



Dear all

Minister`s Message

It was good to see the crosses in our churches decorated with flowers on Easter Sunday. It is a wonderful reminder of the joy and glory 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..

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 from 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 God's gift of His Holy Spirit. 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



Become a foster carer in Lancashire

0800 195 11 83
www.lancashire.gov.uk/foster



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: www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering

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



Sat 7th May
at 7-00pm



**An Audience with the
"Red Rosettes"**

"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.



Sat 14th May
10am /12noon



PLANT SALE

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

8th May



'Community Spirit'

Holy Trinity Church
Hoghton PR5 0SJ

Flower Festival,
History and Art Exhibition

Fri 17th - Sun 19th June 2016
10-5 Friday, Saturday and 12.30-5 Sunday
Lunch and Refreshments

Admission £3
to include programme and tea/coffee

Fri 17th 7.30pm: Leyland One Voice Choir £6
Sat 18th 7.30pm: Phoenix String Orchestra £6
Sun 19th 6.30pm: Songs of Praise

Further details:
elisabeth.flowerfestival@gmail.com

HOGHTON TOWER

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Best Wishes to :

Eve & Donald Porter



- 15th May

Carol & Graham Poole



- 3rd June

Christine & Stuart Smith



- 4th June

Pauline & Mike Bertram



- 6th June

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

5th 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*