

"Methodist and United Reformed Church News in Darwen"

Working together to learn, live, love and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

August and September 2021

CENTRAL

BRIGHT STREET

SPRING VALE

TRINITY

TOCKHOLES

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URC Churches – Central URC, Tockholes URC and Trinity URC/Methodist

For baptisms, marriages and funerals and other enquires please contact the appropriate church secretary.

Central Website: www.centralurcdarwen.org.uk

Methodist Website: www.darwenmethodists.co.uk

This magazine is in a different format to our usual magazine, for email and printing purposes. If anyone does not receive a copy or knows of someone who hasn't received a copy, please contact Liz Rutherford 01254 774715 or email lizrutherford@live.co.uk

Deadline date for October/November magazine – Sunday 19th September 2021

Minister's letter

I am writing this on what is supposed to be called Freedom Day. The New Normal is supposed to be arriving. Thoughts of Roger Jones 'From Pharaoh to Freedom' come to mind. Will we mark this day with a new style "Passover" celebration? For so many there nothing to celebrate, except that may be this virus has spared us. But the shades of increasing infections and with hospital wards full again, the new Freedom is not what was envisaged.

This summer, 50 years ago, I was among 5 University undergraduates plus one other who drove overland to India. It was, for 4 members, a tie up between UK and Indian University Christian Unions - Cambridge with Bombay and Bangalore. I had a tie up with Operation Mobilisation and ended up going up to Srinagar in Kashmir. The last member went to Calcutta to work with drug addicts down the road from Mother Teresa. We took a brand new Land Rover Ambulance out for Oxfam [being the cheapest way to get it out there] along with a stripped-out 1952 Humber Super Snipe Ambulance which 4 of us came back again in. Through Europe – western then eastern – down to Bulgaria and then Turkey – along the Black Sea coast before going over the mountains and then coming down into Iran. The Shah was still in power, the Americans were loved and we were given breakfast in the Tehran Hilton! Then off to Afghanistan – Herat, then south to Kandahar on the Russian made road, then northwards to Kabul on the American made road – then to the border on the Afghani made road – and so to Pakistan [and English can be used again!] – then to India and to Delhi where we parted company. Kashmir was out of this world – fruitful and so green – I could just see the foothills of the Himalayas – my father had been to Srinagar during the war – of course that was before Partition – There were soldiers arriving every day, and when we returned south to Delhi, the road north was packed with army lorries, personnel and arms. We made it across the border back into Pakistan 18 hours before the border was closed and war was imminent – and so we drove back through all those countries before we came back to our small island. My life had found a very different 'normal' – it has ever since.

Freedom for us, I have come to see, is in part, a state of mind – yes our way of life gives us far more freedom than the fear I saw in people in a village in Bulgaria – or the untouchables in Delhi – or those being whipped in Kashmir by the army. The cross was for the Romans the ultimate show of power and dictatorship – the final removal of all freedoms, for the only place to go from a cross was death. Kashmir was a side show in the 1971 war, where eventually Bangladesh was formed – but only after a death toll of "between 300,000 and 3,000,000" and "hundreds of thousands of women raped". Those numbers have no precision – unlike ours for those who have died within 28 days of a positive test. We had "Every child matters" the 2003 Green paper and now "Every Mind Matters" – Covid and Mental Health – BUT Christ asks us to say "Every Life Matters" - to love our Neighbour as ourselves – so I find myself challenged anew to find "My New Normal", where I put into practice the challenge to show Christ's Agape regardless of colour, race, sexuality, age, politics, class, criminal record, qualifications, wealth, status or whatever. Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be? Can this really be my new normal? I say 'there but for the Grace of Christ, go I' – isn't that surely reason enough to try. If the Son sets me free, then I am truly free. My - our - Freedom Day, can this be each and every day?

Simon Huggill
19/7/21

"Bible Night" - A look at the Bible - What it is - what it says - how do we understand it?

Monday Nights at 7.00 starting 13th September at Lower Chapel. BB3 0EE.

All welcome for about an hour. Contact Simon 07951212842

Central Church News

Ordination and Induction of Adam Woodhouse

On Sunday 19th July Liz and I were privileged to be at Adam's Ordination and Induction service. It took place at Revidge Fold URC. Places were limited because of Covid restrictions but the service was shared over Zoom.

It was lovely actually to meet Adam in the flesh. I'd seen him several times over Zoom but it really isn't the same thing! His parents were sitting in the same row as Liz and I and it was so beautiful to see the joy on their faces as they watched their son become an ordained minister.

Rev'd Richard Bradley led the service on behalf of the moderator of the North-West Synod and explained how the call to Adam had come about. Rev'd James East, a mentor and friend of Adam, gave the sermon, pre-recorded over Zoom. It was good to hear what he had to say about our new minister in whom he, and I'm sure we, can have every confidence.

The Rev'd Samantha White gave a statement, again pre-recorded over Zoom, on behalf of Westminster College – that sounds very dry but it wasn't. She told us a little about his time at the college and his impact there, becoming Senior Student for two years. I was fascinated to learn that Adam had had placements with the Street Pastor scheme and also with the Police.

Then it was Adam's turn to speak. He told us about his upbringing in the church, his involvement in the Boys' Brigade, and becoming an Elder at the age of 21. After he became sure of his calling he applied and was accepted for Westminster College and there took his degree and ordination training. This was a very moving speech, spoken with such honesty and sincerity.

The service ended with the now Reverend Adam Woodhouse pronouncing the blessing. Despite a few technical hitches it was a service to remember!

Janet Goodship

We are delighted to be able to welcome everyone back to "normal church" on Sunday 25th July with no limitation on seating and no need to book in advance. Thanks to Barbara for managing our seating plans and Covid lists over the past few months. It will be lovely to see everyone in the Coffee Lounge after the service. In view of the very high levels of Covid infection in our area, we still need to be mindful to keep ourselves and others safe. Although it is not compulsory to wear masks, it may be advised to wear masks when singing in church.

Liz Rutherford

Birthday Celebrations Geoff, Kathleen, Michael, Ken, Janice, Harry, Debbie, Dorothy, Ken F and Liz

Wedding Anniversaries - Trevor and Janice, Janet and Ken, Jean and David.

Prayers – Every week in church we continue to mention people by name in need of our prayers.

So often, we feel threatened, by even the thought of silence. Then as we go walking in the countryside, we feel transformed, soothed. Your perfect creations are all around us God, and we feel your presence once more. Our purpose, Lord for silence, is for us to hear you with inner ears.

Lord we are at one with you.

Amen.

Lesley Barker c 2020.

Communion Rota

August – Jean Yates, Liz Rutherford (bread), Eileen Pye, Janet Goodship

September – Alison Atherton, Janice Cowell, Dorothy Yates (bread) Margaret East

CENTRAL AGM CHURCH MEETING – WEDNESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER AT 7 PM IN CHURCH

TOCKHOLES URC

I've just heard some wonderful news! Following Synod advice, our Elders have decided to reopen our Chapel for Worship from Sunday 1st August. There are still some social distancing restrictions that need to be adhered to, but after 17 months it will be wonderful to meet face-to-face and actually see the inside of our glorious Chapel.

On the last weekend in June each year, we celebrate our Chapel's Anniversary. This year was our 359th year, but due to the extension of restrictions in June we sadly had to cancel that service. I'm sure our 360th celebration next year will be a wondrous event after the sadness we have all witnessed recently.

Personally, I was really disappointed when we didn't hold the service in June. I couldn't see why we had to cancel, when the infection rates were drastically dropping and vaccinations increasing. Then the week after it all hit home, my daughter Daisy's class bubble was asked to self isolate and inevitably she tested positive a few days later. Self-Isolation for us all, then a week later my daughter Holly tested positive. Luckily both of my children were only poorly for a few days and have recovered amazingly since – but things suddenly became real. After 17 months of lockdowns, face masks and hand sanitizing I had thought we were over the worst. But low and behold Covid came and caught us unaware!

So today's announcement about 1st August brings a smile to my face after a not-so-nice July. Unfortunately, after all this time I won't be able to attend (belated birthday trip to the Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studios for Daisy!), and I think others may be doing summer holiday activities too. But this is good! Reduced numbers and a small congregation to start will be a good way for Tockholes to test out a service with restrictions.

I'm looking forward to September in the hope we can enjoy a Harvest Service together, and dare I say Christmas celebrations a few month later!

Emma

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By the time you read this we will, hopefully, have had our first service in church for over 12 months. It will be nice to get back to actually meeting together and worshipping in person after such a long time.

Mary celebrated her birthday recently, although it perhaps didn't go entirely as planned as she had shingles and had fallen. We hope you managed to enjoy your day nevertheless.

On 10th July Janet, George, Stephen and Callum held the first Muddy Church since the start of the pandemic. The weather was kind and everyone had a good time toasting marshmallows over the fire.

In our prayers recently we have remembered Jack, who has been in hospital. At the time of writing, he was a little brighter and has now moved to Clitheroe hospital, hopefully in preparation for coming home. Helen's sister Sue, who was also in hospital, is now at home; although she is no better, she is comfortable. We have also prayed for Lilian and Malcolm, and for Geoff, and we continue to pray for Catherine as she prepares to start her treatment.

On a happier note, I heard this week that Callum has achieved a 2:1 in his degree from Lancaster University – well done Callum!

Finally, our thoughts and prayers are with our new minister Adam as he is ordained and inducted into ministry in Blackburn, Darwen and the surrounding area.

Judith

NEWS FROM SPRING VALE METHODIST CHURCH

Firstly, from all at Spring Vale may we extend our greetings; we hope that you are well and look forward to the summer months to come.

Over the last few months we have returned to normality in terms of worship as best as we can. It has been lovely to open our doors once again; it is a joy to be once again worshipping together and being able to meet with friends. We must, however, mention and say thank you to everyone who has put together the services on Zoom each week which many of us were able to join before our churches were able to reopen. I am sure we will look back and reflect on just how fortunate we were to be able to join these services each week.

Since reopening we have enjoyed some lovely services led by Rev Louise and our local preachers, many of whom we have not seen for quite some time. We must also mention our wonderful worship leaders from both Spring Vale and Bright Street who have led local arrangement services which have been much appreciated and enjoyed by the congregations; thank you to you all for putting these together.

Until September we continue to hold services between Spring Vale and Bright Street on alternate weeks. It has been lovely to be able to meet each week for worship and we have all really appreciated being able to join together through these trying times and grow stronger together in our partnership as Darwen Methodists.

At the end of this month we sadly will be saying a farewell to Rev Louise as she leaves us to take up her position with her new churches in Lytham - not too far away, so we hope to hear all her news in the future. We wish her well and look forward to joining Louise at her leaving Service on the 25th July at Bright Street, which will also be a day of celebration including a BBQ and afternoon tea, kindly arranged by our friends at Bright Street; it will be a lovely day and we hope the sun shines.

As Louise leaves us, we will welcome Elizabeth our new minister and her family in September. We hold both Elizabeth and Louise in prayer that their moves go smoothly. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Elizabeth and beginning to get to know her and plan for the future.

We recently joined together with members from Bright Street at the 'Darwen Day' event and although the weather was a little grim we managed to give out plenty of leaflets (thanks to Karen for her hard work in preparing these). We had some really good conversations with people about what is taking place in both churches and it was a great opportunity to promote together our mission as Darwen Methodists.

Continuing with matters of mission, we have set up a Mission Group to plan for the future, particularly as restrictions begin to lift a little more and we can start to look at organising events at Church over the next few months. We intend to promote these by leafleting in our local community, and thanks go to David for putting together the leaflet which looks great. We hope to have a series of Coffee Afternoons in the near future and looking further ahead we will hold a quiz night and a Harvest Supper (please keep your eye on the Darwen Methodists Website for confirmed dates) and we hope that many of you will be able to join us on these evenings. Looking further ahead we will be organising our Autumn Fair and identifying what we need to do as a Church to continue to reach out to our community. Within our immediate area we have a lot of new housing development and we are keen to let everyone know what is going on in Church on a regular basis in terms of worship and also the groups that use the Church.

We are pleased to report that 'Rothwell Arts' Dance Academy who use our Church Building have now returned and are running their classes, along with our uniformed groups. In addition Blackburn with Darwen Council are also using the building for two exercise classes each week - please again see the website for full details.

Our Stay and Play Group which was extremely popular will resume in September, but will potentially be moving to a Tuesday rather than Thursday each week; more details to follow when dates have been agreed, but we are looking forward to being able to open up the group again and welcome everyone back.

We have to mention the fellowship group which many of are still attending on Zoom, and again thanks to Pam for leading us each week, particularly through our Bible Study based on Revelations which was a challenge, but we learnt a lot, and we have now moved onto our course based on the book of Mark. We are hoping that very soon we are able to meet again in Church, and anyone wanting to come along and join us would be very welcome indeed; as a group we enjoy this lovely time of fellowship. Please speak to any of the stewards if you want to know more.

Many of us have returned to worship in Church, but we think of those who as yet are unable to attend; they are very much in our thoughts and prayers. We also think of those who are not too well at the moment, or have family members who are unwell.

Finally, sadly we heard that Tom Nightingale who was a member of our church for many years had passed away, having spent the last few years in Springhill Nursing Home; our prayers are with Tom's family at this difficult time, and we at Spring Vale have fond memories of Tom, who was a lovely gentleman.

As always, thank you to everyone who undertakes the tasks needed to maintain the running of the church, which are many; it is much appreciated.

Irene

NEWS FROM DARWEN METHODIST CHURCH @ BRIGHT STREET

Greetings from all at Bright Street. This is a sad time for us as this is Rev Louise's final week with us before she moves on to Lytham St Annes; a much more glamorous location than Darwen. Although sad, we look forward to her final service on the 25th being a joyous celebration of her Ministry with us. After the morning service we are holding a BBQ on the lawn (hope it doesn't set the newly installed fire alarms off) followed by the circuit leaving service for Rev Louise and Rev Rick, who is also moving on from the Hyndburn section to take up the post of Superintendent minister in the Burnley district. We give thanks for her ministry and the many gifts she has shared with us. We ask God's blessing on both Louise and Rick as they prepare for the journey ahead of them. We are going to miss them both greatly, but through knowing them our faith has grown and is stronger. We look forward to our friendship remaining for years to come.

Work on our Church building is finally complete with the exception of replacement skylights. As we begin to welcome back the various groups who meet in our building we look forward to where God is leading us.

Our Stay and Play Toddler group held an open day and taster session last Friday and it was lovely to see some new faces which we hope to welcome back when we restart in September on Fridays at 9.30 – 11 am.

We are also holding an open day for our Time well-being group on Friday 23rd from 2 pm when we look forward to seeing familiar faces and some new ones. The group will also be restarting on the first Friday in September at 1 pm. I am sure Elizabeth will have a varied programme planned for you to look forward to. Why not come along and give it a try; you will be very welcome.

Our joint services with Spring Vale continue on alternate Sundays at 11 am until September when we will revert back to weekly services at each church starting at 10.30 am.

Our Fellowship group will be taking a break over the summer and will also resume in September on Wednesday evenings when it is hoped we can meet in person and the days of zoom are long gone.

On a final note, we are looking forward to our new Minister Rev Elizabeth being with us in September when I am sure we will give her a very warm welcome. Until then, we hold both Rev Louise and Rev Elizabeth in prayer.

God's blessing to you all,
Karen



**Congratulations Daleen!!
URC Mission Enabler wins CTE prize**

This year's winner of the MA in Mission prize is the United Reformed Church's **Revd Daleen ten Cate**, Mission Enabler for the URC's North Western Synod.

Daleen's MA dissertation 'A critical examination of the theological basis of a Christian Charity engaged in community ministry' was deemed by the judges to be a robust and rigorous piece of work which clearly engaged a community of practice out of deep relationship. Churches Together in England (CTE), alongside the Mission Research Network set up the MA Mission Prize to draw out high-quality, recently passed MA theses to add to a small but growing repository of MAs and PhDs which will be made available on its new website. When launched later this summer, the resource will include about 50 MAs and 20 PhD theses.

Daleen receives a £100 cash gift and an opportunity for the MA to appear in an edited format (6,000 words) in the recently launched journal **Ecclesial Futures, published by Wipf and Stock**, which she will be working on with her dissertation supervisor. The judges said they were impressed by the passion and level of engagement that Daleen showed in her work and the way in which she had rolled up her sleeves and got her hands dirty volunteering for six months, building relationships and the level of reflexivity was significant.

Daleen completed her MA in Contextual Theology through Luther King House in Manchester and practices her ministry just outside Blackburn as Missional Discipleship mentor across 37 churches in Lancashire. Originally from South Africa and an Afrikaaner, Daleen moved to the UK 22 years ago learning English at a local village school.

Daleen said that at heart she wasn't an academic but a practitioner who really just wanted to put faith into action, saying: "It is the most important thing for me."

Daleen worked with Urban Outreach, the charity her MA work focused on, as part of her placement. She worked particularly with the Eve Project which focuses on women who have just come out of prison.

In South Africa Daleen says she was often told: "You are quite liberal", but she didn't fully understand what that meant. For her it was just about doing what Jesus does.

Daleen credits her academic success to her tutor, the **Revd Dr Noel Irwin** and the staff at **Northern College** and Luther King Centre, Manchester.

East Lancs worship services and events arranged by Mal Breeze

Please email malbreeze@me.com if you wish to join any of these events which will still be taking place on Zoom

MORNING PRAYERS: These take place every Tuesday Morning at 9.30 am to 10 am.

PRAYER BREAKFASTS: These take place on the third Saturday of each month 10.30 am– 21st August and 18th September.

QUIZ NIGHTS: 7.30pm – 9.00pm - Friday 6th August, 3rd September.

URC CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST and SEPTEMBER

Date	Central	Trinity
1 st August	John East (baptism after service)	Rev Daleen ten Cate - HC
8 th August	Barbara Duxbury HC	Rev Lena Talbot
15 th August	Rev Adam Woodhouse	Rev Stuart Smith
22 nd August	Rev Terry Young - Baptism	Rev Adam Woodhouse
29 th August	John East	Mal Breeze
5 th September	Barbara Duxbury	Doreen Goodship - HC
12 th September	John East HC	Doreen Goodship
19 th September	Barbara Duxbury - Harvest	George Grime - Baptism
26 th September	Rev Lena Talbot	George Grime - Harvest



TOCKHOLES URC CHURCH

1 st August	Barbara Duxbury
8 th August	Rev Lena Talbot
15 th August	Rev Terry Young HC
22 nd August	Doreen Goodship – Baptism
29 th August	Doreen Goodship - Baptism
5 th September	Rev Adam Woodhouse
12 th September	Rev D Netherwood - Harvest
19 th September	Rev Terry Young HC
26 th September	Doreen Goodship



So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" (1 Corinthians 10:12 NIV)

Have you ever said to yourself, "I'm different from the average person; I've got it all together with a life that's well-thought-out. Or, I've got my ducks in a row and everything is working as I intended?" Well, watch out! According to the Scripture verse for this **devotional poetry** selection, as soon as you say it—whether, in your heart or out loud, you set yourself up for a headfirst fall into temptation!

This poem is a gentle reminder not to be so enamoured with creating a perfect and well-ordered life that leaves no room for God. The result will not be as you anticipated.

Got all my ducks in a row!
Every detail carefully planned.
Goodbye sorrow and woe!
Pessimism and doubt are resolutely banned.

Got all my ducks in a row!
Everything is in its proper position.
My calling is sure, and I'm ready to go!
My life's purpose is sure to come to fruition!

Got all my ducks in a row!
My cause is just and my motives pure.
God can count me friend instead of the foe;
He has made my election sure.

Got all my ducks in a row!
I'm marching ever forward in the strength of my might.
Sharing with others everything I know;
I am striving hard to make things decent and upright.

And just when I've worked myself into a self-righteous rut.
The LORD knocks down every duck;
And gently pulls me from moral and religious muck;
To be still, let His Spirit lead, and not trust to my might and luck.

Wordsearch – Names from the Bible



Abilene, Amasiah, Bathsheba, Cinnamon, Dionysius, Earnest, Ebenezer, Fowler, Fuller, Gabriel, Gad, Gemariah, Hachilah, Hanameel, Ibri, Ichabod, Jaaziel, Jesimiel, Kenan, Keturah, Lamech, Lucius, Mehetabel, Naaman, Nicholas, Nicodemus, Onesimus, Oshea, Perez, Philemon, Rahab, Raphael, Rephaiah, Saffron, Serah, Tabitha, Tamara, Ulla, Zachariah

Answer to last Wordsearch - Abundance

BIBLE READINGS

AUGUST 2021

- 1 John 6. 24-35
- 2 Mark 1.1-13
- 3 Mark 1.14-20
- 4 Mark 1.21-28
- 5 Mark 1.29-end
- 6 Mark 2.1-12
- 7 Mark 2.13-22
- 8 John 6.35, 41-51
- 9 Mark 2.23-3.6
- 10 Mark 3.7-19a
- 11 Mark 3.19b-end
- 12 Mark 4.1-20
- 13 Mark 4.21-34
- 14 Mark 4.35-end
- 15 John 6.51-58
- 16 Mark 5.1-20
- 17 Mark 5.21-34
- 18 Mark 5.35-end
- 19 Mark 6.1-13
- 20 Mark 6.14-29
- 21 Mark 6.30-44
- 22 John 6.56-69
- 23 Mark 6.35-end
- 24 Mark 7.1-13
- 25 Mark 7.14-23
- 26 Mark 7.24-30
- 27 Mark 7.31-end
- 28 Mark 8.1-10
- 29 Psalm 45.1-7
- 30 Mark 8.11-21
- 31 Mark 8.22-26

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 1 Mark 8.27-9.1
- 2 Mark 9.2-13
- 3 Mark 9.14-29
- 4 Mark 9.30-37
- 5 Psalm 146
- 6 Mark 9.38-end
- 7 Mark 10.1-16
- 8 Mark 10.17-31
- 9 Mark 10.32-34
- 10 Mark 10.35-45
- 11 Mark 10.46-end
- 12 Psalm 19
- 13 Mark 11.1-11
- 14 Mark 11.12-26
- 15 Mark 11.27-end
- 16 Mark 12.1-12
- 17 Mark 12.13-17
- 18 Mark 12.18-27
- 19 Psalm 1
- 20 Mark 12.28-34
- 21 Mark 12.35-end
- 22 Mark 13.1-13
- 23 Mark 13.14-23
- 24 Mark 13.24-31
- 25 Mark 13.32-end
- 26 Psalm 124
- 27 Mark 14.1-11
- 28 Mark 14.12-25
- 29 Mark 14.26-42
- 30 Mark 14.43-52

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FORMAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Spring Vale: Guides, Brownies, Rainbows;
Methodist at Bright Street: Brownies, Rainbows

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS

Weekday Groups at Central, Spring Vale, Trinity and Bright Street

ENQUIRIES:

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