination of a life's work.

When we think of him, we think of his dedication and his service to others. He had the idea of a mile of pennies in order to raise funds to provide a place for the young people to gather and enjoy and he made this his lifelong mission

Alan had a true Christian faith and his whole life was one of service to others. Today his legacy is the Formby Pool and he has

shaped the lives of more people than he ever would have imagined.

Alan brought moments that made us smile and laugh and be grateful. He showed inspiration and brought steady reliability to people around him.

This stone is small, but the life it honours was rich and full. May it remind us of the laughter, the loyalty, the quiet strength that Alan brought into the world. And may we continue to carry his spirit forward in the way we live and love.

ALAN had a real Christian faith and I am reminded of Psalm 121:

"I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

That is where his inspiration would have come from and because of his faith, he acted upon it and we are the ones to benefit from it. His legacy here is immeasurable.

Carers Support Group

The second week in June marks Carers Week - this year's theme is 'Building Carer Friendly Communities', focusing on providing places where carers are recognised, understood and valued. We have been fortunate to have had such a group in our church since 2011. On Friday afternoons you will find a lively bunch chatting and laughing together over tea, coffee and cake. The weekly attendance is currently around 20 people and many of them have become good friends who support each other week in, week out.

We have a team of volunteers who help with refreshments on a rota basis with some (particularly Doris and Colin) being very good at organising quizzes and games. Most weeks, Steve leads a few songs ably assisted by Dave on drums and these are enjoyed by all of us.

We recently had a coach trip to Warbreck Garden Centre where the



group had an opportunity to shop for gifts and plants and, of course, enjoy tea, coffee and cake in the restaurant.

All carers and the person they support are welcome to join the group at any time. We would also love to

have a few more volunteers to help, so please speak to one of the team about what is involved if you are able to offer your services.

Winnie

HOLIDAY AT HOME

3-21 AUGUST 2026

For older people
living in Formby,
Hightown & Ince Blundell



FORMBY

**BEFRIENDING
SCHEME**

MAKING FRIENDS TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER**

in **Formby, Altcar
and Hightown**

All events must be booked in advance. Booking request forms are in the centre of the brochures, which can be found at the back of church and many other places. Forms must be returned by 21 June

The Story Behind the Hymn

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Popularly known as the Navy Hymn, both in Britain and America, this hymn is most commonly sung at Royal Navy Services - and also those of Thanksgiving and Remembrance. We will certainly be singing it at Elbow Lane at our Service of Commemoration of Formby's Lifeboat Station on 28th June.

The writer of this well-known hymn, William Whiting was born in London in 1825, but lived most of his life in Winchester, where he soon became Master of the King's Choristers. 'Eternal Father' is by far his most famous hymn.

*"Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave;
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea."*

Whiting may have been prompted to write his famous hymn following a traumatic voyage in the Mediterranean, after which a friend commented: "he respected the power of the ocean nearly as much as he respected the God who made it and controls it." Or he may have written it as encouragement to one of his students who was preparing for a trans-Atlantic crossing. But he was certainly also inspired by the dangers of the sea as described in Psalm 107.

*"In their peril their courage melted away.
They cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.
They were glad when it grew calm,
and He guided them to their desired haven."*

It is very much based on the three elements of the Trinity. The first verse, for example, addresses the Eternal Father, the second Christ, his son and the third the Holy Spirit. The three are then summed up with the reference to the Trinity as a whole in the fourth and final verse:

*"O Trinity of love and pow'r
our brethren shield in danger's hour.
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them whereto'er they go,
and ever let there rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea."*

More recently, Whiting's middle two verses have been adapted to include the perils faced by soldiers and, of course, the Air Force:

*"O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain
O'er which our traffic runs amain
By mountain pass or valley low;
Wherever, Lord, thy brethren go,
Protect them by thy guarding hand
From every peril on the land.*

*O Spirit, whom the Father sent
To spread abroad the firmament;
O Wind of heaven, by thy might
Save all who dare the eagle's flight,
And keep them by thy watchful care
From every peril in the air."*

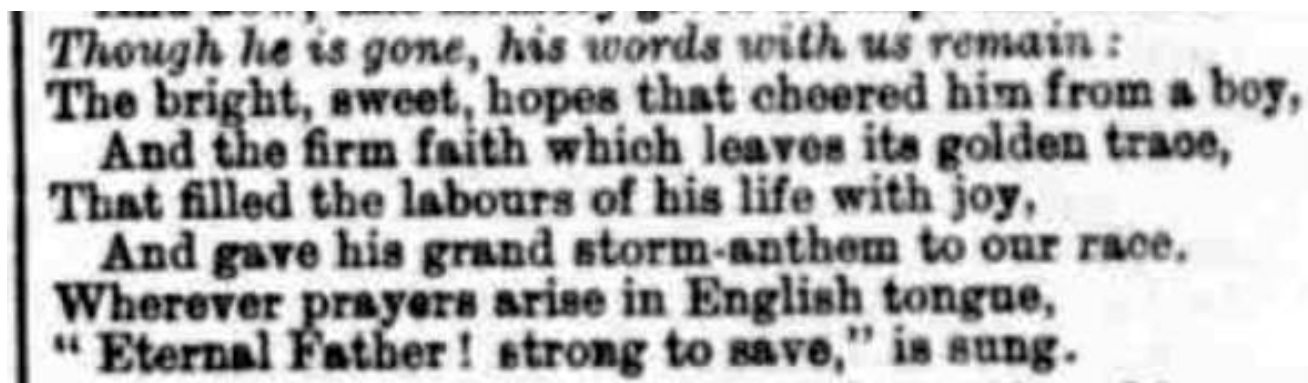
The final verse concludes with the revised line:

"Glad praise from air and land and sea."

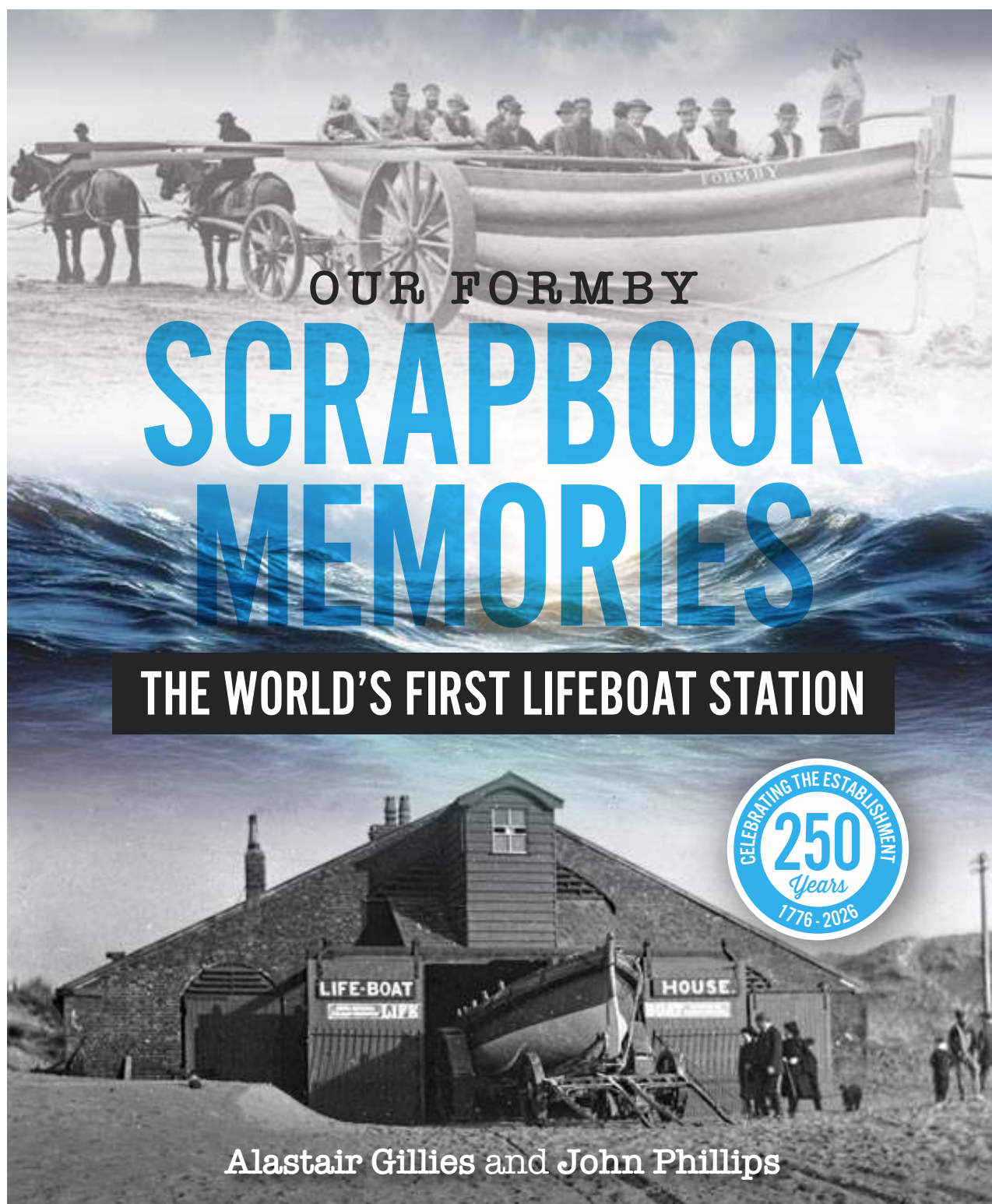
This hymn is only ever sung to one tune - the original one, 'Melita', written by the renowned composer John Bacchus Dykes in the same year as Whiting had written the words. The title was chosen very deliberately as, appropriately, this was the old word for Malta, where St Paul had been shipwrecked.

The performance of the hymn is the climax of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, and it was reputedly sung the morning before the Titanic sank. It has featured in several films and on many occasions, such as after the attack on Pearl Harbour and the funerals of John F Kennedy and several American Presidents, as well as Lord Mountbatten and Prince Philip. Whiting's own funeral was in May 1878, after a long illness. He left a widow and three children. The 'Hampshire Chronicle' carried this fitting and moving tribute:

Alastair



*Though he is gone, his words with us remain:
The bright, sweet, hopes that cheered him from a boy,
And the firm faith which leaves its golden trace,
That filled the labours of his life with joy,
And gave his grand storm-anthem to our race.
Wherever prayers arise in English tongue,
"Eternal Father! strong to save," is sung.*



This publication has been supported by



**Donations of £5 or more welcome -
proceeds to Southport Lifeboat and
Formby Heritage Centre**

FORMBY LIFEBOAT 250TH CELEBRATIONS

Friday 26th June

River Voices Choir Concert

Formby Methodist Church
Elbow Lane, Formby, 7.30pm
Admission by donation



Saturday 27th June

Community Celebration Day

Formby Village, 1.30pm-4.30pm

- Live music & entertainment
- Sea creatures, mermaids & King Neptune
- Southport Offshore Rescue Trust heritage display & community stalls



Evening Choir Concert

Formby High School, 7.00pm

A special evening concert featuring a sea themed musical programme performed by Voiceworks Choir (Formby High students) and the G:Force Gospel Choir.

Admission by donation

Sunday 28th June

Service of Thanksgiving

Formby Methodist Church
Elbow Lane, Formby, 10.30am
Led by former Royal Navy Chaplain,
The Reverend Ernie Grimshaw



Community Concert

Platinum Jubilee Park

Lonsdale Road, Formby, 1.00pm-6.00pm

- Live music & entertainment featuring The Wanderers and the Liverpool Shanty Kings
- Debi Jones, TV Presenter & Broadcaster
- Disco entertainment
- Children's face painting & charity stalls
- Licensed bar & refreshments
- Ice cream van

FREE admission



All Donations gratefully received from the event will go to the
Southport Offshore Rescue Trust and the Formby Heritage Centre

Summer Eco News

Recycling – Our Council now recycles more items. Please see the table opposite. I hope that you find it useful. The blue bins in the kitchen and outside church are our recycling bins. The Council suggests that items such as bottles, cans, plastic food pots, tins and jars are emptied and rinsed out. Paper and cardboard can be contaminated and made unrecyclable if covered in food or grease.

Eco Lighting – We now have LED lighting in the Maple Leaf and Circle Rooms thanks to Graham, Ian and Mark.

Formby and Freshfield Beach Litter Angels have started. Although their sessions are weekly, the times and location vary so please check their website (beachlitterangels@gmail.com) and Facebook page. Bring gloves and tell the organisers your car registration for free parking. All equipment is provided.

The Friends of Duke St Park also organise a variety of community events including litter picks. Bring gloves, but the rest of the equipment is provided. Ivy Chapple will publicise their events in the Notices.

Bird Feeder – To reduce the spread of Trichomonosis amongst finches, the RSPB advise that bird feeders should not be filled with seeds or peanuts between 1st May and 31st Oct. There is plenty of natural food around for them at this time of year. Teasels and sunflowers are especially good food sources and you can offer small amounts of mealworms, fat balls or suet. A pond is the best way to provide birds and other wildlife with water. Tap water should be used in bird baths and changed daily.

Mini Meadow – Our mini meadow (see over) in front of Church is attracting ladybirds and bees. Thank you to everyone who provided the wildflower seeds, we are still working out what's growing in our circle! The bees obviously like the borage (blue star-like flowers). We are asked to do a wildlife survey every year. All those who are interested and able are invited to join us on Sunday 14th June after the service for a few minutes, to help us identify plants and other wildlife on the church land. Of course, the most interesting sightings are usually unexpected and unplanned. We are keen to know what wildlife you have spotted on the church grounds – anything from a squirrel to a beetle, or wildflowers. Please could you keep a note of anything that you've spotted from now and put it on our wildlife survey list on 7th and 14th of June. If you can remember the date and place that you saw it that would help. For those who are 'tech savy' we use the free iNaturalist app. You can use this to join the 'Beautiful Burial Grounds' survey and submit photos to identify and record what you find. Plants are easy but have you tried taking a photo of a butterfly?

Butterfly Count – The national butterfly count starts on 1st July, the main period being 17th July – 9th August. Counts do have to be recorded online (see <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org>).

'Plastic Free' July – Even though we can recycle plastic, it cannot be recycled infinitely like glass or metal and so it is still better to reduce the amount of plastic

packaging that we buy. Just buying one fewer item in plastic packaging would make a difference. A few shops encourage people to bring their own containers to refill, like Om Nom on Wesley St. in Southport. Although I realise such shops are not accessible for a lot of you, they are worth supporting if you can.

Most importantly, take time to notice and enjoy the beauty of God's creation this summer. Just sit and know that you are part of God's creation, loved by God "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13. We praise God for his creation and ask for his guidance in looking after it and sharing the world's resources fairly.

Jenny Wallbanks

What can go in our Brown Recycling Bins at home (and the Blue Recycling Bin at church)?

Paper	Mixed glass	Cardboard	Metal	Plastic
OK TO GO IN				
Newspapers, magazines and leaflets	Bottles - any colour	<u>Clean</u> cardboard boxes	Food tins (except tins for biscuits and chocolates)	Rinsed cleaning product bottles
Plain paper sheets and plain wrapping paper	Jars - any colour	Corrugated card	Drinks cans	Shampoo and shower-gel bottles
Telephone directories	Non-food bottles	Greetings cards without glitter		Drinks bottles
Envelopes (with or without windows)		Brown paper		Milk bottles
SHOULD NOT GO IN				
Paper covered in glitter, foam shapes etc.	Pyrex	Cardboard stained by grease or food	Biscuit and chocolate tins	Plastic bags and clingfilm
Books	Drinking glasses	Glitter greetings cards	Foil trays	Yoghurt and margarine pots
Shredded paper	Nail-varnish bottles	Food, milk and juice cartons	Tubes with metal bases e.g. Pringle tubes	Plastic food trays
Tissues, serviettes and paper tablecloths	Mirrors	Takeaway coffee cups	Aerosols, paint and other chemical containers	Crisp packets and biscuit wrappers
Shiny/glittery gift wrap	All other glass		All other metal	All other plastic

Our Eco Mini Meadow in May

How many flowers can you identify?



What do they teach them in school these days?!

These are 10- and 11-year-old answers to history tests and Sunday School quizzes.

Ancient Egypt was old. It was inhabited by gypsies and mummies who all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert where the climate makes all the inhabitants live elsewhere.

Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandos. He died before he ever reached Canada but the commandos made it.

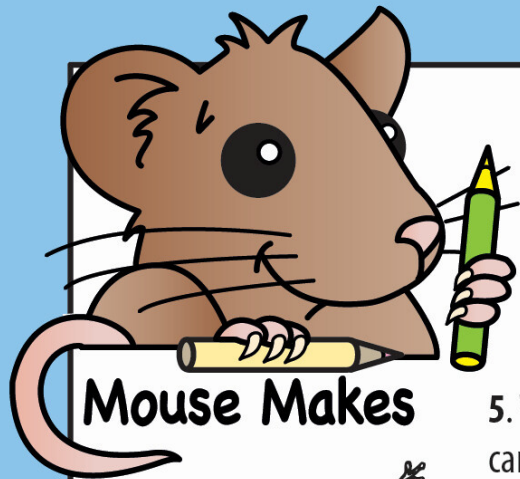
The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a young female moth.

In the first Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled biscuits, and threw the java. The games were messier then than they show on TV now.

Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was canonized by Bernard Shaw for reasons I don't really understand. The English and French still have problems.

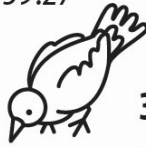
It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood.

(from the Parish Pump)



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes
it's nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal
was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect
can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

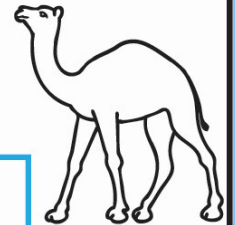
7. Which animal
was Jesus
compared to?
John 1:29



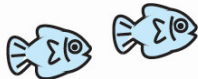
5. What plague
came out of the
River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would
go through the eye
of a needle easier
than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



8. What bird did Noah release
from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.
In what creature's mouth
was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27

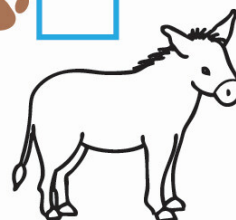


9 down.
What lives
in holes?
Matthew 8:20

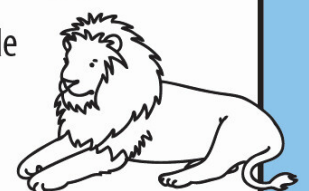


12. Which bird
did the
Holy Spirit
appear as?
Luke 3:22

13. Which animal
did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7



14. What bird did God provide
for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



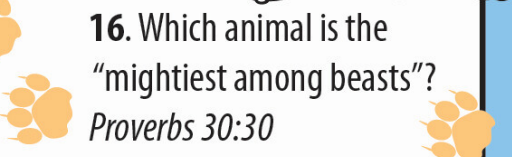
B I B L E

CREATURES

10. What insect
would God send
to destroy
the enemy?
Deut 7:20



11. What animals
eat crumbs from
under the table?
Matthew 15:27



£1 Goes a Very Long Way!

Following our marriage in May 1995 we moved to Glasgow to set up home together, initially in a rented property for six months until we decided where to buy our first home in the city. While we were living in our rented flat in Govan, we attended our first church service together as a married couple - in Victory Christian Centre, an Assemblies of God Church where Ivy knew the pastor Alex Gillies from a missionary trip she had undertaken some years previously.

Little did we know at the time that this church was to become our spiritual home for many years where we were to share in a wonderful ministry in the south side of Glasgow experiencing the Christian faith being enacted in a wide range of activities in an area not blessed with a great deal of wealth but blessed in the richness of the Christian life enjoyed by the church family under the leadership of its gifted pastor the Rev Alex Gillies.

Alex was truly a very gifted preacher and spirit filled charismatic minister, blessed with a personality to match. He was an ordained Church of Scotland minister with a gift for evangelism and had come from a very successful ministry at a parish church in Drumchapel in the north side of the city. It was whilst serving in this role that his ambition to plant an independent evangelical church in the city of his birth finally came to fruition.

Whilst walking in the city centre some time before we had moved to Glasgow, Alex noticed what appeared to be a piece of paper fluttering in the gutter at his feet and, curiosity aroused, he stooped to pick it up to discover that it was in fact a £1 note (remember them?!) He took the banknote to a local police station to report his discovery which was duly noted; he was then told he could keep his 'find' but that the police would contact him if any claimant came forward.

And so it was that on a subsequent stroll through Govan, the oldest burgh of the city with a strong sense of community, that Alex came across an old 'boarded up' Victorian building which had previously served as Govan Town Hall prior to the founding of the City of Glasgow.

He then had a vision of acquiring this building and approached the City Council in the hope that the officials might gift him the property to be transformed into a place of worship. They were not prepared to do this but they were willing to sell the property for the princely sum of £1!!

Imagine the joy Alex must have experienced when he accepted the opportunity to not only purchase the property, but the Council also accepted the £1 note which had been blowing in the wind. They even returned it to Alex which he then had framed and it would occupy pride of place on the Vestry wall of the soon to be renovated building.

Govan has a legacy of a highly skilled labour force, which would be adapted to the task of renovating and modernising a 19th century civic building into a functioning 21st century church. The congregation of the church was drawn from this local community and it was due to the commitment and talents of those men and women that Victory Christian Centre became a thriving church on the south bank of the Clyde.

Shortly after this time we moved to another part of town where we bought our first home together, it never crossed our mind that we would not remain as members of Victory Church.

"All good things must come to an end", however, and sadly barely three years later we learned that the church had been completely destroyed by fire. The most likely cause was a recent roof repair. Miraculously, however, the pastor found amongst the rubble the framed £1 note virtually intact!

Fortunately the church building was insured and in due course the sum of £1 million was received in settlement; immediately quotations were sought from contractors to rebuild, the cheapest of which was over £1 1/4 million, a shortfall of over £250,000

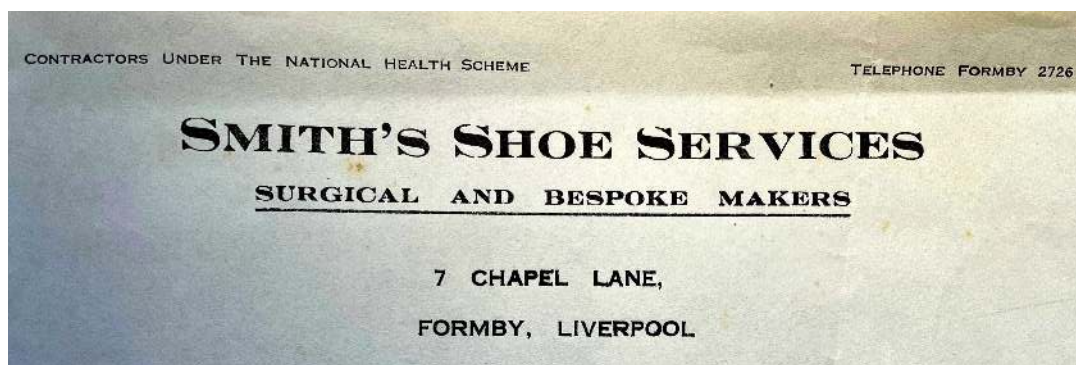
Undeterred the pastor and congregation were determined to set out plans to rebuild the church and at this point a Christian friend of Pastor Alex, a retired Clerk of Works, offered his services to put together a team that could reconstruct, although this would take longer to complete the contract. This offer was thoroughly examined and after a great deal of prayer the church established a company called Victory Reconstruction Ltd; painstakingly over 18 months a modern building arose from the ashes and Victory Christian Centre was rebuilt within the insurers' settlement figure.

Throughout the time between the fire and the re-opening of the church the congregation remained together and worshipped faithfully in a local school. The church still thrives today and stands as a testament to the vision, leadership and tenacity of a pastor and his congregation, due in no small measure to divine intervention and the power of prayer.

Colin and Ivy

Barbara Smith

I was recently contacted by a Mrs Barbara Murphy (nee Smith), a former member of our church - indeed, she was married at Elbow Lane and Rose Queen - who is now living near Ormskirk. She had some photographs and other records which she wanted to hand over to our church or the Civic Society as appropriate. Her father used to own a shoe shop in Chapel Lane.



Here are some of the items which relate to Elbow Lane and might be of interest, especially to some of our older members. If you can recognise any of the people in them, do let me know.

Barbara has also given me the programme for a Garden Party at Elbow Lane in 1962 (see pp32,33). Times have certainly changed over 60 years!





How a dying bishop said farewell to his diocese

The Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Revd Andrew Watson, was diagnosed with aggressive and untreatable cancer of the pancreas on 10th February this year. After he was told that he had less than a month to live, Bishop Andrew wrote a letter to his diocese, to say goodbye and to reassure them. These are the words he wrote:



"Only our good Lord knows exactly how long I have left, of course. But the conversation with my doctor – together with a sense that I am getting a little weaker by the day - means that my main focus now is on 'cheerfully persisting towards a good death.'

Yesterday I signed a deed of delegation, handing over the interim leadership of the diocese to our dear Bishop Paul. I'm sorry that that means I will no longer be honouring my existing commitments ...

I don't fear the prospect of dying, and find to my relief that my faith in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting' has only grown stronger over the past few weeks. I've sometimes had private worries that, when faced with the starkness of a terminal diagnosis, my faith in the Risen Christ might falter. Well, it hasn't. Or better still, God hasn't faltered. Quite the reverse.

Nor do I feel short-changed by what's happening. Of course, I have grumpy patches when I'm in pain, or not sleeping properly. (I'm only a saint in St Paul's most generous definition of the term!) But I still consider myself as deeply blessed to have been born into such a loving family, to have met with Christ as a teenager, to have spent nearly 40 years of my life so joyfully married to the 'wife of my youth', to have raised four remarkable children (all equally remarkably partnered), and to have been entrusted with a series of fulfilling ministries within my beloved Church of England.

Of all the closing words to St Paul's various letters to individuals and to church communities, perhaps the one I value most comes right at the end of his first letter to the Church at Thessalonica. We sense that the apostle is running out of parchment, and wanting to cram as much as he can into the last few inches; and he does a great job from my perspective, beautifully articulating so much of what I would want to say in what may well prove to be my last message to the Diocese of Guildford. Could I encourage you to read these words quietly and prayerfully - so that each one of us, lay and ordained, might be freshly

inspired to embrace God's call on our lives with renewed vigour and gratitude:

“We appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do this. Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

Bishop Andrew died, aged 64, on 2nd March 2026.

(from the Parish Pump)

Flower Rota

7 June	Trish and Ted Pentecost	Margaret
14 June	Chris and Trevor Hanson	Margaret
21 June	Christa Dobson	Trish
28 June	Doris and Colin Shewring	Trish
5 July	Lin and Graham Marks	Vicky
12 July	Jenny and Mike Hunter	Vicky
19 July	Marie Wright	Margaret
26 July	Barbara Giles	Margaret
2 August	Audrey Almond	Trish
9 August	Mabel Walsh	Trish
16 August	Margaret Nicholas	Vicky
23 August	Win and Mark Pickering	Vicky
6 September	Ann Gorman	Margaret
13 September	Hazel and James May	Trish

Remembering John Constable

It was 250 years ago, on 11th June 1776, that John Constable, British landscape artist, was born. Widely known as a painter in the Romantic tradition, Constable had a deeply conservative faith centred on the Church of England, which he viewed as an essential stabilising force in society. His painting of Salisbury Cathedral is regarded as a symbol of this.



Born in East Bergholt, Suffolk, to a wealthy corn merchant who owned Flatford Mill (the subject of one of Constable's most famous paintings), he was expected to take over the business: but John was always focused on painting, and the business was eventually taken over by his younger brother.

Constable enjoyed painting the areas he knew well – primarily those on the border of Suffolk and Essex now known as Constable Country. “Painting is but another word for feeling,” he wrote to a friend. He regarded nature as a reflection of God's creation and his own work as spiritual, though a tour of the Lake District in 1806 did not convince him of the attraction of mountains.

He is now highly valued but, though elected to the Royal Academy at only 52, was never successful financially in his own lifetime; Indeed, he was more popular in France than England, but refused invitations to travel to promote his work, saying he would rather be a poor man in England than a rich man abroad.

After the death of his wife Maria Bicknell through tuberculosis at the age of only 41, Constable became depressed: it had been a love match, and he was left a widower with seven young children. He continued to paint, but in a different style, darker and semi-abstract, but still compelling.

(from the Parish Pump)



River Voices has developed from the bleakness that was Covid. We couldn't meet together; we couldn't sing together. So we did the next best thing. Singing teacher and soprano Lynne Rogers started '*Don't come and sing*' sessions via the internet. Singers from all over the UK met online and did what they do best.

When we could sing together in person, we gathered in outside spaces and sang, suitably distanced. For 30 of us, from the Merseyside area, our chosen spot was Level 10 of a multi-story car park in Liverpool. Shoppers and security staff enjoyed the return of live music in their lives! We were all inspired by the experience.

Most of the group is still meeting five years later, and still performing beautiful, uplifting music. Our choir has expanded and developed. We're now River Voices, but still led by Lynne. Though we do perform 'traditional' choral concerts, we are pioneers in the staging of immersive soundbaths which we've performed in such venues as the Anglican Cathedral and St Nicholas' Church in Liverpool, and Norton Priory. Our repertoire is wide-ranging, including music from the 16th century to the present day.



The Soundbath in the Anglican Cathedral

As part of the Formby Lifeboat weekend celebrations, hear us in concert at

Formby Methodist Church, Elbow Lane

on Friday 26th June at 7.30

'The Sea' will be the theme of our programme. You don't need to buy a ticket; just turn up on the night. Donations will be gratefully received with half the proceeds going to the Southport Lifeboat.

Derbyshire Well Dressings

Derbyshire is known for its wells - and well dressings. The tradition dates back many years -



perhaps back to the 14th century, as an act of thanksgiving for surviving the Black Death. Over the years, and before piped water became available, it also became an act of thanksgiving for the village's supply of clean, clear water. Today, there are well dressings in over 80 Derbyshire villages (including Tideswell).

The tradition of dressing the wells in my village, Marsh Lane, however, was much more recent - it dates from the 1950s, when it was begun as a means of raising money to build a meeting place for the 'old folk'. My father would create the original coloured drawings, sometimes using my

children's picture Bible as inspiration. He then squared up his sketch to enable him to transfer it to larger sheets of paper which would be laid on the clay ready for "pricking out". This must have been very time consuming and later the drawings were enlarged by machine.

We had two wells and initially there were two 'mount' frames surrounding each picture frame and one frame had a cross shaped frame at the top. A week before the opening service - the blessing of the wells - the frames were then plastered with clay dug from somewhere and then 'puddled' by the men either in wellies or bare feet.

The frames were then taken by tractor and trailer to a huge marquee set up in a farm yard. That week would invariably be cold and wet so everyone was very pleased when enough money had been raised for the building and we could continue the tradition in the more congenial surroundings of the hall.

The enlarged pictures were then laid carefully on the clay ready for the ladies to begin pricking out using knitting needles to punch holes along the lines of the design, after which

black wool was used to create the outline by joining all the dots, hopefully in the right order! This was done by ladies who were at home during the week.

When Dad returned from work he would climb the step ladder with his spyglass to check the lines were joined correctly and after that the colour was put on. Only natural materials were supposed to be used. Again knitting needles were invaluable in securing the petals. Hydrangeas were ideal for the sky and tight red rose buds were also useful. Our job as children was to 'ask Mrs Whoever' for some of her pink roses, daisies or whatever was needed. One wet year Indian corn was used to create the skin of a leopard. It went mouldy but it made very effective fur!



Finally, late Friday or early Saturday morning, the frames were erected, one at the school well and one in the field behind our house ready for the blessing.

The dressings would be on display for a week. Dad would spend most of that week eavesdropping on peoples comments. Someone was heard to say "oh they pass them round each year you know. I saw this last year at Tideswell". How they thought they could survive that long I don't know!

Jane

Elbow Lane Methodist Church, Formby



Followed by
"MAGIC
MOMENTS"

A variety
entertainment
at 8 p.m. in the
CHURCH HALL



"Alice in Wonderland" Garden Party

to be opened at 3 p.m. by

Rev. R. G. PITTAM

in the

Church Grounds, Elbow Lane

Chairman:

Councillor Mrs. M. A. NEEP, J.P.
(Chairman of Formby Urban District Council)

SATURDAY, 7th JULY, 1962

Souvenir
Programme
Sixpence

The Rose Queen, Garden Parties and Concerts used to be regular features at Elbow Lane. I wonder if anyone remembers what must have been a memorable day in 1962? My thanks to Mrs Barbara Murphy for passing this programme on to me (see also pp24,25). Ed

"ALICE IN WONDERLAND" GARDEN PARTY

Programme

2.30 p.m. THE ROSE QUEEN'S PROCESSION leaves Elbow Lane preceded by the Band of the ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE
Route: Duke Street, Three Tuns Lane, Chapel Lane and Elbow Lane

3.00 p.m. OPENING CEREMONY
Chairman: Councillor Mrs. M. A. NEEP, J.P.

HYMN:

PRAISE the Lord! Ye heavens, adore Him;
Praise Him, angels in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;
Praise Him, all ye stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed;
Laws, that never shall be broken,
For their guidance He hath made.

Praise the Lord, for He is glorious;
Never shall His promise fail:
God hath made His saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
Hosts on high His power proclaim;
Heaven and earth, and all creation,
Laud and magnify His name.

PRAYERS:

offered by Rev. J. M. FURNESS, M.A., B.D.
Minister of the Church

THE OPENING OF THE GARDEN PARTY

by
Rev. R. G. PITTAM
(former Superintendent Minister of the Crosby Circuit)

3.30 p.m. THE CROWNING OF THE TENTH METHODIST ROSE QUEEN
Miss BARBARA SMITH

3.45 p.m. DISPLAY OF DANCING by the COLONA MORRIS TROUPE

4.00 p.m. STALLS OPEN

4.30 p.m. AUCTION OF GIFTS

Music by the Band of the St. John Ambulance Brigade

In the Garden

"Curiouser and Curiouser"
Mystery Parcels by the Youth Circle

"Drink Me"
Bottle Stall by the Youth Circle

"The Pool of Tears"
Handkerchieves by the Primary Sunday School

"The Queen of Hearts"
Cakes by the Young Wives' Circle

"The Treacle Well"
Sweets by the Sunday School

"The Mock Turtle" Stall
Household Goods and Groceries by the Women's Fellowship

"Cabbages and Kings"
Vegetables from Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Sephton

"Tweedledum and Tweedledee"
Minerals and Ices by the Sunday School

"Buttons and Bran"
Lucky Dip by the Sunday School

"Through the Looking Glass"
Toilet Requisites by the Young Wives' Circle

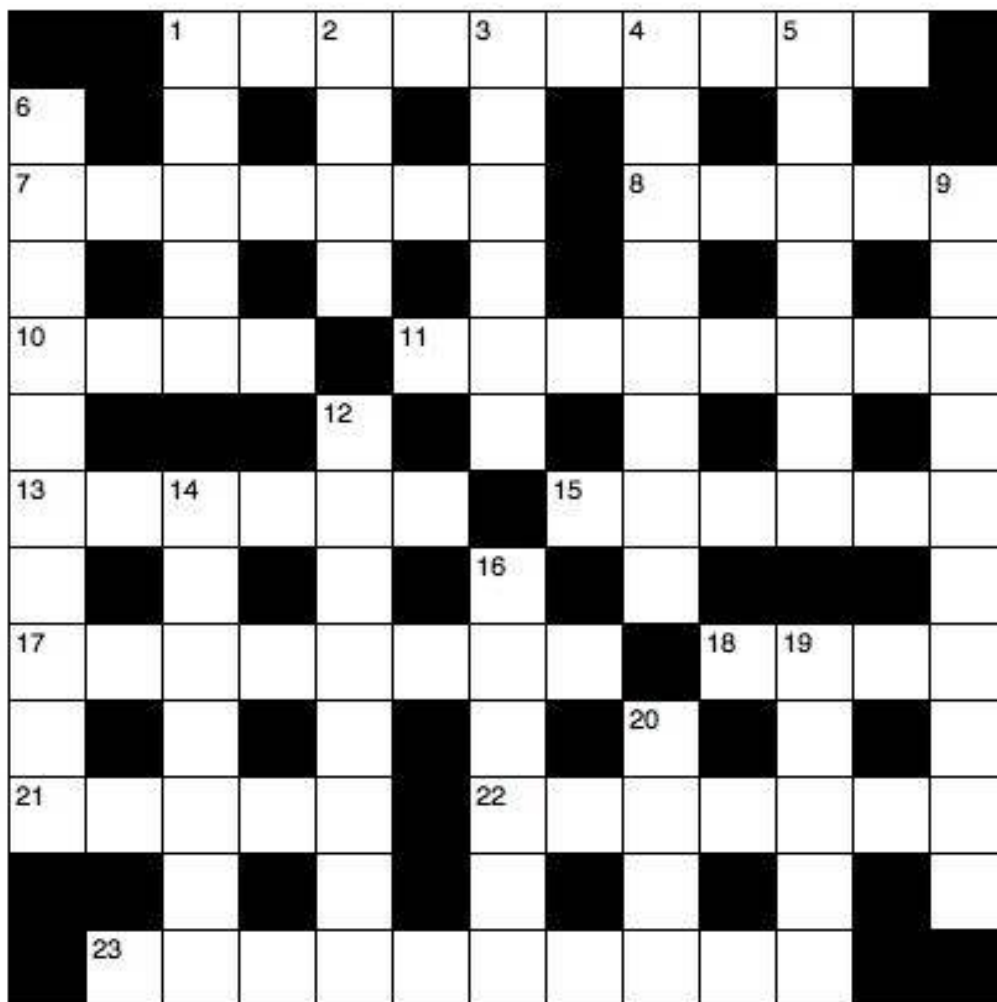
"The White Knight" Stall
Men's Goods by the Men's Fellowship

"The Mad Hatter's Party"
With Teas arranged by the Choir

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The thanks of the Committee are due to :—
A. Briscoe & Co. Ltd. and Mr. C. White
for the loan of lorries.
Owens, Peck & Co. Ltd. for the gift of timber.
The Bibby Line for the loan of bunting.
Richard Taylor & Sons for the gift of bread.
Mrs. Watts for the loan of the ponies.
The many Patrons who have sent donations to the fund
and the kind friends who have assisted with gifts for
the stalls and the loan of cars for the procession.

Pony Rides	:	Coconut Shy	:	Pedlar's Tray
Cartoon Films	:	Buttonholes and Sprays	:	



Across

- 1 Evil (Gen 6:5) (10)
 7 Musician called for by Elisha (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
 8 Request leading to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
 10 'We are hard pressed on every —' (2 Cor 4:8)(4)
 11 Fraud (2 Cor 6:8) (8)
 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)

- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Cor 12:1) (8)
 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis 26:25) (4)
 21 'As for man, his days are like —, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
 22 Or I live (anag.) (7)
 23 Those guilty of 1 Across (Romans13:4) (10)

Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
 12 Put in jail (Acts22:19) (8)
 14 Aceturn (anag.) (7)
 16 Discharge (Acts21:3) (6)
 19 'All these — come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!' (Revelation 19:7) (4)

Southport and Area Schools Worker (SASW) Trust

I would like to express my thanks for the donations made at church coffee time on Sunday 19th April when just over £60 was raised for SASW Trust. I have taken some information from their website and Facebook page to give you an idea of just the some of the work they currently do in schools and in the community.

SASW Trust was set up as a Scripture Union Local Mission Partner in 1999 by Churches and Christians in Southport and Formby who wanted to serve their local schools. One aim is *'to empower and equip young people to be a strong positive Christian influence in their schools'*. Their work has expanded and developed over the years and they now run an impressive number of projects in primary and secondary schools, taking assemblies, leading RE classes and much more.

The SASW team provide 'safe spaces for children and young people to explore the big issues of life and faith'. Often this means setting up a gazebo in the playground and allowing pupils to drop in when they want a chat or to explore a question. E.g. just before exam time they asked "What worries you?" They illustrated how holding onto your problems too long was like trying to hold plank (a push-up like position) and they report seeing ever growing numbers of pupils, and the odd teacher, trying this out! A timely reminder for the pupils that we all need ways to let go of our worries, whether that's with support from family and friends, professionals, or by placing our faith in God.

The SASW Trust Team put on an annual production called Mission Impossible for three weeks, leading up to Easter. They set up a mock secret agent headquarters in a local church and, through an immersive experience, pupils move around different zones where they look at aspects of the Easter story. The children can reach their own verdict on the events and whether or not Jesus rose from the dead. Each year Mission Impossible draws in around 400 Year 5 and 6 children and by the end of the session, they tend to find over 80% of them leave having come to the personal conclusion that Jesus rose from the dead.

I have been impressed by the work of the SASW Trust and encourage you to support them in your prayers. Thanks again.

Winnie

A recent Editorial in the 'Parish Pump' regretted that few of us will be able to see any red squirrels near our home. Indeed, sadly, red squirrels are now so rare in Britain that many of our children are not even sure what they are. A recent study found that one in 10 children are unable to even identify a red squirrel when shown a picture of one. And a third of British children do not know that red squirrels live in the UK. It all means that our native species of squirrel is at risk of being forgotten as the larger grey takes over.



The Editorial concluded by asking Church Magazine Editors to invite our readers to report any sightings they may have been lucky enough to have had on holiday in more remote parts of the country!!

However, although our beloved red squirrels are perhaps not 100% native, we should still be grateful to have them here in Formby!! Moreover, I have just been reliably informed by the National Trust that our local colony is actually flourishing and not in imminent danger. Great news, as they are just one of the many benefits of living in Formby. We are indeed very fortunate!

Alastair

Wednesday Morning Coffee and Chat

We are a group of ladies who have met over the years in each others houses on alternate Wednesday mornings from 10-12 am for a friendly chat and light refreshments. We have not advertised the group for sometime in the 'Elbow' and for various reasons, our numbers have dropped. We are aware of new ladies coming to church who might like to join us. We usually donate £1 each and at the end of the year this is then given to local charities. We usually have a break in the August holiday period and that is when we go out for lunch! We have limited transport facilities for those who can't drive but please don't let this put you off coming as we can sometimes offer a lift. If you would like more details, please see me in the hall after church, or ring me.

Vicky (873317)

The Birds

Up to 60% of UK households regularly feed their wild birds. It all adds up to an estimated £250 million in sales annually, with roughly 150,000 tonnes of seed being sold. When feeding wild birds, here are five mistakes to avoid:

Not keeping the feeders clean. This can spread disease. The RSPB advises cleaning bird feeders once a week with a mild soap such as washing-up liquid. Do it outside, using brushes that you keep for this job alone.

Leaving too much food out. It attracts rodents. The RSPB advises that little and often is best. But keep an eye on those feeders and keep them topped up. When birds are nest-building and raising broods, they need a lot of energy. Feed peanuts in a rigid mesh feeder, so that large pieces of nut cannot choke baby birds. Don't put out fat in hot weather – it can go rancid.

Feeding bread. This can lead to malnutrition. Bread is high in carbohydrates, while garden birds require a protein-rich and high-calorie diet. A chick with a stomach full of bread can freeze to death overnight. Ideally, feed a combination of mealworms, seeds, sunflower hearts, dried fruit, peanuts and fat.

Forgetting to provide water. Birds need to drink and bathe daily, especially in hot weather. Change the water every day and keep the basin clean.

Putting feeders in the wrong place. Place your feeders near to shrubs, trees and bushes, to provide cover. Blackbirds and robins are ground feeders, whereas tits and sparrows prefer to feed from hanging stations. Using an array of feeders will attract a wide range of birds.

..... and the Bees!

There are about 270 kinds of bee in the UK, including 24 types of bumblebees. Sadly, their numbers are steadily declining. Here are just six:

Early Bumblebee: – Found throughout the UK. Rather small, with distinctive lemon-yellow bands on thorax and abdomen, and an orange tail. An important pollinator of our soft fruit.

Tree Bumblebee: – Found in England and Wales, and South Scotland. Fuzzy, with brown-orange hairs on its thorax, a black abdomen, and white tail.

Red-tailed Bumblebee: – The female is larger, with a big red 'tail'.

Garden Bumblebee: – A scruffy-looking large bee, with a long tongue and face. It has several yellow bands, and the tip of the tail is white.

Buff-tailed bumblebee: – Our biggest bumblebee, with a yellow collar near the head and another on the abdomen. The queen has a buff-coloured 'tail', while the workers have white 'tails' and black hair on their faces.

Bread and Wine

A Musical written by Darren Garfield

Sunday 12th July 2026
Moor Lane Methodist Church
190 Moor Lane, Crosby, L23 2XJ

5:30pm - Refreshments
6pm - Start

Circuit Service

Free admission but donations
gratefully received

Join us for Holy Communion with songs
from the musical sung by the Circuit Choir

Answers to Crossword (see p34)

ACROSS: 1 Wickedness 7 Harpist 8 Teach 10 Side 11 Impostor 13 Encamp 15 Saddle 17 Ignorant 18 Tent 21 Grass 22 Olivier 23 Wrongdoers

DOWN: 1 World 2 Crib 3 Entomb 4 National 5 Started 6 Whispering 9 Harvesters 12 Imprison 14 Centaur 16 Unload 19 Evils 20 Give

With politicians in mind

There are two sides to every question, and a politician usually takes both
A politician doesn't stand on his record; he jumps on the other fellow's
A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman of the next generation



THE SEA

FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2026
7.30PM

FORMBY
METHODIST CHURCH
ELBOW LANE L37 4AF

Part of the Formby Lifeboat weekend celebrations, come and hear haunting and beautiful sea-themed music from local chamber choir River Voices. No tickets required. Donations gratefully received: half the proceeds going directly to Southport Lifeboat.