

WALKDEN METHODIST CHURCH

OUTREACH

Rev Sarah Knebel - Tel. [REDACTED]

Autumn 2020

Although our church building may be closed for now we must remember that the church has never been about the building. It is the people who are the church and we very much remain open to God's love.

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Welcome to our first Outreach for more than six months. We hope you are all keeping well and safe during these strange times. We are trialling the issue of the magazine by e-mail wherever possible. If you have received this Outreach magazine in a paper format and you have an email address please contact Val Hancox with your email address and we can arrange to send future magazines or update sheets direct to your inbox.

As I started to compile this Outreach I automatically opened the last copy Outreach which I had prepared which was the one covering January and February this year. On the last page of that Outreach I had inserted a bible text (below) which I thought would be a good thought for us to carry into the new year. Little did I know what lay ahead for us this year!! Nevertheless the words are equally relevant now as we find ourselves once again back in a strict lockdown – no matter what each day holds we know all will be well because God is beside us as we face that day. Stay safe and look after each other. Val Xx.



Local Preachers' Soapbox

What I write in this Soapbox may make some of you think that I have become a bit of a nerd or, of course, it may confirm a view of me that some of you have long held, but here goes anyway!

During the lockdown I became somewhat obsessed with slogans and began to compile a list of the most famous and, in some cases, the most meaningless political slogans. However, before I give you some examples from my list of almost forty, let me attempt to define what a slogan is and why politicians seem to strive every sinew to conjure up new ones to fit every possible policy change or, more recently, policy U-turn.

One dictionary defines a slogan as a 'distinctive cry, catchword or catch phrase, or motto of any party, group, manufacturer, or person.' Wikipedia tells us that slogans have been in use in the English-speaking world since 1704 and originally 'were primarily passwords used to ensure proper recognition of individuals at night or in the confusion of battle.' Today, slogans have become essential tools for both companies and political parties and are a means of building brand or party loyalty with the aim of increasing company revenues or party allegiance. Thus, memorable slogans are a catchy way of getting your message across in the hope of persuading people to either buy your product, vote for your party or, in the time of a pandemic, follow the best scientific advice available in an attempt to prevent unnecessary excess deaths.

By way of maintaining your interest, a prize (as yet to be decided!) is on offer for the first person who correctly identifies the origins of the following famous slogans (answers on a postcard, please!):

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| 1. Liberty, equality, fraternity | 2. A fit country for heroes to live in |
| 3. Arbeit Macht Frei | 4. White heat of technology |
| 5. Wind of change | 6. Prison doesn't work |
| 7. Never had it so good | 8. It's the economy stupid! |
| 9. Winter of discontent | 10. Labour isn't working |

There is no prize for identifying the origin of the next group:

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Make America great again | 2. Fake news |
| 3. Drain the swamp | 4. Lock her up |
| 5. Four more years | 6. Build that wall |

The next group of slogans may prove to have been the most divisive in recent British political history.

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| 1. Take back control | 2. Get Brexit Done |
| 3. We are all in this together | 4. The will of the people |
| 5. No deal is better than a bad deal | 6. Brexit means Brexit and Leave means Leave. |
| 7. Project fear | |

The last group have all been used during the coronavirus pandemic with varying degrees of compliance and, hence, success:

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|--|------------------------|
| 1. Test, trace, isolate | 2. Hands, face, space |
| 3. Protect the NHS | 4. Test, track, trace |
| 5. Stay alert, control the virus, save lives | 6. Eat out to help out |

Reading these slogans moves me to paraphrase a saying made popular by Mark Twain and Arthur Balfour, 'There are three kinds of lies, lies, damned lies and slogans.'

Now you can make of that what you will but I then went on to think about slogans used by Christians such as:

1. The Bible is the only truth
2. Trust in the Lord
3. Leave it all to the Lord
4. God has a plan for everyone
5. All you need is love
6. All you need is faith
7. God told me to
8. Jesus is Lord
9. He is risen

Now whilst these slogans or, perhaps, statements are meaningful and profound to people confident in their faith, what would the man on the Clapham omnibus make of them? 'Why bring in the Clapham omnibus?' you may well ask. Well, that was the test my father always ended any discussion on religion which I had with him in my formative years as a Methodist. 'You might understand what "He is risen"' means, Trevor, but would the man on the Clapham omnibus?' Of course, he meant would an ordinary and reasonable man or woman understand the fundamental truth of a Christian's faith.

So, the person on the Clapham omnibus has been the benchmark I have always tried to apply when leading house groups or, indeed, when preaching and that approach is even more important when talking to people who have no religious hinterland. The beliefs I express as a Christian are meaningless to a person without a faith unless they have the ring of truth about them and unless they cause a reasonable person to have a light bulb moment so that they can say, 'Now I understand what you're talking about.' I believe that this is the challenge facing Christians in the 21st century, especially when the vast majority of people have no religious background and are largely indifferent to the Church and to Jesus Christ who, I believe, is the most important and inspiring figure in history. I know it's hard but we can take heart from one of my favourite verses in the Bible, 'I can do all things through him who gives me strength.' (Phillippians 4:13). Perhaps a slogan Christians should use and mean more often is 'Yes, we can!'

Prayer: *Lord let your Spirit talk to my mind and heart so that your truth becomes a light for my way, strength for my tasks, peace for my worries and forgiveness for my sins. Amen. (with thanks to William Barclay)*

Trevor

SHOE BOX APPEAL 2020

During these unprecedented times, Teams4You (the organisation) want us to know that they will still be continuing with their Shoe Box appeal. These will be sent to children and families who are less fortunate than ourselves.

I received phone calls back in July from some members of the Church, asking if we were still going to do Shoe Boxes this year. I then decided to deliver the Shoe Boxes to our members and have now given out 70 wrapped Shoe Boxes. Some of the boxes are for children and some are a Home box for families.

The boxes need to be returned by the 1st November and I will make arrangements to collect them from you once they have been filled.

At this moment in time, I do not know where the boxes will be delivered to but once I am informed by the area co-ordinator, I will let you all know.

I would like to thank everyone who has filled a Shoe Box and let us hope that it brings joy and a smile to the faces of the children who receive them this Christmas.

Many Thanks - Pauline Ashton

News from St Andrews Day School

School returned after the summer break on 7th September with bubbles in place, staggered times to come and go home from school due to Covid 19.

Inside School the work continues as usual.....

Y1 created some fabulous art work inspired by "The Dot".



Reception Class enjoyed reading "The Colour Monster" and talked about what colours makes you feel happy -they thought yellow. What colour made us feel sad - they decided blue. In groups they made a spider diagram, sharing with their friends what makes them feel happy or sad. What colours make you feel happy?

Year 5 have been exploring how Anglo Saxons settled in Britain.

A pupil at school wrote a prayer that has been included in the Methodist Church Prayer handbook. I am sure it will be said a lot by our Ministers.

Fantastic work. Well done everyone!

Great projects. We look forward to hearing more about life in School through our church Outreach.



YCT BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

2 nd	Joshua Okubanjo	20 th	Serena Vasanth
24 th	Clara Knebel	30 th	Henry Jones

JULY

13 th	Anthony Fu	17 th	Vincent Okubanjo
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AUGUST

20 th	Ryan Campbell	23 rd	Christopher Gavela
29 th	Shaun O'Neill		

SEPTEMBER

4 th	Jerry Fu	8 th	Tiana Davies
21 st	Joanne Okubanjo		

OCTOBER

2 nd	Keira Knebel	14 th	Isabelle Marsh
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NOVEMBER

16 th	Ebony Brown	18 th	Charlotte Wood
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DECEMBER

30 th	Anton Williams		
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Jam for you?

As you know I make a lot of jam when I am given fruit from Val and Sandra's allotment. It is usually for sale at the church summer fair. As we have not had a fair this year I have been delivering jars of jam to people who have asked for it. I still have about 30 jars of jam made with different fruits including strawberries, mixed fruit, blackberry and apple, rhubarb and ginger etc. if anyone would like some. I am willing to bring it to you. When we go back to church I would like people who have jam to make a donation for it to help the church finances. You can get in touch with Val or me to ask for some. [REDACTED]

As well as the jam, I have been given some jigsaws -- I have started one which is 1,000 pieces, so I don't need the others as they are mostly 1000 pieces. If anyone would like one it can be brought to you or collected from me. If any of you have jigsaws you are finished with you could swap for one you haven't made -- a jigsaw swap shop! A donation to church would be welcomed.

Anne B

A year on the allotment by Derek Brooks

My allotment is roughly divided into two, half for vegetables and half for flowers. Today I will just write about vegetables and perhaps about flowers some other time and I will start in winter. This is the time to prepare the ground for next season. Some beds contain winter crops but the other beds are forked over, removing weeds. I have a load of manure delivered in February and it is forked into the empty beds.

Apart from runner beans, onions and leeks all other crops are grown in a four year rotation so that each crop is not grown on the same bed for four years.

Spring is the time to start sowing seeds and planting. Apart from potatoes, onion sets and leeks which I buy in, I grow all other crops from seed. Fertiliser is raked into the ground before sowing and planting. Root crops, broad and dwarf French beans are sown direct in the beds but I start all other crops off in the greenhouse at home in pots or cell trays and plant them later. Some crops such as runner and French beans and sweet corn will not stand frost so they are not sown till April and planted out in June when there is no danger of frost. Runner beans need structures of 8 foot canes erecting before planting. Cabbages, cauliflowers, and salad crops are sown in small batches carrying on throughout the summer to spread out the cropping times. During the rest of the season, some crops such as sprouts, broad beans and sweet corn will need staking and we need to keep looking out for pests and diseases and take the appropriate action and we also need to keep on top of the weeding. Some crops benefit from extra feeding as they grow as well.

Some crops such as cabbages and sprouts keep in good condition for a while but others such as lettuces and cauliflowers need harvesting as soon as they are ready and beans while they are young and tender.

I grow a lot of vegetables for exhibiting but there have been no shows this year. I also take some to the church harvest but this isn't likely to happen either. I do give a lot away to friends and neighbours but still had more than I needed. I therefore took a lot to a food bank in Farnworth and they were really grateful. They took a picture of me with all the vegetables and it is on our church website www.walkdenmethodist.org.uk.

Do you have a hobby or skill that you could share with us, or are you a volunteer and would like to share your work with us. We would love to print more items like Derek's in future Outreach magazines. Maybe you have a favourite hymn you would like to share or even a favourite recipe. Please contact Val with any items or news –

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We remember with love and great affection those members we have lost during our lockdown time.

Dorothy Mudie
Rene Chapman
Colin Ashton
Les Edge
Neil Ramsbotham
Betty Mounsey

Please continue to remember the families of all the above in your daily prayers

Would you like a knitting project for the dark nights? The members of Chat and Craft group often make knitted blankets for the homeless. They find that knitting long strips instead of squares makes it easier to stitch together. If you would like to join them in knitting strips the following is their simple pattern. Using double knitting wool and no. 8 needles cast on 38 stitches and work in garter stitch for 576 rows (yes 576 rows). We need 5 strips to make one blanket. Alternatively you can knit squares of 38 stitches and 64 rows. For a blanket you would need 5 squares across and 9 squares upwards making a total of 45 squares. We would ideally like them stitched into a blanket if possible For more information or any question peak to Sandra 07552 426924. Happy knitting!!

Maybe you already knit or make something for a charity and others in the church could maybe help by making more for the same charity. Let us know if we can help.

Somebody had already been busy. I have received this lovely picture of the items that Renee Chadwick has been making. They all look amazing but I particularly love the octopus.



Who Lives There

For the last few months we have all spent quite a lot more time in our homes than we would have wished to. Below are 14 famous addresses, some real and some fictional. Can you name the residents of each one? (*Answers on the last page of the Outreach*)

10 Downing Street, London
North Cemetery Ridge, USA
Danemead, High Street, St Mary Mead
Neverland, Santa Barbara County, CA
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
221B Baker Street
23 Railway Cuttings, East Cheam
32 Windsor Gardens, London
Southfork Range, Braddock Country, Texas
4 Privet Drive, Little Whinging, Surrey
Wayne Manor, Gotham City
62 West Wallaby Street, Wigan
698 Candlewood Lane, Cabot Cove, ME
742 Evergreen Terrace, Springfield

Covid-19 & Walkden Methodist Church

As we continue in the period of restrictions under the coronavirus pandemic, we find ourselves in difficult times with some difficult decisions to make.

Throughout the lockdown and restrictions, we have been working very hard behind the scenes in looking at what we have to implement when the time comes for the church to re-open and how we do that safely. This has and continues to be discussed at Church Council level and higher within the Methodist Church.

Most of you will be aware that we did start slow opening up process in order to get income into the church. This process is and continues to move forward very tentatively with careful thought and prayer. We have two commercial groups that have returned to church, but unfortunately all the other external groups have remained closed for various reasons. Some of the groups have felt it's not safe or financially viable to come back to church due to the high risk groups they provide for, or some have said that they physically cannot meet within the building under the current restrictions for the safety of those who attend.

For two groups that have returned it has been a challenge with a lot of planning, discussion and management. We monitor this process on a weekly basis with those groups. Each activity has to be carefully risk assessed and constantly reviewed.

When the time comes to return to church and public worship the way we do that will be completely different to how we have done it before. There will be a lot of changes, some that will make it difficult to see you all at the same time, and some which will mean that things may not be able to return just yet. In order to comply with the legal regulations, we will be on a maximum number of people, approximately just under half of what we had as a morning congregation before the start of the pandemic. Some of those changes will be things like face coverings to be worn at all times, booking systems to be in place to manage the number of people attending, hand sanitising as you come in and out of the building, no social interactions and other safeguards that will be communicated when available.



Also some people may not feel that they wish to return due to them shielding or being nervous about coming back. That is all ok. We have and will continue to provide the online worship resources that some of you will be aware of through the church website. (www.walkdenmethodistchurch/worship)

We have also developed a dedicated Covid information page on the website (<https://www.walkdenmethodist.org.uk/covid-19-information/>) which will post the latest up to date information on what we need to do as a church in this challenging time with all our risk assessments and policy

documents. For those who do not have access to the internet we can provide paper copies for you just give us a call on **0161 660 0919** and let us know.

As and when further information comes available we will be issuing this along with looking at ways in which we can do things differently to continue to be church, so keep tuned and what this space.

We hope you all continue to stay safe.

The Property Team

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Finance

I hope this note finds you and your families well and keeping busy.

Firstly I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who has continued with their standing order payments, sent monies for gift day and church collections via the post and to those who have made one off payments. Your support is greatly appreciated and received with grateful thanks and enabled the Church, to some degree, pay its way.

Some may ask that as our building isn't open for worship then what are the financial commitments we need to face? Our Circuit Assessment is our biggest expense by far and is £45,612 for the financial year September 2020- August 2021. This equates to £11,403 every 13 weeks or approximately £877.15 per week. This provides us with the support of the Circuit and Ministers who have through these difficult times provided us with our weekly worship via zoom or through the post, daily reflections, zoom and telephone chats. In short they have more than covered our spiritual needs and some social needs too. I am sure you will agree they have done a fantastic job - but all of this comes at a cost which is included in our Circuit Assessment. As with our homes there are others ongoing costs too for the church, for example insurance and utilities, the upkeep of our building and the list goes

It is an understatement that times have been hard for us all during these uncertain times, and so too for the church. In order help us meet our costs we would have the help of our external lettings which would provide us with some income which would relieve us to some degree of the financial burden. Unfortunately due to the climate they had to stop and to date only a couple of our external rents, which are low risk groups that meet government guides lines, have returned for now but as the climate changes that too may cease.

We have some savings to draw upon but we have to strive to balance our expenditure with what income is received - in short balance the books. As you can see it is a hard task! Please pray for our church and the work it does in Little Hulton and Walkden and for the community in which it sits. Please pray for all those people who are associated with the church and for its finances. Thank you.

Should you wish to make a contribution to church funds or wish to discuss financial matters with me or just call for a chat - please feel free to do so 01942 870196.

Thank you. - Margaret O'Neill - Church Treasurer

Zoom in for coffee

We have just sampled our first Zoom coffee morning organised by Margaret O'Neill. It was easy to log onto and it was great to see others who had logged on and we all had a great chat and catch-up. Margaret had planned for a 20 minute chat but we chatted happily away for an hour. Another is planned soon. Contact Margaret for more details.

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We are hoping to cut some CD's of the online Sunday worship for those people who don't have access to the online service but may have a DVD player. Let us know if this is something you might like. Contact Margaret or Lee.

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Please continue to hold each other in prayer during these difficult times and remember especially those members in residential homes

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Who lives there - Answers

Prime Minister of the UK; The Addams Family; Miss Marple; Michael Jackson; The President of the USA; Sherlock Holmes; Tony Hancock (Hancock's Half Hour); Paddington Bear; Ewing Family (Dallas); Harry Potter; Batman; Wallace & Grommit; Jessica Fletcher (Murder She Wrote); The Simpsons.