

### Dear all

It was good to see the crosses in our **Message** flowers on Easter Sunday. It is a wonderrante transfer of and giory of the resurrection. Yet it is made all the more glorious because of the reflection we shared during lent on the suffering of Jesus as we added the different items to the cross..

Minister`s

A few years ago a friend of mine, Nicola, was working as Methodist minister in Russia and she introduced the idea of a Lenten cross to her congregation. This is an extract form her email 'There are moments in life when one doesn't know whether to laugh or cry. One of those moments came at a recent church council meeting when we were discussing how we would decorate the church for Easter. This year, we are placing different symbols of the passion around a large wooden cross every Sunday in lent. On Easter Sunday the cross will be completely covered in flowers. When I was explaining about these flowers, Marina said 'Oh yes we definitely need to do something with that cross. It's so bare and ugly. Can't we have flowers on it now.'

We need to find God in Gethsemane and Golgotha as well as in the Easter garden. God is in the sadness and suffering as well as the joy. The joy of the resurrection is made all the more wonderful when we consider the pain that leads up to it. The message of the resurrection is made all the more powerful when we remind ourselves that Jesus will be with us in the valleys as well as the mountain tops.

Our celebrations of Easter are now past and now we look to Pentecost and

Gods gift of His Holy Sprit. The Easter message however is with us all the year round. Hold that image of the Easter cross in your minds, with its sorrow and its joy. Let it be a reminder of Jesus Christ our living saviour

Grace and peace

Andrew

# Fostering Fortnight 16th to 29th May



## Foster Care Fortnight ......

is an annual campaign developed to raise the profile of fostering across the UK. The campaign aims to encourage more people to contact their local fostering service to start their journey to becoming a foster carer. There is no 'typical' foster carer for Lancashire's Fostering Service. You must, however, be at least 21 and have a spare bedroom. Whatever your ethnicity, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status; becoming a foster carer for your Local Authority could be a real option for you. We are looking for good role models who are warm, nurturing, energetic, keen to learn and appreciating each child's personality and needs and determined to give our children the best start in life.

To find out about Lancashire's Information evenings which are held each month please visit our website: <a href="www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering">www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering</a> Alternatively call our friendly fostering recruitment team on the free phone telephone number **0800 195 1183.** 

### Being a Foster Carer.

Fostering is about changing someone's life, because not all babies, children and young people come from a stable, loving home. Some come from chaotic lifestyles, neglect, abuse and violence. As a Foster Family, we are able to provide a loving, happy home which will allow them to reach their potential in life and to have the future they deserve. Fostering is 24/7. It can be challenging, very emotional but also very rewarding. We are not saints or angels. We foster because we love what we do and when the children come back and visit months or even years later, it's amazing to see how they have grown and developed.

### **Margaret Chatburn**

May I take this opportunity to Thank you all for your prayers, love and concern for all the children in our care. God Bless



# Fund-raising at Bamber Bridge



"Life's a Song, We Sing it"

Tickets £5 or pay on the door.

The Red Rosettes are a dynamic, national award winning ladies chorus group who sing unaccompanied in four part harmony with quite a variety of songs.



At 12 Stockdale Crescent Bamber Bridge

Order forms are in the church foyer or from Roy Clapham or Mike Bertram. Pick one up and return it asap. Last date for orders is Sunday

8<sup>th</sup> May



#### More MWiB News

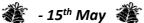
On March 9th we welcomed Anne Browse, the current connexional president of Methodist Women in Britain, to our District Day held at Bamber Bridge. We had a good day with her as she shared in story and song about people she had met and those who had influenced her. We were encouraged to think about our life stories in this way. Several people remarked that they could have listened to her all day. Anne is a former German teacher and wife of a beef farmer in Devon. Her husband encouraged her to apply for the post when she took early retirement, so that she wouldn't be under his feet! It was interesting that she had no previous connection with women's meetings, yet she is now an avid supporter of MWiB, so it's never too late to come and join us!

Lesley Ross



### Best Wishes to:

**Eve & Donald Porter** 





Carol & Graham Poole



- 3<sup>rd</sup> June



Christine & Stuart Smith



🐗 - 4<sup>th</sup> June 🐲



Pauline & Mike Bertram



- 6th June





## **Children's Birthdays** In May

Patrick Edwards - 14 on the 1st Charlie Dobson - 3 on the 31st

## Children's Birthdays In June

Michael Shone - 4 on the 4th Alannah Strong - 6 on the 6th

May God bless all those celebrating Anniversaries and Birthdays

# Dates for the Diary

5<sup>th</sup> May - Circuit Ascension Day service at 7-30pm at Christ Church, Longridge

5th May - Election of Lancs Police and **Crime Commissioner** 

8th May - Service of quiet Reflection at Bamber Bridge at 6-30pm

9th May - Bamber Bridge Annual Church meeting at 7-30pm

12th May - Midweek service at Bamber Bridge at 11-15am

15th May - launch of a year of themed preaching at Trinity Gregson Lane entitled "Growing Together"

16th May - Trinity Annual Church meeting from 7 pm

May 25th - Men's Fellowship meeting at Bamber Bridge.

4th June - Prayer Breakfast at Bamber Bridge at 7-45am

11th June - Car wash at Bamber Bridge from 10am to 12 noon

Keep an eye on the Weekly Notices and the Notice Boards for details of other dates/events