

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**CENTRAL:** Secretary: Liz Rutherford Tel 01254 774715  
Email: secretary@centralurcdarwen.org.uk

**Room Lettings:** Janice Cowell Tel 01254 706379  
email: rooms@centralurcdarwen.org.uk

### **DARWEN METHODIST CHURCH AT BRIGHT STREET**

**Stewards:** Valerie Gregory Tel 705314  
Jean Fish, 8 Calder Ave, Darwen. Tel 773935  
Karen Rowley, 2 Lyndhurst Road, Darwen. Tel 07941 881833

**Room Lettings:** Marion Haslam, 4 Sunnyhurst Close, Darwen Tel: 773633

### **SPRING VALE**

**Stewards:** Lilian Nicholson, 660 Bolton Road, Darwen  
Chris Allan, 2 Sudell Close, Darwen  
Irene Hindle  
Donna Boothman  
Julie Jones

**Room Lettings:** David Foster, 4 Derby Close, Darwen Tel 703858  
email: davidfosterld@btinternet.com

### **TRINITY, LOWER DARWEN**

**Secretary:** George Grime Tel 01254 54305 email: agandjmgrime@aol.com

**TOCKHOLES: Secretary:** Kathleen Knowles. Tel 01254 706489

### **CHURCH NEWS EDITOR**

Liz Rutherford 68 Barley Bank Street, Darwen Tel 774715 email: lizrutherford@live.co.uk

### **FORMAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

**Spring Vale:** Guides, Brownies, Rainbows; **New Church:** Brownies, Rainbows

### **PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS**

**Weekday Groups** at Central, Spring Vale, Trinity and New Church

### **ENQUIRIES:**

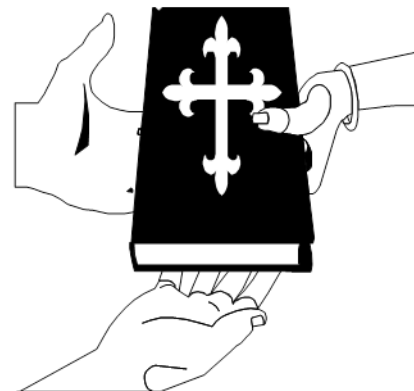
**URC Churches** – Central URC, Tockholes URC and Trinity URC/Methodist  
For baptisms, marriages and funerals and any other enquires please contact the appropriate church secretary.

**Methodist Churches**—please contact the Minister or Stewards.

## "Methodist and United Reformed Church News in Darwen"

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

**February and March 2020**



**CENTRAL**

**NEW CHURCH**

**SPRING VALE**

**TRINITY**

**TOCKHOLES**

## METHODIST MINISTER

Rev Louise Makin 2 Highercroft Road Lower Darwen, BB3 0QR (01254 678858)  
email: a.louise.makin@gmail.com

**URC Churches** – Central URC, Tockholes URC and Trinity URC/Methodist  
For baptisms, marriages and funerals and other enquires please contact the appropriate church secretary—see church directory on the back page of magazine.

Central Website: [www.centralurcdarwen.org.uk](http://www.centralurcdarwen.org.uk)

Methodist Website: [www.wpmmethodist.co.uk](http://www.wpmmethodist.co.uk)

**WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY**

**SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY**

Central	9.30am	Rev Geoff Tolley: Communion	
	10.30am	Rev Geoff Tolley	Elsa Peacock
Bright Street	10.30am	Jim Proctor	
Spring Vale	10.45am	Simon Huggill	
Trinity	10.30am	Doreen Goodship: Communion	
Tockholes	2.00pm	Doreen Goodship	

**SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

Central	10.30am	Rev Lena Talbot: Communion	Beryl Shaw
Bright Street	10.30am	June Littlemore	
Spring Vale	10.45am	D.Foster/S.Huggill/K.Hodkinson	
Trinity	10.30am	Rev Geoff Tolley	
Tockholes	2.00pm	Kathryn Hodkinson	

**SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

Central	10.30am	Barbara Duxbury	Norma Astley
Bright Street	9.30am	Rev Louise Makin: Café /All Age Worship	
Spring Vale	11.00am	Rev Louise Makin	
Trinity	10.30am	Danny Wilson	
Tockholes	2.00pm	John East: Communion	

**SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY**

Central	10.30am	Rev Geoff Tolley	David Yates
Bright Street	10.30am	Rev Louise Makin: Communion	
Spring Vale	10.45am	Colin Garley	
Trinity	10.30am	Catherine Young	
Tockholes	2.00pm	George Grime	

**BIBLE READINGS**

**FEBRUARY**

**MARCH**

1	Mark 4.35-end	1	Matthew 4.1-11
2	Luke 2.22-40	2	Galatians 3.23-4.7
3	Mark 5.1-20	3	Galatians 4.8-20
4	Mark 5.21-end	4	Galatians 4.21-5.1
5	Mark 6.1-6a	5	Galatians 5.2-15
6	Mark 6.7-13	6	Galatians 5.16-end
7	Mark 6.14-29	7	Galatians 6
8	Mark 6.30-44	8	John 3.1-17
9	Matthew 5.13-20	9	Hebrews 1
10	Mark 6.53-end	10	Hebrews 2.1-9
11	Mark 7.1-13	11	Hebrews 2.10-end
12	Mark 7.14-23	12	Hebrews 3.1-6
13	Mark 7.24-30	13	Hebrews 3.7-end
14	Mark 7.31-end	14	Hebrews 4.1-13
15	Mark 8.1-10	15	John 4.5-42
16	Matthew 6.25-end	16	Hebrews 4.14-5.10
17	Mark 8.11-13	17	Hebrews 5.11-6.12
18	Mark 8.14-21	18	Hebrews 6.13-end
19	Mark 8.22-26	19	Hebrews 7.1-10
20	Mark 8.27-33	20	Hebrews 7.11-end
21	Mark 8.34-91	21	Hebrews 8
22	Mark 9.2-13	22	John 9
23	Matthew 17.1-9	23	Hebrews 9.1-14
24	Galatians 1	24	Hebrews 9.15-end
25	Galatians 2.1-10	25	Hebrews 10.1-18
26	John 8.1-11	26	Hebrews 10.19-25
27	Galatians 2.11-end	27	Hebrews 10.26-end
28	Galatians 3.1-14	28	Hebrews 11.1-16
29	Galatians 3.15-22	29	John 11.1-45
		30	Hebrews 11.17-31
		31	Hebrews 11.32-12.2

Answer to last Word Search—Frankincense

Deadline for April/May 2020 Magazine—Sunday 22nd March 2020

### DARWEN METHODIST CHURCH AT BRIGHT STREET

Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday Service with Junior Church—Multi media Jean Fish 07506 613830 <a href="mailto:jean_fish@hotmail.co.uk">jean_fish@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Monday	10 am to 12 noon	Stroke Association Choir <b>1st Monday each month</b>
Monday	1.15 pm to 2.15 pm	Mindfulness—a group for mums and babies
Monday		Rainbows & Brownies
Monday	7.15 pm to 9.00 pm	Fellowship Group— <b>fortnightly</b>
Tuesday	10.30 am to 11.30 am	Age Concern Tai Chi classes
Tuesday	1.00 pm to 2.30 pm	Blackburn with Darwen Well-being Group
Tuesday	7.00 pm to 9 pm	Unity Choir
Wednesday	5.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Weight Watchers
Wednesday	7.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Trefoil Guild <b>1st Wednesday</b>
Thursday	9.00 am to 10.30 am	Weight Watchers
Thursday	10.00 am to 12 noon	Beading Group
Thursday	12 noon to 1.30 pm	Lunch <b>2nd Thursday of month</b>
Friday	9.30 am to 11 am	Stay & Play Toddler Group
Friday	12.30 pm to 2.30 pm	West Pennine Slings Group
Friday	1.00 pm—3.00 pm	Time Wellbeing Group
Saturday	8.00 am to 10 am	Weight Watchers
Saturday	10.00 am to 2.00 pm	Darwen Textile Group <b>2nd Sat each month</b>

### GROUPS AT SPRING VALE

Sunday	10.45 am	Sunday Service
Monday	4.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Rothwell Arts (dancing)
Tuesday	10.00 am to 11.00 am	Adventure Babies (0-12 months)
Tuesday	11.00 am to 12 noon	Adventure Babies (6-24 months)
Tuesday	5.45 pm to 7.00 pm	Rainbows
Wednesday	6.00 pm to 7.30 pm	Brownies
Wednesday	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm	Guides
Thursday	10.30 am to 12 noon	Stay and Play—Parents/Carers and Toddler Group
Thursday	5.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Rothwell Arts (dancing)
Friday	7.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Walk this Way Choir
Saturday	9.00 am to 12 noon	Starlight Kids Dance and Stage School
Saturday	10.00 am to 2.30 pm	Rothwell Arts (dancing)

### WORSHIP FOR MARCH

#### SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH

Central	9.30am	Rev Geoff Tolley: Communion	
	10.30am	David Foster	Alison Atherton
Bright Street	10.30am		
Spring Vale	10.45am		
Trinity	10.30am	George Grime: Communion	
Tockholes	2.00pm	Rev Terry Young	

#### SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH

Central	10.30am	Barbara Duxbury: Communion	Margaret East
Bright Street	10.30am		
Spring Vale	10.45am		
Trinity	10.30am	Rev Geoff Tolley	
Tockholes	2.00pm	Rev Geoff Tolley	

#### SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH

Central	10.30am	John Bidwell	Lesley Barker
Bright Street	10.30am		
Spring Vale	10.45am		
Trinity	10.30am	Danny Wilson	
Tockholes	2.00pm	George Grime: Communion	

#### MOTHERING SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH

Central	10.30am	Doreen Goodship	Liz Rutherford
Bright Street	10.30am		
Spring Vale	10.45am		
Trinity	10.30am	Executive Committee	
Tockholes	2.00pm	Doreen Goodship	

#### SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH

Central	10.30am	Rev Nigel Uden: Joint Service	Mary Irokansi
Bright Street	10.30am		
Spring Vale	10.45am		
Trinity	10.30am	<i>At Central</i>	
Tockholes	10.30am	<i>At Central</i>	

## Minister's letter

Dear Colleagues

In July 1967 I wrote my first pastoral letter and in January 2020 I write my final one, which must be about 500 in total. They have been written for all kinds of situations. So, what are my last thoughts I want to say? When I started off it was two services in the same church every week; it then moved to three when my single pastorate became joint with another one nine miles away.

These were years of learning the ropes which included hospital, psychiatric hospital and hospice work. Eventually in 1986, as one of my Adlington Elders put it "The Tolleys have descended on Darwen". I was mainly at Central and Lower Chapel and I soon got stuck in with the members at Central to sort out the old Central Church, which to repair would cost one million pounds. After a few years I received a telephone call one evening to say "we've done it - the Grade 2 Listed building can now be demolished and we can go ahead and build the new Sanctuary".

At Lower Chapel we had a good group of people who also worked hard for the Church. We had a mission with students from our Northern College and a Time for God worker, joint with St. James. Just after I arrived it was the 300th Anniversary and a letter was on display giving us permission to build the church with permission from the king.

A most exciting time was when we set up the Darwen Churches Partnership with our Methodist friends and two Anglican Churches. It was encouraged at an evening event at Central led by the Bishop of Blackburn, Rev. Alan Chesters, the future Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Chair of the Methodist District and the Baptist Leader for the area plus our Moderator, Rev. Tony Burnham. It was eventually launched on the M65 Motorway Bridge in Lower Darwen as a sign of a bridge between the churches and the community. I am very sorry that this eventually ceased.

All this is water under the bridge and as we work in the 21st century it is now vastly different as the lifestyles of people have changed and our understanding of community has changed and we must cut our cloth, as the church always has done, to suit the society in which it is set.

400 years ago this year, the Pilgrim Fathers sailed on the Mayflower to the new world and landed in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. Edith and I were privileged to be there in 2003 and see the memorial stone "1620" which in many ways was the founding of the USA. When they set off from Plymouth, England the Rev. John Robinson bid them farewell with these words, "The Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth from his words".

Blessings for the future  
Geoff and Edith

### Spring Vale Flower Rota

#### February

2nd Sharon & Chris Allen  
9th Margaret Huggill  
15th David & Karimeh Foster  
23rd Susan & Geoff Kingdom Kayak

#### March

1st Kath Hodgkinson  
8th Free  
15th Margaret Huggill  
23rd David & Karimeh Foster  
29th Margaret Huggill

### Central Flower Rota

#### February

2nd 'In memory of loved ones' the Grimson family  
9th 'In memory' The Central Fellowship  
16th 'In memory of Edith and Arnold Briggs' the family  
23rd Marion Brown

#### March

1st 'In memory' Ken and Beryl Shaw  
8th 'In memory' Lee and Patricia Campbell, Gary and Eileen Pye  
15th 'In memory of Frank Shaw' Olwen Shaw  
22nd 'Wedding Anniversary' Mike and Anne Adamson  
29th Flower Fund

### Central Coffee Rota

#### February

2nd Dorothy Yates, Mavis Aspinall  
9th Karen Narramore, Alison Atherton  
16th Liz Rutherford, Beryl Shaw  
23rd Lynda Reay, Beryl Slater, Margaret East

#### March

1st Janice Cowell, Elsa Peacock  
8th Karen Narramore, Alison Atherton  
15th Barbara Duxbury, Beryl Shaw  
22nd Dorothy Yates, Mavis Aspinall  
29th Janice Cowell, Elsa Peacock

We are very short of people (men or women) willing to help with the coffee bar on Sunday mornings. If you think this is something you could help with please contact Barbara Duxbury.

### Central Communion Rota

#### February

Jean Yates, Janet Goodship, \*Liz Rutherford, Elsa Peacock

#### March

\*Margaret East, Margaret Oldham, Beryl Shaw, Ken Shaw

\*denotes who is to supply bread. If you are not available, please arrange a replacement, strike your name out and choose an alternative month.

## ROWLAND DOWELL 4TH JANUARY 1943 – 12TH DECEMBER 2019



On Friday 3rd January 2020 I was honoured and privileged to conduct the funeral service of a dear friend, Rowland Dowell. For many years Rowland had been a local preacher in the Methodist Church and was instrumental in my becoming a local preacher many years later. Rowland leant his allegiances to the Congregation church at Hollins Grove when he became their pastor in 1999. This photo is from that time. Rowland later became the pastor at Highfield and remained there up until his passing. I am honoured to have had Rowland, Beth and Jay as friends for many years. Indeed, Rowland was appointed by Rev Eric Roberts as godparent to my daughter Lindsay in 1985. An appointment which to this day causes Lindsay to role her eyes. God bless you all.

Kath Hodkinson

## FLOWER ROTAS—FEBRUARY/MARCH

### Tockholes Flower Rota

#### February

2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Jinks  
9<sup>th</sup> Mr and Mrs T Jump  
16<sup>th</sup> Vacant  
23<sup>rd</sup> Mr and Mrs A Gillett

#### March

1<sup>st</sup> Vacant  
8<sup>th</sup> Vacant  
15<sup>th</sup> Joanne and Paul Davis 'In memory of Mother and Family'  
22<sup>nd</sup> Eileen and Gordon Sellers 'Birthday memories of Mother'  
29<sup>th</sup> Vacant

## **Bolton Road**

This is an update on Bolton Road to let everyone know that most of the contents have now found new homes. Many churches, local and further afield around Lancashire, are now making good use of a wide range of items that they were given. Some local charities, including East Lancashire Hospice, Air Ambulance, British Heart Foundation and New Hope Christian Charity have also benefitted from gifts of money or goods.

We were pleased that Rev. Dr. Catherine Lewis-Smith, our former Minister, has been able to equip the Salford Royal Hospital Chapel with many pieces of furniture from Bolton Road's Alcove, all of which will be very useful to her in her role as a Chaplain.

One of the leaders of a new ecumenical project, being planned for Rochdale, was also delighted to take a good number of items to help furnish the building.

Thank you to Central URC for displaying The Last Supper Tapestry that was made by Ron Coupe many years ago. Ron was very involved in Bolton Road's Amateur Dramatic Society and his wife Margaret and family also had strong links with the church. Likewise, a wooden cross, made by Mr & Mrs Sutcliffe, is now at Central. Some old Bolton Roaders will remember them worshipping at Bolton Road many years ago along with their children.

There is an organ, piano, wooden lectern and a number of non-stacking stand chairs still remaining in church so please let me know if anyone is interested in these items.

Darwen Heritage Centre now has many photos, plaques, minute books and other memorabilia from the church.

There have been some recent viewings to Bolton Road's building with bids expected to take place in February.

Finally, on behalf of all members of Bolton Road's former congregation, I would like to thank our local churches for their warm welcome that has been extended to all.

Susan Blezard

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

### DARWEN METHODIST CHURCH AT BRIGHT STREET

It's been a busy, action-packed couple of months since the last newsletter and here we are at the start of January already, and so on behalf of all at Bright Street I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and blessed New Year. We are very much looking forward with anticipation to what is a special year for us as we celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the building of this chapel on the site of the old Blackburn Road Methodist chapel. Before we look forward though, let's take a look at what we've been up to in the last couple of months.

Those of us who volunteered at 3 Generate in November, once again, had a wonderful time with over 1200 children and young people from Methodist churches around the country. We also had the privilege of welcoming a group of young Methodists who had travelled all the way from Russia. They gave us a superb presentation of what it's like to be Christians in their country, all delivered in excellent English. They were so inspirational, as were all the youngsters we met during the various activities taking place over the weekend. They shared their hopes and concerns and have a very definite vision for the future of the Church. We pray that God will guide them as they continue on their journey with Him.

Our 'Time' well-being group continues to go from strength to strength, ably organised and led by Elizabeth. During November and December we enjoyed a domino drive, decorating cupcakes competition, Christmas Crafts with Rev Louise, and a visit from Rev Terry Young who gave an excellent talk and presentation on his visit to Buckingham Palace. We rounded off our December activities with a Christmas party which was enjoyed by all. Our grateful thanks to Elizabeth for all her hard work. Please check out our new programme and if there's anything you fancy, just come along and join in the fellowship and fun. You'll be very welcome.

Our fellowship group is flourishing under the leadership of Pam Greenhalgh, to whom we owe our grateful thanks. We have just commenced a pre-Lent course 'The mystery of Everything' based on the film 'A theory of everything'. Our group meets fortnightly and our next session will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 7.15 for a 7.30 start. All are welcome to come and join us in what promises to be a few weeks of interesting and lively discussion.

Stay and Play continues to be well attended. Every Friday we have lots of fun with friends, enjoy simple crafts, messy play, singing and eat lots of healthy snacks.

We ended our year with the usual chaotic but fun, short nativity presentation when some of the mums joined in reading the narrative. Our final session was our Christmas party

## GROUPS WHO MEET AT CENTRAL

Monday	9.30 am to 11.15 am	Mums and Tots ( <b>term time only</b> )
Monday	12.30 pm to 2.00 pm	DARE Job Club ( <b>term time only</b> )
Monday	6.00 pm to 9.30 pm	Ballroom/Sequence Dancing
Tuesday	9.30 am to 10.30 am	Yoga
Tuesday	11.00 am to 12 noon	Health Re-fresh Borough Council
Tuesday	1.00 pm to 2.00 pm	Sweaty Mamas Exercise Group
Tuesday	3.30 pm to 9.45 pm	Dance
Wednesday	10.00 am to 1.30 pm	Refugee Drop-In Club
Wednesday	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Ashleigh Singers ( <b>September to May</b> )
Wednesday	5.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Dancing
Thursday Alternate weeks	9.00 am to 12.00 noon	P.R.O.B.U.S ( <b>alternate weeks</b> )
Thursday	6.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Dancing
Friday	11.30 am to 12.30 pm	Seated Yoga
Friday	5.30 pm to 7.30 pm	Dance Class ( <b>term time</b> )
Saturday	8.00am to 11.30 am	Slimming World
Sunday	5 pm to 9.30 pm	Jam Factory Band (as required)

### CENTRAL CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH

#### Midweek communion at Central URC 11.30 am

February 20th at 11.30 am

March 26<sup>th</sup> **starting at 11.45 am**

#### Café Bible Study at Riverside Heights 10 am

12th Feb and 11th March

#### Central Fellowship

Thurs 6th February 2.15 pm Church Hall—The Fire Service

Monday 2nd March 7.30 pm Speaker Denise Gee at the home of Barbara Duxbury

Thursday 19th March Visit to Samlesbury Hall. Transport from Central 10.15 am

#### Book Club— 2 pm at the home of Anne Grimson. Tel 01254 703994

No meeting in February, then probably 9th March

## Word Search–Cities



Alexandria, Babel, Bethlehem, Bethsaida, Brick, Buildings, Caesarea, Cana, Capernaum, Commerce, Culture, Damascus, Ephesus, Gomorrah, Grandeur, Houses, Iconium, Israelites, Jerusalem, Lystra, Market, Philippi, Sanctuary, Sidon, Stone, Street, Stronghold, Syracuse, Thessalonica, Tiberias, Timber, Town, Village, Watchtower, Well

Try to find the mystery answer: after you have found all the words, sort the left-over letters into the correct order to form the mystery answer.

when we had games and lots of lovely party food.

Can I take this opportunity to say a massive thanks to all who volunteer their time to help out. I couldn't do it without you.

I must also thank all who donate food and help at our soup, sandwich (and dessert) lunch, which is held on the second Thursday of every month. Thank you also to those who come along to enjoy the food and fellowship – we seem to have built up a regular clientele. This is open to everyone and all are welcome but if possible, please let someone know if you are coming to join us so we have some idea of numbers.

Our Christmas services were well attended and seemingly enjoyed by all. Our service of Nine Lessons and Carols on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December was led by myself and the other two Stewards/Worship leaders, Jean and Val, with other members of the congregation taking part. There were no complaints so I think it went ok.

Also on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 4pm we had our very first 'Carols on the Lawn' followed by a lovely time of fellowship sharing hot drinks and mince pies together.

On Christmas Eve, at 3 pm, we held our 'Christingle and Return of the Sheep' service. All the knitted sheep who had been residing in various shops around town, were safely returned to the fold. We hope all children, and adults, who took part in the sheep trail had lots of fun locating the sheep. We must say a massive thank you to all the shopkeepers who, so willingly, agreed to discreetly display a sheep on their premises for the children to find.

The café style service was very much enjoyed by all who attended. The beautifully decorated Church looked stunning and added to the enjoyment. We are so grateful to Rev Louise for once again sharing her creative skills and talents and also for delivering a service which was fun but very special.

On Christmas morning, we were welcomed by our sisters and brothers in Christ, at Spring Vale, and we celebrated and worshipped together as we welcomed the new born king into our midst.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all who work so hard to keep our Church running smoothly. Whether your role is big or small, you are much appreciated, and we cannot do without you. As a church, it has been a tough few months as we have faced many problems and challenges, some of which are ongoing, but with God's help and guidance we will get there in the end. Please keep praying and be patient.

Finally, we say thank you to Rev Louise for all her hard work, dedication and inspiration.

As we move forward, please hold Louise in your prayers as she now has the added responsibility of ministering to Feniscowles Methodist Church. No easy task, as she now has four Churches under her wing. We ask for God's blessing and guidance for you as your journey with him takes you on a new pathway.

Love and blessings to you all

Karen

## TRINITY

It scarcely seems possible that Christmas has been and gone and we are already approaching the end of January. The nights are finally starting to get that little bit lighter, and there are signs of spring in the gardens.

Instead of a traditional nativity service this year, we had a Christingle service, with all members of the congregation making a Christingle to either take home with them or leave in church. The church looked very pretty when they were all lit, albeit only for a short time!

On 12th December we had our Christmas meal, again at Astley Bank, and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Janet for organising everything.

Our Anniversary service on 12th January was led by Geoff and was followed by a Jacob's join lunch. Thank you to everybody who contributed in any way.

We have had quite a few birthdays to celebrate recently, most notably Edith's as she was 95. Other people who have had birthdays include Angela's brother Kevin, Callum, Helen's sister Janet, Enid, Colin's son Adrian and granddaughter Tabitha, who share a birthday, Doreen, Terry, Ruth's brother, Janet and Judith.

In our prayers we have remembered Edith, Jack and Sheila, Enid, Marian, Janet and George's neighbour Audrey's family, Helen's sister Sue, Angela's daughter Emily and husband Tommy, and Jack and Helen's next door neighbour Kevin.

Judith

## Time Wellbeing Group Spring Programme Darwen Methodist Church at Bright Street 1 pm to 3 pm

### February

- 7th Speaker: Cameron, Rapid Responder  
Basic First Aid, cuts, bruises, scalding, splinters etc.
- 14th Lancashire Day, potato pie, Lancashire dialects, Lancashire songs, stories people have to tell about old Darwen.
- 21st Speaker: Arthur Greenhalgh  
Attending the Scout Jamboree in America
- 28th Speaker: Sandra Heaton: Living with blindness

### March

- 6th To be confirmed
- 13th Unity Choir
- 20th Put on your dancing shoes, dominoes and cards
- 27th Easter Crafts – Rev. Louise Makin

### April

- 3rd End of term party and Jacob's Join

Leap Day Quiz at Central URC Church  
Saturday 29th February at 7 pm  
£7 including supper  
Raffle prizes  
Bring your own drinks  
Contact Alison on 01254 761308

### **CENTRAL URC COLLECTION FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN** **Christmas 2019**

Advent Service Collection	£40.92
Christmas Day Collection	£21.35
Christmas card postage money and donations	£237.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>£300.00</b>

The final total raised is **£300.00**  
*Many thanks to all who contributed*



## TOCKHOLES

Christmas was less than a month ago, but it seems like much longer, now the children have been back to school for a few weeks and the decorations are down. December flew by with lovely celebrations in Tockholes – and for once we weren't scuppered by snow or ice over the festive season.

The Toy Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December saw bags and sacks full of pre-loved and new toys being donated to the Salvation Army. Thank you to all who came and gave gifts, and many thanks to Catherine Young for stepping-in to talk about the amazing work of the Salvation Army.

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December we sang our hearts out to 'Lancashire Sings Christmas' Carols in the Rock Inn. The fire was roaring when we arrived and it was lovely to sit with friends from the village and from Darwen churches who joined us on the day. £200 was collected from donations for the Potato Pie Supper, and has been given to Cancer Research.

Christingle on 22<sup>nd</sup> December was extra special as it was nice and close to Christmas this year. We had a packed Church who sang Carols while we lit our Oranges in the fading Tockholes light. My favourite service of the year! I'm looking forward to next year's already!

Please note that Chapel will close on March 29<sup>th</sup>, and a joint service at Central in Darwen will be held at 10.30am – the Moderator of the General Assembly will be attending.

We will also be hosting a joint service later in the summer for our friends from Darwen Churches – I'll update you more nearer the time.

Emma

## CENTRAL

Looking back on the Christmas period, there were so many lovely and meaningful services. Perhaps the most memorable was when eight new members were received into the church. We were so pleased to welcome Taibat, Maria, Adibola, Raphael, Adebiyi and Abiola; also Lesley and Joyce who were transferred from their previous churches. Very moving speeches were given by several new members, who commented especially on the peace, love and care they have found in Darwen.

In the same service we learned that Karen had joined the Big Sleep-out in the grounds of St Silas' church. This was to raise awareness of homelessness and to raise funds for Nightsafe. Karen said her experience as a Girl Guide had helped!

Our Nativity Service, led by Barbara, involved the children singing Away in a Manger, gathered round the crib, while Doreen played the guitar. I don't think mine was the only throat with a lump in it at that moment.

After Christmas we continue to have interesting services. Kath Hodgkinson led us in thinking about encouraging others to follow Jesus. This involved a fascinating game of 'Follow the Leader' which eventually involved at least half the congregation parading round the church – the canine one included!

Birthdays which have been mentioned include those of Doris W, John, Olivia, Norma, Betty, Tom, Margaret E, Heather, Amber, David, Ryan and Abdulla. We hope they all enjoyed their special days.

Many congratulations to Alison who is going to be a grandma!

Wedding Anniversaries were celebrated by Geoff and Edith, Alizon and Dave.

Among the people we were asked to hold in our prayers in this time were Doris's brother-in-law, Irene, Elaine, Harry, Barbara and Harry's great-grandson, Annette, David Y, David and Margaret Y, Edith, Alison, John, Judith, Margaret W, Margaret B's cousin, Dorothy's friend, Eileen's niece Lucy, those in residential care, and all seeking a settled life in the UK. We particularly held in our thoughts and prayers Doris, Michael, and all those who have suffered bereavements of friends and family.

Janet

## SPRING VALE

We seem so soon to have reached the New Year, and from all at Spring Vale, we wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful 2020.

Christmas seemed to arrive early at Spring Vale, starting at the end of November with our Christmas Fair, which is one of our main fundraising events, and as always much hard work was needed to put on the fair, but which is enjoyed by all that attend. This year the 'Walk This Way' choir opened the event, by getting us all in the mood with a lovely Christmas Medley of songs. The Hall looked lovely, and we had a good array of stalls both old favourites and new. Over lunch friends were able to catch up, and enjoy some fellowship, and it is always lovely to welcome friends both old and new into the church.

We had discussed for some time what we could do in terms of taking 'Christmas' out to the community, and it was decided that we would have Community Carol Singing on the Green in nearby Garden Village. Fortunately, we were blessed with a clear and fine evening, and a small group soon turned into a larger gathering of almost 50 people, and was much enjoyed by all who came along. Afterwards we returned to Church to enjoy Coffee and Mince Pies, and this is an event that we can certainly build upon for the future, and we are already talking about how we can enhance this next year.

Similar to last year, we had two Christmas Trees in Church, one of which was adorned with the hats, gloves and scarves etc. which were donated for distribution to the homeless, and several bags were filled with the kind donations that were made, and we understand that these have gone to several deserving charities.

As always, the advent services were much enjoyed by all, and our Carol Service was a Local Arrangement service, in which we were all able to participate, from readings to picking our favourite Carols, and we feel that we are growing together (and hopefully getting better) in arranging these services, which are always much enjoyed by the congregation.

Last year saw us come together with Bright Street as one church, and it was therefore lovely to all worship together at Spring Vale on Christmas Morning led by Louise and to be able to greet our many friends on such a special day. The following Sunday we were able to attend a joint service at Bright Street, and we

look forward to the coming year, as we come together and continue to grow in God's love.

Since the start of the year, we have had our Covenant Service, again alongside our friends from Bright Street, and it was lovely to be able to renew our covenant promises, and take communion together as one church.

We have just last Sunday held the first service in a series of services which are being led by Simon, David and Kath, and which are entitled 'I Am'. The first service was much enjoyed, and we enjoyed some lovely refreshments (and home baked goodies) made by Simon, and we look forward to learning more, over the coming weeks. Thank you to Simon, David and Kath for their hard work.

The Fellowship Group has resumed which is enjoyed by many of us, and from which we have learnt so much. We are over the coming weeks doing a course titled 'The Mystery of Everything', based around the film 'Theory of Everything'. As always we are so grateful to Pam who is leading our group, and puts in the hard work and research beforehand, THANKS PAM. If anyone is interested in coming along to the group, you would be warmly welcomed as it is essentially just what it says, a Fellowship Group, so if you are interested please speak to one of the stewards at either Bright Street or here at Spring Vale for details of the meetings which take place at Bright Street.

Finally, a big thank you must go to everyone who has been working on converting the classrooms in Church in to a much more usable space going forward. There has been a tremendous amount of hard work gone into this project, and though not quite finished is looking fantastic, and will benefit the Church hugely. This alongside lots of other maintenance jobs that get done means that our Church can continue to accommodate the many groups that use our building, and we are so thankful for the commitment of everyone who works behind the scenes to make this happen.

We continue to hold in prayer and think of members of our congregation who are not able to attend Church anymore, but continue to be part of our Church Family, and to all who have been suffering with illnesses over the Christmas period, we hope you are feeling better soon.

Irene