

CLEVELEYS PARK METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2025



Cleveleys Park Methodist Church (A Fair Trade Church)

Mission Statement

Our Ministry at Cleveleys Park is offered to all regardless of race, creed, age or sex. Our calling and motivation, as a Church community, is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ Jesus by: -

Worship, prayer and fellowship,
Opening ourselves to God's transforming love,
Offering a welcome to everyone,
Sharing the Good News of Jesus,
Reaching out to individuals and our neighbourhood community,
Using our resources to meet the needs of others, and
Calling people to faith in Jesus Christ and to Christian discipleship



Letter from the Minister....

Dear Friends

Each Christmas Jess and I are invited to go into Hodgson Academy in Poulton to tell the Christmas story. It is quite a challenge! How do you grab the attention of a group of teenagers and make a 2000-year-old story relevant to their lives today? Do you entertain? Moralise? Preach? We will let you know how we got on in a few weeks' time!

The power of the Christmas story for me is that it focuses on God coming in 'under the radar' and using some of the least and lowest of the 1st century to start a revolution of love. It is not just what Mary and Joseph do, but who they are – the poor – that is so challenging. Their vulnerability and the vulnerability of the Christ-child is what makes us re-think who God is and where God is found in the world today.

It is no exaggeration to say that the world is reeling under the twin challenges of climate change and living at peace with one another. We seem to be finding it extraordinarily difficult to work together and in some places even talk to one another without shouting. This year's Methodist theme for Advent is 'Hush the Noise' which is a snippet of the carol 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear'. That carol speaks of hushing the noise of strife to hear the angels sing. As Christmas approaches the noise of commercialism threatens to drown out our reflection on the season. The story of a baby born in poverty risks being eclipsed by Santa on a sleigh dispensing presents to those lucky enough to be able to afford to join in the buy-fest. This is not an argument to be miserable and Scrooge-like but it is a call to remember God is found among us, in sharing and community, rather than in the accumulation of 'stuff'.

I began by talking about sharing the Christmas story with teenagers. I'd like to close by saying that all of us have a story to tell and God is in our stories already. They may be happy or sad stories, routine or dramatic. Yet God is there. And the more love is found, the more God becomes visible.

I do hope you have a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year however you may be spending the season.

With love to you all, Will xx



CHURCH SERVICES CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2024

On the 1st December 2024 - A Circuit Advent Service at Thornton Methodist Church will be held at 10.30 a.m. (Led by the Circuit Staff Team and including Holy Communion) All are Welcome!

(There will be no afternoon Circuit Service in December)

Sunday	8th	at 10.45 am <i>(Advent 2)</i>	Service to be lead by Rev Will Hunter <i>(Holy Communion)</i>
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A Carol/ Nativity service will be held on Friday 13th December at 6pm. Refreshments will be available in the lounge afterwards. The Rock Kids will be wearing their Christmas jumpers and hats – please, if you can, come along and wear yours too!!

Sunday	15th	at 10.45 am <i>(Advent 3)</i>	Service to be lead by Berenice Smith
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Sunday	22nd	at 10.45 am <i>(Advent 4)</i>	Service to be led by Janet Mordike
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On Wednesday, 25th December 2024 –

A Christmas Day Service will be led by Rev Will Hunter at 11 a.m.



Sunday	29th	Circuit Service at Poulton Methodist Church at 10.30 a.m. led by Rev Will Hunter
<i>Christmas 1</i>		

Last meeting in 2024 of the 745 Club :-

Tuesday, 10th December – Meal at the Sheraton Hotel at 12.30 p.m.

Other dates in December: -

Sunday the 1st	World Aids Day and Advent Sunday <i>(Year C begins)</i>
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Wednesday, the 25th- Christmas Day

CHURCH SERVICES CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2025

Sunday	5th	at 10.45 am <i>Epiphany</i>	Service to be lead by Rev Will Hunter (<i>Covenant/Holy Communion</i>)
Sunday	12th	at 10.45 am	Service to be lead by Rev. Sharon Read
Sunday	19th	at 10.45 am	Service to be led by Rev Sarah Lamb
A 6.30 p.m. Service to be held at St. Andrew's Church for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity			
Sunday	26th	at 10.45 am	Service to be lead by Sister Barbara Crockett

January Tuesday night meetings of the 745 Club are: -

7th	Chat & Cuppa	14th	Fleetwood Museum – Mr D. Pearce
21st	Chat & Cuppa	28th	Rev. Will Hunter

Other Notable dates in January are: -

- January 1: New Year's Day (*Wednesday*)
- January 5: Twelfth Night (*end of Christmas merrymaking*)
- January 6: Epiphany

Contemporary Worship at Thornton Methodist

for Praise, Prayer, Reflection and Fellowship
meet on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7 p.m.
(Refreshments available from 6.45 p.m.)
Next meeting will be on the 9th December

Our Church's usual weekly activities: -

Regular meetings on the first Monday of the month		Parkinson's UK invite people with Parkinson's, their families and carers to their monthly meetings in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.	
Monday	1.30 pm	In the Vestry	. Sister Barbara Crockett – Bible Study
“	2 pm -4 pm	In the Hall	Monday Tea Dancers
“	4.30 pm – 6 pm	In the Lounge	“Just-Be Juniors” *
Tuesday	1.30 p.m	In the Hall	Tuesday Tea Dancers
Evening	7.30 p.m		Scottish Dancers
	7.45 p.m	Taylor Room	745 Ladies' Club
Wednesday morning	10.30 a.m	Lounge	Coffee Morning
	10.30-11.30 a.m.	Hall	Yoga
afternoon	12 - 4 p.m.	Lounge	Crafties
	12.30 and 1.30 p.m.	Hall	FITNESS 50 has 2 classes (free)
Evening	4.30 –7pm	Hall	Slimming World
Thursday	10-12 noon	Hall	Line Dancers
“	2 pm	“	B Older Group
Evening	6 pm –7.30 pm	“	Brownies *
“	6 – 9 pm	Taylor Room	Junior Chess Club
“	7 – 9 pm	Classroom	Dream Team Singers
Friday afternoon	12 - 2 pm	Lounge	Surecare
	1 – 3 pm	Hall	Windmill Art Society
Evening	6 -7.30 pm	Hall	Rock Kids for 6-12 years who meet for Bible stories, games and crafts – and to enjoy being part of a Christian family *

IN MEMORIUM

Richard Adams

It is with great sadness we heard the news of the death of our colleague and friend Richard Adams, especially so soon after his wife Chris passed away.

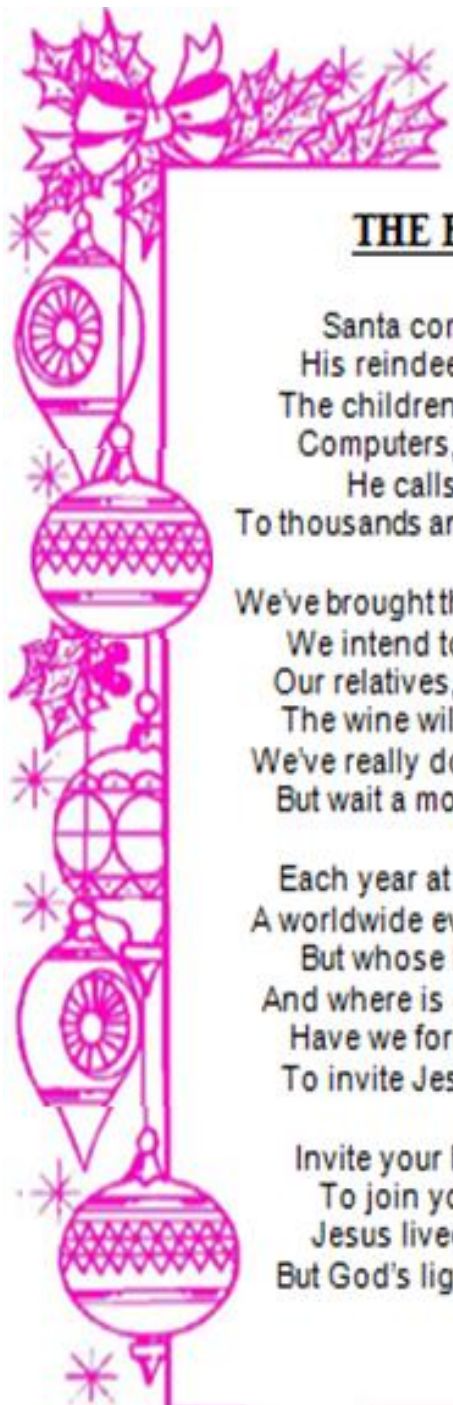
Richard was the backbone of our Drama Group for many years. He wrote plays just for us to perform and was our rock when times were tough. He will be remembered with great affection and will be missed by us all. *PP*

The birth flower for December is both the Holly and Narcissus,
and

The birth stone is the Turquoise and Tanzanite

The birth flower for January are Carnations and snowdrops,
and

The birth stone is the Garnet



THE BIRTHDAY BOY!

Santa comes in the dead of night,
His reindeer bring him on his sleigh,
The children sent letters to ask for toys,
Computers, lap-tops, mobile phones,
He calls to give them all away,
To thousands and thousands of girls and boys.

We've brought the cards, the presents, the food,
We intend to party and have some fun,
Our relatives, friends will all come along,
The wine will be flowing, the tree alight,
We've really done all that needs to be done,
But wait a moment, is something wrong?

Each year at this time, we lay out a feast,
A worldwide event that occurs in December,
But whose Birthday is it, do we care?
And where is our gift for the Birthday Boy?
Have we forgotten, or do we remember
To invite Jesus in for the largest share?

Invite your Friends and Strangers too
To join you as you wine and dine,
Jesus lived, loved and died for you
But God's light and mercy forever shine!

Eunice McComiskey