

**Tottington Methodist Church  
Newsletter  
Christmas 2019**





## Deacon's Corner

Dear Friends,

I bumped into a friend whilst out shopping the other day and he asked me “Are you ready for Christmas?” I did a quick think through all my to-do lists to try and remember how much I’d done and had left to do. As our conversation went on, I realised, he wasn’t talking about my preparations for celebrating Christmas in terms of cards, presents and Christmas dinner. He was enquiring about my own preparations during Advent to ready myself once again to not only celebrate the birth of Jesus, but to wait for the second coming of God’s son, for Jesus’ return.

In the midst of preparing ourselves for the Christmas festivities, it is easy to forget that God also asks us to prepare the way for Christ’s return. This is a great promise, but also a great challenge. I hope that you can find some time during the busyness of this season to pray and reflect, so that you might prepare for the coming of Jesus into your life.

Every Blessing, Deacon Michelle

### **An Advent Prayer**

We look forward - to seeing a new star appear in the sky, prompting those far off to draw near to you.

**Lord Jesus, draw us to you.**

We look forward - to the familiar stable scenes, their mangers standing empty, waiting to receive you.

**Lord Jesus, come to us anew.**

We look forward - to hearing again the angels singing "Glory to God and Peace to all the earth".

**Lord Jesus, let us take up their song.**

We look forward - to seeing shepherds and kings alike, poor and humble, noble and wealthy, all bowing before you.

**Lord Jesus, unite us in worship.**

We look forward - to remembering a humble girl, with an ordinary background, chosen to bring your hope into the world.

**Lord Jesus, bring new hope through us.**

We look forward - to a child, wrapped in linen, lying in a manger, weak and helpless, small and completely reliant on others.

**Lord Jesus, teach us to depend on you.**

We look forward - to seeing, hearing and knowing afresh how you - infinite and incomprehensible God - freely entered your creation, becoming humble and tangible so that we might freely enter your presence.

**Lord Jesus, we look, we wonder, and we worship.**

**Amen**

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## Church Activities

**Open Door** continues to take place each Thursday ( 9.30 to 11.20 ) in the Lower Meeting Room. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy coffee and biscuits and have the opportunity to meet people and make new friends.

**Coffee Morning** takes place on the first Thursday in each month when books, cards, jewellery along with delicious homemade cakes are on sale.



**Bible Study Fellowship** has been running for several years taking place each Thursday evening at 7.30. to 9.00 We would give any newcomer a very warm welcome making them feel comfortable to just listen or join in reading and reflecting bible scripture. Each week's session focuses on different themes which often leads to very interesting and, at times, inspirational discussion and debate.

**Men's Fellowship** takes place the second Wednesday in the month during which variety of activities take place ranging from visiting speakers, selecting favourite music, playing indoor bowls as well as 'traditional games' including draughts, scrabble, jenga etc.

A very enjoyable evening was organised recently where the ladies were also invited- apparently it was great fun with much laughter!! As always a hearty supper was provided ( men consuming more than the ladies!!) Please watch out for the next evening organised by Tim given in the weekly church notices.



### Coffee Morning Contribution

Sue has been working hard organising and personally making attractive items to be sold over recent weeks both at the Coffee Mornings and also following Sunday Service in aid of the Church Heating Fund.

The current amount raised is £323.20!



Sue would like to extend a very big thank you to everyone who has supported the idea.

## LADIES FELLOWSHIP

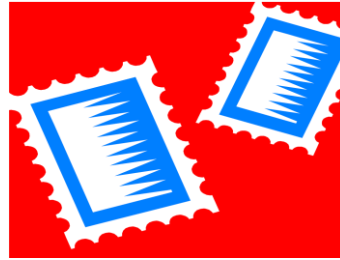
It has been a busy autumn at Ladies Fellowship! In September, we invited the Men's Fellowship to join us on a visit to the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Centre in Bury. The guided tour was both fascinating and extremely informative – we all learned a great deal and had an enjoyable afternoon!

October saw us back at Bluebells Pottery, for a sixth time. As ever there was the difficult decision of choosing what to paint, then much concentration as we got down to work. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and painted a variety of items to bring home; some are shown below.



Our season ended in November with the AGM and review of the year. We are now having a break over the winter. Thank you to all who have supported us this year; we look forward to greeting you and anybody else who would like to join us when we re-open in March 2020.

***Barbara Rumfitt***



### **Stamps for the Leprosy Mission 2019**

It's nearly Christmas and the cards will be arriving with the stamps on the envelopes - the Leprosy Mission can make use of these. As usual, the blue box will be in the foyer for the stamps - please leave an edge around each one. There was an excellent response last year - hopefully, we can match it again.

Thank you in advance.

***Barbara Rumfitt***

TOTTINGTON METHODIST  
CHURCH



**CHRISTMAS SERVICES WILL SUPPORT**

**“ACTION FOR CHILDREN”**

**IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

**Christmas Eve – 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019 –**

**11.30pm – Midnight Communion**

**There will be a Retiring Collection**

**Christmas Day – 25<sup>th</sup> December 2019 –**

**10.30am - All-age-Worship/Family Service**

**The main Offertory will be donated to**

**“ACTION FOR CHILDREN”**

**Envelopes are available in the Foyer if  
you wish to contribute in an offertory  
pre-Christmas**

A **WARM** welcome to

# **RENEW YOUR COVENANT WITH GOD**

at Tottington Methodist Church

**Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 10.30am**

**Deacon Michelle Brocklehurst with Rev Laurie Bullas**

## **The Annual Methodist COVENANT SERVICE**

**INCLUDING HOLY COMMUNION**

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

*Come, let us use the grace divine,  
And all, with one accord,  
In a perpetual cov'nant join  
Ourselves to Christ the Lord.*

**CHARLES WESLEY (1707-88)**

## *if we will welcome him*

Why not find a moment or two of stillness among your Christmas celebrations to reflect on what part faith plays in your life, or what part it could play?

With Jesus' love filling your hearts, may this time of peace and joy be more special than ever for you and all your loved ones.

*O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today!  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel*

(Phillip Brooks – 1835-1893)  
Singing the Faith 213, v4

## *Best of all....*

*Best of all is God is with us,  
hearts are challenged, strangely warmed,  
faith is deepened, courage strengthened,  
grace received and strength restored*

(Based on John Wesley's final words) (Andrew Pratt, b 1948)  
Singing the faith, 610, v3







# Sunbeams

Carer and Toddler Group

What would you like for Christmas? Has anyone said that to you? Yes, me too. However I think that most of our little ones who come to Sunbeams on Monday mornings can't answer that yet. Not for long though. Very soon children seem to know exactly what they want. Our Christmas stocking with an apple and an orange and some nuts and a pair of gloves seems a long time ago - and of course it is. Times certainly have changed.

For now, many of our Sunbeams will be happy with a box or wrapping paper and not so notinterested in what's inside the box. Their eagerness and shining eyes when they see the lights twinkling on the trees are a sight to treasure.

We keep busy on Monday mornings with around 40-45 children and, of course, almost as many adults.

Recently we have had a Bun Sale to raise money for Children in Need and, with a top-up from our funds, were able to send off £140 to this very worthy cause.

Deborah has had one of her Knitting Sales in aid of Drumbeat. Many people went home very happy with their purchases. We are grateful to Barbara Rumfitt for being our "Shop Girl" for the morning. Deborah took £140 on the day and was happy with that.

We increased our subs at the beginning of September so that we could make a regular contribution to church funds. We have also supported Action for Children and we now sponsor Messy Church. A few months ago I was asked if the church could put the Sunbeams helpers forward in a competition set by Methodist Insurance, to acknowledge the part that volunteers play in the life of the Methodist Church and its

community. The UK is divided up into 11 regions and there will be a winner in each region who will win £1,000 for their church.

There will then be an overall winner from the the 11 regional winners, who will win £3,000 (in total) for their church. The regional winners will be announced by the end of January 2020 and there will be a Special Awards Evening in October when the overall winner is revealed.

Apparently they have had lots of inspiring entries and so I am not sure whether we hear any more from Methodist Insurance!

I However, I would like to tell you that all our Sunbeams helpers are even better than Santa's little helpers and without them, we would not be able to continue. So I can only say a big thank you to each and every one of them and hope we can keep going a little longer.

From all of us at Sunbeams, may I wish you a very special and blessed CHRISTmas.

Jill

