

WEEKS DIARY

Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship ***Sunday Kids & Youth Group*** All Age Worship and Parade - 2nd Sunday in the month Café Church (4th Sunday)
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship
Monday	9.15 am	Parents and Toddlers
	6.15-7.15 pm	Rainbow Guides
	6.30-8pm	Brownies
	7.00-8.30pm	Guides
Tuesday	9.15 am	Parents and Toddlers
	7.00pm	'Tuesdays at 7' short service
Wednesday	1.30-3.30pm	Young at Heart for over 55's
Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
	3.30pm	Messy Church (Alternate Weeks) - bible based fun for parents and children

To find out about Fellowship/Bible Study Meetings please
speak to the Minister or one of the Stewards

To book a room contact Lay Employee

Shirley Suthers 01706 228234

shirleysuthers@gmail.com

NEWCHURCH METHODIST CHURCH



**JANUARY/FEBRUARY
2010
Newsletter**

Minister Rev David Burrow

37 Oaklands Drive, Rawtenstall, Tel: 602882

Stewards

am
Jean Altham & Maureen Sutcliffe
Barbara Jones & Nicola Andrew
Elsie Holt
Barbara Hyland & Brenda Simpson

pm
Delia Heap
Sheila Crisp

Please refer to Circuit Plan for contact details.

Lay employee

Shirley Suthers 01706 228234

shirleysuthers@googlemail.com

	PROVIDERS	DISTRIBUTERS
January		
3	Mrs D. Greenwood	Mrs J. Altham
10	Mr R. Spencer	Mrs B Simpson
17	Mrs L. Johnson	Mrs S Crisp
24	Mrs D. Heap	Mrs D. Heap
31	Vacant	Mrs K. Dawson
February		
7	Mrs P. Brennan	Mrs J. Altham
14	Mrs A. Ingham	Mrs B Simpson
21	Mrs V. Mason	Mrs S Crisp
28	Vacant	Mrs D. Heap

If anyone would like to pay for flowers on any of the vacant dates above, please ring Delia

DIARY

DATES

Sun 17th Jan 10am Covenant Service—see David's letter
 Sun 24th Jan 4pm Joint Service with Valley Churches at Kay St Baptist, Rawtenstall
 Wed 10th Feb 7.30pm Meeting for all the stewards from our Circuit held at Newchurch. Chaired by Martin Kemp
 Thurs 11th Feb 9am Circuit staff Meeting at Newchurch. Please join them for the first 30 mins as they pray specifically for Newchurch.
 Wed Feb 17th 7.30pm Ash Wednesday service of ashing at Longholme Rawtenstall.
 Mon 8th March 7.30pm Circuit Meeting at Longholme

Cafe Church in the Lounge

Sun 24th Jan 10am led by Val and Shirley
 Sun 28th Feb 10am led by Di Isherwood

A bit 'thankyou' to our uniformed groups for their support at our Christmas Fayre and Table Top. Also for their wonderful nativity production. Girls (and leaders) you were great. All your hard work was appreciated by everyone who went along.

ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY/MARCH NEWSLETTER

Please can you have all articles/items or news ready for ??????????????????????

Items can be left at Watts' News on Burnley Road East, handed to the stewards or best of all emailed to us at adrianc.watts@ntlworld.com

SHOCK AND AWE!!

Not exactly what we were all expecting for our Advent course. The exciting run up to Christmas is surely all about a baby, shepherd and angels, peace and love?

Well, we rightly remembered that God is always surprising us – sometimes we like the surprises and sometimes we don't. We remembered some of those times in the Old Testament when God surprised men and women – Adam, Noah, Abraham, Sarah...and of course the coming of the Messiah. (was Mary shocked?) Was it shocking that Jesus was delivered in a stable? Would we have been shocked if an angel visited us? Should we feel shock and awe at God's rescue mission of humanity?

How shocking is it that God chose the shepherds to be the first witnesses to the birth of Jesus? Surely they would never forget that evening!

We continued to think about awesome encounters we might remember, and some of the group told us some beautiful stories of their encounters with God.

We talked about leaving behind some of the Christmas tinsel and accepting Jesus' birth as a great gift, BUT allowing him to grow up and ourselves with him – so that we are ready to understand the sacrifice God made for us because he loves us... Shock and Awe!!!!

Many thanks to David for a challenging and enjoyable course,
SHEILA CRISP

ACTION FOR CHILDREN



What a great time we had carol singing at Asda's! Thirty of us in total sang for two and a half hours round the tree and raised £330. If you would like to help us plan or take part in our fund raising events for next year come along to Stacksteads Methodist at 7.30pm on the 12th of January or have a word with Shirley, Jean or Brenda.

Dear Friends,

As I write this, just before Christmas, much of the UK has been brought to a standstill due to the snow. Our three boys have been busy making the most of it. Sledging, snowball fights and snowmen, followed by hot chocolate with marshmallows is the order of the day! It's all good fun when you are fit enough to enjoy it.

I wrote in the last magazine about the importance of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection and I have to say that the reality of the truth of what I believe and preach hit me in a whole new way at my father's funeral just two weeks before Christmas. As 350 voices sang that great hymn, 'And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood' we were lifted out of our sadness to the heights of joy. As we heard the well-known words of Psalm 23 the assurance of dwelling in the house of the Lord forever gave great comfort. And as we stood by the graveside in the winter sunshine the promises of God rang in our ears, in heaven God will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. In the depths of grief the horizon of heaven seems a long way away, but it is there; it is only as far as the eye can see. Beyond our earthly sight there really is the joy and wonder of heaven. As our son Thomas, who is seven years old, said after we first heard of Dad's death and had wept together, "But Granddad is still alive in heaven." Our thanks to every one of you who has passed on messages of condolence, sent cards and held us in your prayers.

And now we begin to look forward to another new year. For us all at Newchurch there are many challenges: to build on all the good work that is currently taking place and then to add to it. If you have got out of the habit of coming to church regularly please know that we have missed you greatly and would love to see you again. Our worship is going through a gentle change as we try one or two new things to enable those who so wish, to be involved more. Early in the New Year I hope to run a course for those who would like to have a closer look at worship. This is an opportunity to see how an act of worship is put together, what makes for a good act of worship and how we can develop

worship in new ways. It's an opportunity for everyone to have a say and, if you wish, to use what you have learned to become an official worship leader in the church. On the other hand if you don't want to lead worship yourself the sessions will still enrich the worship you attend - so winners all round.

January means the Covenant Service, and once again I hope to make the united evening service with St Anne's on January 3rd a Covenant Service as well as the morning of January 17th. Which means of course two opportunities for you to come and share in this wonderful act of recommitment of our lives to God.

February 2nd is the Feast of Candlemas. This marks the Purification of the Virgin Mary and the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple 40 days after his birth, (Luke 2:22-35). Above all Candlemas is a festival of light: "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Candlemas acts as a spiritual reviver to pep us up and keep us moving on our way from winter to spring, Christmas to Easter. In the Church of England Candlemas is the day when all the candles to be used during the coming year are consecrated. Candlemas enables us to once again affirm the light of Christ in the world and remember Jesus the child; it is one last look back at Christmas before we turn to face the season of Lent and the journey to the cross. There will be a service of 'Ashing' at Longholme on Ash Wednesday, February 17th and everyone is welcome to come along. If you have never been before do come and try it. The service of Ashing has a long tradition; it is fairly quiet and restrained as it gives us the opportunity to begin the journey to the cross with a symbolic act of repentance - a cross of ash on our foreheads. We are reminded again of the love and "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9).

I wish you a happy and peaceful New Year, filled to overflowing with the grace and love of God.

Yours in Christ, David

I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO CHURCH THIS MORNING.

I'm glad you came to church this morning
I would have missed you had you stayed away.
Isn't it better when we all turn up
To hear what our preachers have to say.

With more voices it's easier to sing the hymns
As we praise our God in song;
"The more the merrier" I always say
It helps the tune along.

Our preachers will have spent lots of time
Preparing their sermons and theme
So just think what you might have missed
If you'd stayed home in bed just to dream.

Our preachers could have a message just
for you
A message that might just warm your heart;
A message for all the church family
Of which YOU are the most important part.

Wouldn't it be great for the preachers
If the chairs were all full every week,
Standing room only, just imagine that
As you come for your Saviour to seek.

They say "Flattery gets you nowhere"
But if you feel that you've been flattered today,
Then to me my words will have been a success
And there's really nothing more I can say;
Except
**"I'm glad you came to church
this morning".**

MY VALENTINE

Will you be my Valentine?
No one needs to know.
I first saw you in my dreams
Months and months ago.

You are my idea of
What a girl should be,
Lovely figure, lovely face,
You're all the world to me.

Please say yes and then I
know
My dreams have all come true
We were made just for each
other
You and me.....us two.

Like I said no one need know
You're mine and for no other
But as I'm only eight years old

**I'D BETTER TELL
MI MOTHER**



Poems by Ronnie Spencer.

As you stand by the chapel door look to your right and on the far edge of the graveyard is Rev Hopkins grave, marked by a large stone cross. In the old vestry upstairs is a cabinet with photos and a pair of leather sandals he made whilst in the air-force. Although 85 years have passed since his time here I feel a sense of closeness to him. I know many have felt this over the years. Perhaps he is still keeping a friendly eye on us! I would like to put together a service and talk based on his life. If you have any photos, memorabilia or interesting anecdotes please let me know so that we can pass on his story, with its message of faith and service, to generations to come. Thanks

Shirley

Newchurch Methodist Website

Have you visited our website?

www.newchurch-methodist.co.uk

You'll find a link to this newsletter, a service plan, a calendar of events to keep you up to date and lots more. Check out the picture gallery and see if you can spot our members at various social functions.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

- Did you know that 'stressed' is 'dessert' spelled backwards.?
(David sent this one in—do you think he is trying to tell us something!)
- A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.
- Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to.
- People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and New Year but really they should be worried about what they eat between New Year and Christmas
- A dog's New Year's Resolution: I will not chase that stick unless I actually see it leave his hand!"

Welcome To The Website for Newchurch Methodist

If there's anything else you would like to see on the website let Nicola know.

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month we have Sunday School with separate activities for teenagers. We try to make the sessions fun, lively and interesting. Our Youth Group met with David and Shirley between Christmas and New Year for parachute games followed by sausage and chips and Amy's chocolate fountain. We talked a bit about what's really important about Christmas. We are planning to go bowling in the spring.

MR VALIANT — The Story of Arthur G. Hopkins

I have recently been loaned a copy of this book, written in 1926. Arthur Hopkins, as some of you will know, was minister here in 1922, sadly only until 1924 when he died of cancer at the age of 33, leaving a wife and 2 young boys.

He set up a scout troop and was loved by church members and scouts alike for his warmth, openness and sense of humour. The book contains a foreward written as a tribute in 1925 by Lord BadenPowell -

‘How a minister of God can successfully lead the younger generation truly to appreciate and practice their religion is one of the most pressing problems of today If his example should have a helpful value to some of our parents, pastors, or teachers, he will not have lived and died in vain.’

The book describes his arrival here into the then Rawtenstall Circuit with special charge of the chapels at Newchurch and Whitewell Bottom.:

‘Newchurch is a village on the hill above Waterfoot, in a busy industrial district set in the Rossendale Valley, with steep hills towering on either side. Here for a period of eighteen months Arthur spent a very happy and successful time, and he exercised a fine ministry amongst people who were quick to appreciate his qualities and generous in responding to them. Many of the chapel members were related to one another, and they lived together as a happy and united family. The whimsical humour and unconventiality of their new minister attracted them and they took him at once to their hearts.’

One of their earliest recollections was the sight of him pushing a sweeps hand card up Turnpike with the sweep walking beside him. From his vantage point in the manse he had spotted the old man struggling with his heavy load and gone out to help him.



Photo: Alban Studio, Accrington. Frontispiece.

The book contains many tales of Arthurs scouting days and his love and devotion of his ‘boys’ at Newchurch. His last letter to them is filled with advice on how to live ‘a life of service to others, no matter how trivial the service may bea life lived cleanly, walked by simple faith and trust ... Do not bother about queer theories, just trust God and help others and then, when the end comes, you’ll be quite content.... thank God for His free and simple gifts—health, sunshine, the rain, the birds, the running streams, little children, human love ‘

The cancer diagnosis came as a severe blow - ‘all his life a man who was singularly free from fear, a terrible and lingering disease such as this was the one thing of which he was genuinely afraid’ But,as the book tells us, Arthur Hopkins came through his Gethsemane with his spirit unconquered. His body was broken but his faith was made sure. He said to a friend ‘Christ has never left me— after all Christ died at thirty three, and what was not a tragedy to Him cannot be a tragedy to me.’

In his few short years of ministry Arthur was loved and respected by all who came to know him ; but the finest ministry was that which he exercised from his bed. Friends of all kinds and from all stations in life came to see him and despite the pain he often refused morphia to be alert when they came—young and old, rich and poor, working men in their aprons, and business men in their motor cars—all alike were drawn to his bedside and each one would go away uplifted by the sense of his quiet confidence in God.

The book concludes

‘We laid him to rest in the quiet little chapel yard at Newchurch, among his own beloved people. All that was mortal of him lies in that quiet green spot on the hillside, with the trees looking down on him, and the hum of the mills coming up from the valley. He is in the midst of his own people where he wished to be. His last message to them bore witness to the strength of his faith ‘

‘all things work together for good to them that love God.’

