

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**BOLTON ROAD** **Secretary:** Susan Blezard, 31 Cranberry Close, Darwen

**CENTRAL:** **Secretary:** John East Tel 01254 771957  
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**Room Lettings:** Janice Cowell Tel 01254 706379  
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### **NEW CHURCH**

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Karen Rowley, 2 Lyndhurst Road, Darwen. Tel 07941881833  
Carole Bean, 6 Jubilee Street, Darwen. Tel 07926951638  
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### **SPRING VALE**

**Stewards:** Janet Ashton, 11 Knowsley Meadows, Darwen  
Lilian Nicholson, 660 Bolton Road, Darwen  
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### **TRINITY, LOWER DARWEN**

**Secretary:** George Grime Tel 01254 54305 email: [agandjmgrime@aol.com](mailto:agandjmgrime@aol.com)

**TOCKHOLES: Secretary:** Glynis Hargreaves Tel 01254 703362 email: [steveredrose69@aol.com](mailto:steveredrose69@aol.com)

### **CHURCH NEWS EDITOR**

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### **FORMAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

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

### **PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS**

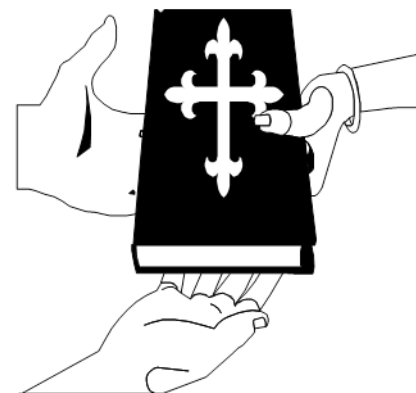
**Weekday Groups** at Central, Spring Vale, Trinity and New Church

**ENQUIRIES:** The Churches welcome all enquiries. For Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals please contact one of the Ministers before any other arrangements are made. Other enquiries may be made through the Ministers, Secretaries or Stewards.

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

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

### June and July 2017



**BOLTON ROAD**

**CENTRAL**

**NEW CHURCH**

**SPRING VALE**

**TRINITY**

**TOCKHOLES**

## MINISTERS

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

Methodist Website: [www.westpenninemoorscircuit.org.uk](http://www.westpenninemoorscircuit.org.uk)

## WORSHIP FOR JUNE

### SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Bolton Road	10.30am	Rev Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith: Communion
Central	9.30am	Rev Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith: Communion
	10.30am	Songs of Praise
New Church	10.30am	Chrissie Gowland
Spring Vale	10.45am	Rev Louise Makin: All Age Worship
Trinity	10.30am	Doreen Goodship: Communion
Tockholes	2.00pm	Doreen Goodship

### SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Bolton Road	10.30am	Barbara Duxbury	Philip Entwistle
Central	10.30am	Rev Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith: Communion	Beryl Slater
New Church	10.30am	Revs L. Makin & G. Peddie: Communion	
Spring Vale	10.45am	John Venables	
Trinity	10.30am	Colin Garley	
Tockholes	2.00pm	John East	

### SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Bolton Road	10.30am	Doreen Goodship	Gordon Beveridge
Central	10.30am	Barbara Duxbury	Alison Atherton
New Church	10.30am	Peter Rapson-Woodstock	
Spring Vale	10.45am	Rev Paul Davis: Communion	
Trinity	10.30am	Dyfrig Lewis-Smith	
Tockholes	2.00pm	Rev Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith: Communion	

### SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Bolton Road	10.30am	Rev Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith	Doris Hamer
Central	10.30am	John East	Eunice Yates
New Church	10.30am	Simon Huggill	
Spring Vale	10.45am	Rev Louise Makin	
Trinity	10.30am	Barbara Duxbury	
Tockholes	2.00pm	Rev Brian Jolly: Anniversary service	

## BIBLE READINGS

### JUNE

1	John 17.20-end
2	John 21.15-19
3	John 21.20-end
4	Acts 2.1-21
5	Joshua 1
6	Joshua 2
7	Joshua 3
8	Joshua 4.1-5.1
9	Joshua 5.2-end
10	Joshua 6.1-20
11	Matthew 28.16-20
12	Joshua 7.1-15
13	Joshua 7.16-end
14	Joshua 8. 1-29
15	Joshua 8.30-end
16	Joshua 9.3-26
17	Joshua 10.1-15
18	Matthew 9.35-10.23
19	Joshua 14
20	Joshua 21.43-22.8
21	Joshua 22.9-end
22	Joshua 23
23	Joshua 24.1-28
24	Joshua 24.29-end
25	Matthew 10.24-39
26	Judges 2
27	Judges 4.1-23
28	Judges 5
29	Judges 6.1-24
30	Judges 6.25-end

### JULY

1	Judges 7
2	Matthew 10.40-end
3	Judges 8.22-end
4	Judges 9.1-21
5	Judges 9.22-end
6	Judges 11.1-11
7	Judges 11.29-end
8	Judges 12.1-7
9	Matthew 11.16-end
10	Judges 13.1-24
11	Judges 14
12	Judges 15.1-16.3
13	Judges 16.4-end
14	Judges 17
15	Judges 18
16	Matthew 13.1-23
17	1 Samuel 1.1-20
18	1 Samuel 1.21-2.11
19	1 Samuel 2.12-26
20	1 Samuel 2.27-end
21	1 Samuel 3.1-4.1a
22	1 Samuel 4
23	Matthew 13.24-43
24	1 Samuel 5
25	1 Samuel 6
26	1 Samuel 7
27	1 Samuel 8
28	1 Samuel 9.1-14
29	1 Samuel 9.15-10.1
30	Matthew 13.31-52
31	Samuel 10.1-16

Answer to last Word Search—Gethsemane

Deadline for August/September magazine  
Sunday 23rd July 2017

## GROUPS AT NEW CHURCH

Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday Service with Junior Church
2nd Sunday in month		All Age Worship
Monday	1.00pm to 2.30 pm	Stay & Play—parents/carers, babies and toddlers
Monday	6.15pm to 7.30 pm	Rainbows
Monday	6.30pm to 8.00 pm	Brownies
Tuesday	7.00 pm	Unity Choir
Wednesday	7.00pm to 9.00 pm	Trefoil Guild (once a month)
Thursday	9.30 am to 10.30 am	Weight Watchers
Thursday	11.00 am to 12 noon	Baby Signing (term time only)
Thursday	6.30 pm to 7.30 pm	Weight Watchers
Thursday	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm	Home Group
Friday	12.30 pm to 2.30 pm	West Pennine Slings Group for parents/carers, babies & toddlers (for parents/carers wishing to know more about baby carriers and slings)
Saturday	8.30 am to 10 am	Weight Watchers
Saturday	10.00 am to 3.30 pm	Darwen Textile Group <b>2nd Sat each month</b>

## GROUPS AT SPRING VALE

Rainbows meet every Tuesday 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm  
 Brownies meet every Wednesday 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm  
 Guides meet every Wednesday 7.30 pm to 9 pm  
 Stay and Play Toddler Group each Thursday 10.30 am to 12 noon  
 Parent/Carers and toddler group.  
 Spring in Your Step Over 50's 1 to 3 pm every Thursday  
 Guest speakers, activities, film afternoons and games  
 Walk this Way choir every Friday 7 pm to 9 pm  
 Also Dance Crazy Theatre School classes during the week  
 Sunday Worship every Sunday at 10.45 am

## WORSHIP FOR JULY

### SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY

Bolton Road	10.30am	<b>TBA</b>	Junior Church
Central	9.30am	Rev Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith: Communion	
	10.30am	Barbara Duxbury	Afagh Bm
New Church	10.30am	Rev John Howard-Norman: Communion	
Spring Vale	10.45am	Kath Hodgkinson: All Age Worship	
Trinity	10.30am	Rev Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith: Communion	
Tockholes	2.00pm	Rev Terry Young	

### SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JULY

Bolton Road	10.30am	Doreen Goodship	Nancy Briggs
Central	10.30am	Rev Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith: Communion	Eileen Pye
New Church	10.30am	Rev Louise Makin: Parade Service	
Spring Vale	10.45am	Rev Terry Young: Communion	
Trinity	10.30am	John East	
Tockholes	2.00pm	John East	

### SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JULY

Bolton Road	10.30am	Rev Terry Young	Marjorie Meadowcroft
Central	10.30am	Colin Garley	Janet Goodship
New Church	10.30am	David Foster	
Spring Vale	10.45am	<b>Local Arrangement</b>	
Trinity	10.30am	Catherine Young	
Tockholes	2.00pm	Rev Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith: Communion	

### SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY

Bolton Road	10.30am	At Central	
Central	10.30am	Rev Geoff Tolley: 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Joint Service	Alizon Elliott Anne Adamson
New Church	10.30am	Rev Louise Makin	
Spring Vale	10.45am	Judith Wilcock	
Trinity	10.30am	At Central	
Tockholes	2.00pm	<b>No Service</b>	

### SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JULY

Bolton Road	10.30am	Rev Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith	
Central	10.30am	Danny Wilson	Patrick Park
New Church	10.30am	Ivor Cooper	
Spring Vale	10.45am	June Littlemore	
Trinity	10.30am	Barbara Duxbury	
Tockholes	2.00pm	<b>No Service</b>	

## Minister's letter

### Anniversaries

July welcomes in some notable anniversaries:

Geoff Tolley marks the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to ministry at a service on July 23rd. I am looking forward to celebrating this at Central URC that morning.

One week earlier sees the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Council for World Mission, and that is also something for us to celebrate. In fact, June and July will have a CWM flavour in Darwen this year as two students come to stay, to learn about our work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers - both at Darwen Asylum and Refugee Enterprise (DARE) and the ARC project at Wesley Church in Blackburn. As the magazine goes to press, we don't know the names of our guests, but preparations for their visit are underway. We'll be housing, feeding, and welcoming two people from partner churches elsewhere in the world. Perhaps they will be from Myanmar (Burma) and Madagascar, or perhaps from Taiwan and Tuvalu. Whoever they are, I hope we will make them welcome.

Some of you will remember collecting for missionary work led by the London Missionary Society, and some of you may remember the birth of its successor, CWM in 1977, the same year as the Queen's Silver Jubilee, and later my birth too. The practice of missionaries from Britain and Europe travelling with the gospel gave way to a new, renewed spirit of sharing in one world mission, a new understanding that mission is "from everywhere to everywhere". A missionary might travel from South Asia to a Pacific Island, or from one Island nation to another. Missionaries from Jamaica and Guyana might serve the churches in Southern Africa. The UK churches have gained much from the ministry of CWM partners on our own islands.

### Central Flower Rota

#### June

4th	Margaret Turner
11th	Harry and Barbara Duxbury
18th	'Remembering Alex's birthday' Irene Gordon
25th	'In memory of G E Yates' the family

#### July

2nd	Edith Tolley
9th	'In memory of Clifford and Margaret Sharples' the family
16th	'In memory' Margaret Williams
23rd	David and Jean Yates
30th	'Memories' Bill and Paula Chynoweth

### Central Coffee Rota

#### June:

4th	Beryl Shaw, Annette Barker, Liz Rutherford.
11th	Dorothy Yates, Mavis Aspinall, Karen Narramore.
18th	Janice Cowell, Elsa Peacock, Margaret East.
25th	Kathleen Knowles, Doreen Bannister, Margaret Burns.

#### July:

2nd	Beryl Slater, Lynda Reay, Alan Whittle.
9th	Beryl Shaw, Annette Barker, Liz Rutherford.
16th	Dorothy Yates, Mavis Aspinall, Karen Narramore.
23rd	Barbara Duxbury, Beryl Shaw, Margaret East.
30th	Janice Cowell, Elsa Peacock, Annette Baker.

### Central Communion Rota

#### June

John East, Margaret East\*, Janet Goodship, Doreen Goodship

#### July

Eileen Pye\*, Liz Rutherford, Beryl Shaw, Ken Shaw

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

## FLOWER ROTAS—JUNE/JULY

### Bolton Road Flower Rota

#### June

4 <sup>th</sup>	Doris & Raymond Hamer Wedding Anniversary
11 <sup>th</sup>	Janice, Philip, Ben, Oliver, Margaret, Ken & Kathryn In Memory of Bridget
18 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Fund
25 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Fund

#### July

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Flower Fund
9 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Fund
16 <sup>th</sup>	Angela, Dave & Nia 'Treasured Memories' of Neil and Billy Wickers
23 <sup>rd</sup>	At Central
30 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Fund

Thank you to Doris, Nancy and Beryl for making up the lovely posies which were given out to the congregation on Mothering Sunday.

### Tockholes Flower Rota

#### June

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs M Jump
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mr & Mrs D Ainsworth 'In Memory'
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Brennand 'In Memory'
25 <sup>th</sup>	SERMONS - flowers from wedding 24th June

#### July

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Emma, Holly & Daisy
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Whalley, Darwen
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs S Billington
23 <sup>rd</sup>	CLOSED
30 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED

### Spring Vale Flower Rota

#### June

4 <sup>th</sup>	David & Karimeh Foster
1 <sup>th</sup>	Julie Jones
18 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny Atkinson
25 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Huggill

#### July

2 <sup>nd</sup>	David & Karimeh Foster
9 <sup>th</sup>	Irene Hindle
16 <sup>th</sup>	Alice Moss
23 <sup>rd</sup>	TBA
30 <sup>th</sup>	Lilian Nicholson

More than sending missionaries from one place to another, the CWM family seeks to learn together as missionary people rooted where we are and serving together in the Mission of God. It is in this way that the Council for World Mission has shaped my life so far, at gatherings of men, women, and young people learning together about mission and celebrating God's work among us. I was moved by travelling to South Africa in 2004 for a global youth convention, in which the impact of global warming on people's lives gained names and faces, as did the enormous impact of HIV and AIDS in Africa. Later I served for 3 years as a Trustee for CWM itself, as we sought to equip churches with the resources and confidence to meet the challenges on their doorsteps. CWM called last year in Darwen, in the form of the exchange visitors from Taiwan, and stole me away in January to Jamaica to work on a Christian response to the global economic challenge.

Our international visitors will learn much while with us, and if we host them well, we will learn much from them too. We will involve them as much as possible in church life during their stay, so there will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to meet them.

Please let me (Revd. Catherine) know if you could invite one or both of our guests to dinner or tea in the period 10th June to 9th July, or if you have an idea for a weekend day trip. We want to show them the best of Lancashire, and the best of its people, and I hope you can join in with making their visit special.

Catherine

When I was in Hungary last year they were beginning a year of celebrations relating to a German Priest named Martin Luther. On October 31st 1517 he nailed a paper to a church door in Germany naming 95 reasons why he was unhappy with the church teaching. The door of this church caught fire in 18th century and the King thought because it was part of the history of Europe he rebuilt the door using the original material. This act, by a solitary priest, whose main thought was that the just shall live through faith, sent a shock wave throughout the whole of Europe. Thus began the Reformation, and the United Reformed Church is very much part of this history. By the time you read this article I will be in Germany visiting the main centres of his work, and as J.S.Bach was influenced by this great man, his places as well. We often think of English leaders of faith, and so we should, but brother Martin is very special as I have read two of his books over the years.

In 1734 John Wesley was at a meeting in London held by the Moravians, and whilst they were reading from Luther he found his faith was complete, Two weeks later his brother Charles was also reading from Luther and his faith was also helped .

On August 13th I will be leading worship at Central on the Theme of Martin Luther. I thank God for him and the effect he has had on millions of people, including myself.

Geoff

Sunday 23rd July

Joint Service at Central with Bolton Road, Trinity and Tockholes

This service will be led by Geoff who celebrates his 50th Anniversary in Ministry

## GROUPS WHO MEET AT CENTRAL

Monday	9.00 am to 11.00 am	Mums and Tots
<b>1st Monday in the month</b>	1.30 pm to 3.00 pm	Darwen Blind Society
Monday	6.00 pm to 9.30 pm	Ballroom/Sequence Dancing
Tuesday	12.00 noon to 4.00 pm	"Inspire" support group
Tuesday	4.30 pm to 8.30 pm	Donna's Dance Academy
Wednesday	9.00 am to 1.30 pm	Refugee Drop-In Club
Wednesday	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Ashleigh Singers
<b>1st Thursday in month</b>	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Townswomen's Guild
<b>Every other Thursday in month</b>	9.00 am to 12.00 noon	P.R.O.B.U.S
<b>1st Friday in the month</b>	1.30 pm to 2.30 pm	Memory Cafe
Friday	9.45 am to 10.45 am	Donna's Dance Academy
Saturday	8.00am to 11.00am	Slimming World

## CENTRAL CALENDAR FOR JUNE/JULY

**Communion** 1st Friday in month at 12.30 pm—2nd June and 7th July

**Bible Study** Bridge Street Cafe Wednesday 10.00 am— 14th June and 12th July

**Book Club** (Tel Anne Grimson 01254 703994)

June— Like Bees to Honey by Caroline Smailes

**Memory Cafe** 1.30 to 2.30 pm Friday 2nd June and Friday 7th July

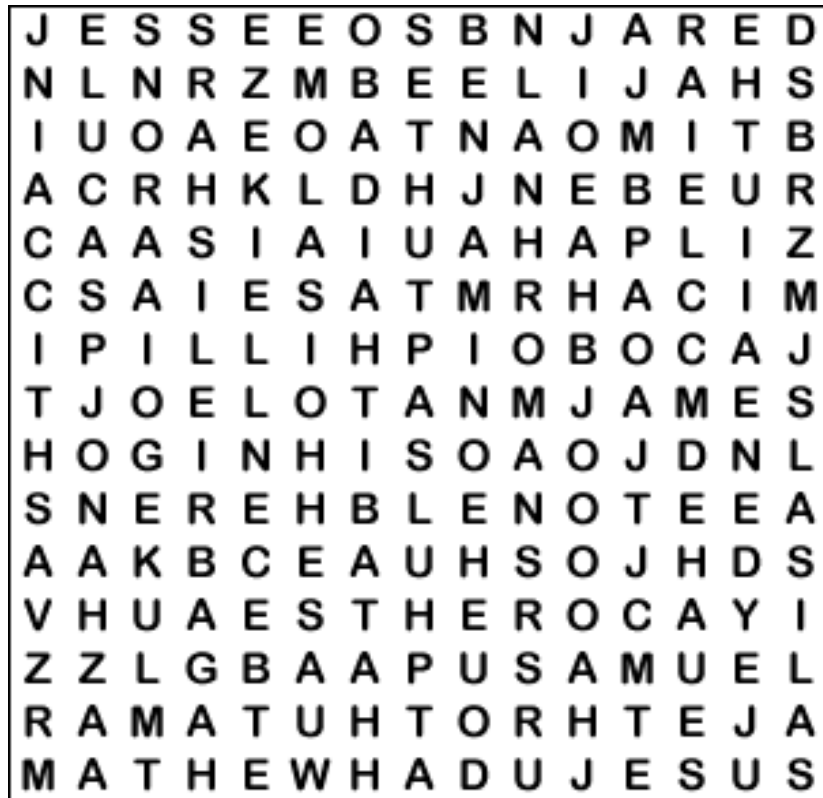
## **MEMORY CAFE at Central Church, Duckworth Street**

For anyone living with any kind of memory loss— including dementia— and for carers too. Make friends, talk to someone, enjoy puzzles, try a craft activity, or sing-a-long to the piano. For more information contact Mrs Barbara Duxbury Tel 01254 701899 or email [minister.darwen@gmail.com](mailto:minister.darwen@gmail.com)

Also, Central has a midweek communion at 12.30 on the first Friday of the month. Anyone who wishes to stay on until Memory Cafe later in the afternoon can bring along sandwiches or a packed lunch to eat after communion.

## Word Search– Names in the Bible

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS TOCKHOLES



Jesse, James, Jared, Naomi, Jesus, Mathew, Rueben, Samuel, Esther, Joseph, Micah, Isaac, Phillip, Zilpah, Joel, Luke, Jethro, Timothy, Obadiah, Cain, Tamar, Vashti, Elijah, Jacob, Lucas, Ezekiel, Silas, Seth, Stephon, Benjamin, Salome, Noah, Tabitha, Gabriel, Judah, Malachi, Angels, Joshua, Esau, Rachel, Moses, Aaron, Absalom, Ruth, Elisha, Adam, Jonathon, Jonah, Abraham

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.

Firstly, a big thank you to all our friends who joined us on Good Friday for the annual Afternoon Tea in Tockholes Village Hall. Unfortunately this year it was a wet and dreary day and I don't think as many people walked to Darwen Tower as usual. However that may have just benefited our Tea service, as the Hall was once again packed with people eating The Victoria's Home Made Hot Cross Buns and Marlene's Potato Pie, amongst the many other cakes, sandwiches and soup that was donated for sale—in which we raised £335. Many thanks are extended to all those who gave their time to help serve, sell, collect plates and wash dishes on the day.

Our Anniversary Sermons service falls on 25<sup>th</sup> June this year and we are delighted that Rev. Brian Jolly will return to Tockholes for the day. In addition, I will look forward to seeing the friendly faces of the Unity Choir who will be joining us to fill our Chapel with their warm, harmonious voices. I hope lots of you will be able to join us for this special occasion.

In true nuptial style, I cordially invite you to our very first "Tockholes URC Wedding Open Day", to be held in our Chapel on Saturday 1 July 2017, from 1.45 pm to 4.30pm. The Day will be hosted by Rev. Catherine Lewis-Smith and our Elders, and the Chapel will be adorned with Wedding Flowers and decorations for you to see how beautiful our Chapel, set in the picturesque West Pennine Moors, could look on your very special day.

We also hope to showcase Wedding and Bridesmaid dresses, and there may even be some Wedding cake for you to savour on the day. So if there was anything you ever wanted to ask about Weddings, if you're planning a big day very soon, or would just like to see our chapel in all its splendour – then do come along to join us.

Extending the Wedding theme over the weekend, on Sunday 2 July at our Family Service we would like to invite Brides and Grooms who have recently married at Tockholes to come along and share with us their experience about the big day. Happy, funny or sad, we would love you to join us again! There might even be more Wedding Cake with a cup of tea after the service!

Emma Jump

## BOLTON ROAD

On Mothering Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, Rev Lena Talbot welcomed Heather and Darren to Bolton Road when they brought their children for baptism. Lena, as their proud great aunt, baptised Max James, Jack Andrew and Emilia Ellen during All Age Worship. We pray for God's Blessings on the whole family in the days and years ahead. The congregation were pleased to receive flower posies towards the end of the service.

Congratulations to Damon and Elaine on the birth of their son, Samuel Edward, who was born at the beginning of May, a very welcome little brother for John-luc and Elle, also a lovely grandson for Susan and Peter, and Shirley and Ted. May God Bless and guide the whole family now and always.

**Date for your diary:** The Unity Choir will be performing "Saints Alive", A Celebration of Pentecost – the birth of the Church (Acts, Chapter 2) – at New Methodist Church on Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Susan Blezard

## TRINITY

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May we held our "Shekinah at home" event in church. Our theme this year was the world and its resources, and we spent some time thinking about the things we cherish most in the world and what we can do to protect them. We also had a food tasting session, where we tested Fairtrade and non-Fairtrade versions of different foods, comparing the taste and prices. The event was very well attended and we thank everyone involved in organising it – Janet, George, Callum, John and Stephen.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bryan Weal. Bryan came to Lower Darwen, as it was then, when Belgrave closed, and he was an active member of the congregation. His contribution towards the running of the church will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Hilda, Michael and Sarah at this sad time.

Sadly, we must also report the death of Doreen Frost. Doreen had not been able to worship with us for some time due to ill health, but she was always in our prayers.

On a happier note, we are pleased to hear that Jack is now back at home and improving, although slowly. We have also prayed for Ned, Irene and Enid.

Finally, we have wished happy birthday to Sylvia's daughter and granddaughters and Lilian's daughter.

Judith Atkinson

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you all for your cards and all the love and sympathy we felt at Bryan's funeral.

Hilda, Michael & Sarah Weal

Thank you for all the cards and good wishes during David's recent illness. He is now home from hospital and making steady progress.

Jean Yates

## EVENTS

Townswomen's Guild - Strawberry Tea At Central URC  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 2:00pm –4:00pm  
Tickets £3 - pay on the door  
Everyone welcome

## SYNOD BIG DAY OUT

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
North Western and Mersey Synods  
Southport Convention Centre  
Leave Central at 9am via mini bus return Central 6pm  
£12 via Mini Bus  
Workshops – speakers- crafts – music – entertainment – fun & fellowship  
Bring packed lunch or buy refreshments at the Centre  
Limited places so book early with John East  
Email [secretary@centralurcdarwen.org.uk](mailto:secretary@centralurcdarwen.org.uk)

## GIFT AND CRAFT FAIR AT CENTRAL URC, DUCKWORTH STEET, DARWEN, BB3 1AT

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 12 pm to 5 pm  
The Social Butterflies



## CENTRAL cont..

Our congratulations go to Thomas Robinson who won an award for Scout of the Year in Highfield Scouts and Eunice Yates' granddaughter Bethany who ran the Paris Marathon. It was lovely to hear of the safe arrival of Peter and Susan Blezard's new grandson.

It was such a pleasure to see Olive Hargreaves in church. We miss her in our congregation even though Alison gives us regular updates about her. We do hope she will feel able to come again soon.

People we have prayed for in our Family Time have included David Yates, who is now recovering well from his operation to have a pacemaker fitted, Susan Blezard's Aunt Annie, David and Margaret Yates, Olive, Madge, and Val Carr's daughter Jennifer.

We have also been thinking about Bobby, Bert, Margaret Turner, the family of Carol Tyler, Pat Astley, Pauline Howson, Edith Tolley, Mavis' friend Lynette, and Eileen's friend Pauline. We are pleased to see that Alizon Elliott has now abandoned her sticks and is walking well after her hip replacement.

Janet Goodship

We are leaving the Christian Aid envelopes until August, as we feel people have donated so generously to Christian Aid over the last few months.

Many thanks for your donations.

Jean Yates and Liz Rutherford

**Coffee Morning at Central United Reformed Church  
Duckworth Street, Darwen BB3 1AT**

Friday 16th June 10 am—12 noon  
Blackburn with Darwen Carers' Service in connection with MacMillan Nurses

## NEW CHURCH

Time flies so quickly and yet it seems an age since Easter. On Good Friday, several of us from New Church shared with our friends at Rhyddings Methodist Church, Oswaldtwistle, in a very reflective service led by Rev. Louise. Others from our congregation joined with friends from Central URC on the annual Good Friday trip, this year travelling to Llangollen and Wrexham. They had a lovely day and thanks go to Barbara and Harry Duxbury for organising this. Easter Sunday saw us celebrate the risen Christ in a lovely service, again led by Rev. Louise, where we decorated our large wooden cross with beautiful fresh flowers.

On Monday 15th May, we held a Big Brunch, where we had on offer bacon, sausage, and egg teacakes, toast with jam or marmalade, croissants, fruit juice and of course tea and coffee. The event was very well attended by members of our congregation and mums and children from Stay and Play. All proceeds went to Christian Aid and a total of £124 was raised.

On Sunday May 21st, a circuit service was held at Wilpshire Methodist Church where an almost full church celebrated Aldersgate Sunday and the founding of John Wesley's ministry and the Methodist movement.

Sunday the 9th July is Action for Children Sunday where we remember this charity and the wonderful work they do for children and families.

Rev. Louise has recently had some great news to say she has passed her first year of probation – We are truly blessed to have you Louise. Have an amazing second year. Well done! Woohoo! Yeah!

Our prayers continue for members of the congregation who are unwell at this time, particularly Lavena Booth and her husband Derrick, and for Olive Entwistle. We also pray for those who are unable to worship with us for other reasons and for the housebound, and those in care homes.  
Karen Rowley

**Musical —Saints Alive!** - a celebration of Pentecost

Performed by the Unity Choir at New Methodist Church Tuesday 6th June 7 pm

The Unity Choir meets on Tuesdays 7 pm at New Church.  
New members are always welcome.

## SPRING VALE

My goodness, where has this year gone; we find ourselves almost in June already and looking forward to the summer.

We seem always to be so busy at church, many of us carrying out various duties on a week to week basis, and time seems to fly by. To this end, we must say thank you to everyone who carries out those various jobs and fulfils their roles, some of which we see evidence of every week in church, and many more where work is done behind the scenes, but is very important. In particular, Julie Claux our safeguarding officer, deserves a 'big thank-you', as she is working very hard to keep our records up to date and to implement 'safeguarding' in to our church, so that it is a safe place for all.

Recently a group of us attended the 'safeguarding' course at Feniscowles Methodist church, and we thank them for their warm welcome. The course was led by John Howard Norman. I think we all felt that we had learnt a great deal, and the training was very worthwhile. In the coming months other church members will attend the upcoming courses; we all recognise how important safeguarding is and that we all need to play our part.

Over the last few months we have enjoyed some lovely services; our Sunday School Anniversary service was led by Simon Huggill which was followed by a buffet lunch and was enjoyed by all. Thank you Simon for putting together such a great service. We also welcomed Debra Philips for a café style church service, which concentrated on Christian Aid week. Thank you to everyone who has led our services and to our worship leaders for their contributions.

Our regular groups continue to meet each week. Stay and Play each Thursday from 10.30am - 12.00 and Spring In Your step 1.00am - 3.00pm are well attended each week. The groups are often looking for volunteers to offer help and if you think you are able to offer some time, please contact either David or Karimeh Foster.

The Home Group continues to meet at various houses and, following on from the wonderful Lent course that we all enjoyed, we have been looking at the book of James. The evenings are a lovely way of enjoying fellowship with both friends from our own church and from others in the circuit. All are welcome; if you are interested in joining the group, please contact Louise for more information.

We wish a very Happy Birthday to Renee Allan who celebrated her 70th with family and friends at the Masonic Hall; many of us attended the party, and enjoyed a lovely evening. We hope Renee enjoyed her birthday and we wish her well.

## SPRING VALE cont..

We have been glad to hear that Kevin Nicholson is recovering after his recent operation and we are so glad that all went well.

Lastly, we think of Alice Moss who has not been too well recently, so it was lovely to see her in church a few weeks ago; she is much missed in church as she is a very special and important member of our church family. We hope that Alice is feeling better soon, and remember her, in our thoughts and prayers.

Sending best wishes to all our friends and hoping that you all enjoy a lovely summer-time.

Irene Hindle

## CENTRAL

We have, as always, had a busy and enjoyable Easter season, which already seems a long time ago. A highlight for me was the trip to Llangollen. I have come back from that with a strong determination to visit the area again as it has so much to offer. Many thanks to Barbara and Harry Duxbury for organising this once again, especially in view of Harry's recent ill-health.

Our thanks also go to Rev Catherine for leading weekly groups during Lent which enabled those of us who attended to think about, share and discuss aspects of our faith in greater depth than we normally can. Catherine used music as a lead in to these sessions which proved to be most interesting.

The Ashleigh Singers, with which several of our church members are involved, performed a highly enjoyable programme to a good turn-out. Thanks to all concerned for organising this.

Birthdays we have mentioned over this period include Margaret Williams and Olwen Shaw who both had significant days, Paula Chynoweth, Mike Adamson, Doreen Bannister, Margaret Turner, Jean Yates, Mavis Aspinall, Beryl Shaw, Elaine Cocker, Eileen Pye and Susan Blezard's mum Elsie Nicholson who turned 90.

Couples with wedding anniversaries included Anne & Mike Adamson, Trish and Lee Campbell, Doreen and Bert Bannister.