

Contact

April 2024



The newsletter of Bramhall Methodist Church

Dear Friends

How did you find Lent this year? Were you able to stick to the things you had planned to give up or take on? I suspect some of us find it easier than others but nonetheless, I wonder if your Lenten journey has inspired and encouraged you to continue with that particular thing into Easter and beyond? I know that has often been my experience – sometimes with seemingly unimportant things (eg giving up sugar in hot drinks, which I did when I was about 11) and sometimes with things that have seemed more spiritually nourishing (eg regularly spending time prayer journaling).

And if things didn't go quite as you'd hoped or planned over Lent, Easter is always a great time to make a new start as we are so powerfully reminded of the forgiveness, new life and transformation made possible by Jesus.

As we await the findings of the TCC Circuit Review, I find myself wondering in what ways and in what areas might God be inviting BMC to make a new start? And in what areas might God be encouraging us to keep on keeping on, even if there doesn't seem to be much sign of new life at the moment? Let's keep paying attention to the green shoots that might be tentatively peeping through, as we remember and celebrate "Now the green blade rises from the buried grain ... Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green." (John Macleod Campbell Crum, STF 306)

I hope you continue to have a very happy and blessed Easter season.

All good wishes,
Sarah



Thank You

Ann and Victoria Tyler-Dineen wish to extend our thanks to everyone at Bramhall Methodist Church who have supported us both over the long period of hospitalisation (of Ann) and for all your prayers and support given during this time.

Unfortunately, it will be some time before we are both able to return to church, so please may we ask for your continued prayers for us, as Ann's recovery will be quite a long period of time.

Love in Jesus name.

Ann



Could this be you??

Jobs which need doing....

Highlighting requests made elsewhere....



We're a big church with a lot going on - which is great, but please be realistic about how much you expect one person, especially Sarah, to do. Ed.

Volunteers are needed in many areas;

Welcome Stewards

Pastoral Visitors

Help with the Flower Ministry

More singers for Evening Worship

Help in the Coffee Shop & Thrift Shop

Please have a word with Angela Clowes or Sarah

Thank you

Bramhall Methodist Church is a caring church.

Please consider how you could play your part.

So why Peter, Lord?

Why Peter, Lord—why did he get it all wrong?

How did he manage to miss the signs of Judas planning his betrayal,

and how did he fail to protect his Lord?

How could he not understand why you were washing his feet?

How could he fall asleep in the garden at the moment you had asked him to pray?

Why Peter, Lord?

How could he deny all knowledge of you—he who had

confessed you as Lord?

I know he wept over his failure, all done in the face of a hostile crowd.

But why Peter, Lord?

Why Peter, Lord? Why was he the one to run to the tomb

and discover that you had been raised, and the victory over death had been won?

Though if the truth be known,

he didn't understand a great deal of all that it really meant.

Why was it Peter who found the grave empty and that there was no body there?

How was it that it was Peter who was faced with your threefold challenge

to care for your lambs and your sheep?

And why was it possible for this man

who was known to have feet made of clay

to declare on the day of Pentecost the truth that Jesus is Lord?

Why, I ask - why Peter, Lord?

What I really mean, and what I really want to ask, is not why Peter, but why me, Lord?

Why did you choose me and use me and fill me?

Why did you call me and shape me and send me?

Why did you love me and restore me?

Why did you offer yourself as my Saviour and Lord?

For Peter and for me, the answer is grace.

Your undeserved love has made me your own

and by your Spirit Peter and I have received

all the power we needed to declare to all who will hear

that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

David Clowes



BMC – A Justice Seeking Church?

Join us for our Lent+ discussion groups to think about the ways in which we could be a more intentionally justice-seeking church, 7.30pm - 9pm in the Fellowship Room:

Entitled '**Lent+**' as some sessions have been during Lent, others are afterwards!

Remaining Dates:

Thursday 11th April - Opposing discrimination:
all are made in the image of God

Wednesday 17th April - Pursuing peace:
seeking justice and reconciliation

Please join us for both, or just one of the above.

For more information, please speak to Sarah.



World and Neighbourhood Team (WaNT)

Minutes - Sunday 18th February 2024

Present - 7 members + 1 apology

Opening Prayers - Led by Rev Sarah

Charity Updates

All We Can - The Christmas card board for BMC members was displayed in the welcome area and supported the work of All We Can raising £161.20

Self Help Africa - (Formerly known as Harvest Help) Geoff Barnard has sent the charity further donations from the sale of his book "Memoirs".

Christian Aid - Now only have a regional digital group (Facebook) which BMC will start to follow. It will enable us to flag up future updates or campaigns. BMC will continue to support CA week each May, through communion giving and display a CA banner to remind the wider community.

Action for Children - The BMC Christmas collections totalled £451.50. The Home Collecting Box total for 2023 was £170.88. Further other one-off fundraising has been put on hold.

Maggie's Cancer Support Unit - Chris Hartley is on track to achieve her total of £2,800 raised for Maggie's by August 2024. She has suggested hosting an afternoon tea event in the community hub (date TBC), with a speaker from Maggie's to share an insight into the range of services and support available.

Eco Church - BMC continues to be part of the Stockport Climate Action Network (CAN) and Bramhall's Green Network. Sarah recently attended the Stockport CAN meeting and heard a presentation relating to a harmful weed killer, still being used by Stockport MBC. Alison recently attended the Bramhall Green Network meeting and pledged that BMC would take part in the #showthelove campaign during February and display green hearts, to show our support and care for nature and the climate.

Compassion - No updates but a number of BMC members continue to sponsor children through the charity.

Charitable Giving Updates

Communion Collections:

A suggestion box was placed in the Welcome area last Autumn and several charities were nominated. The following charities will be the recipients of the 2024 communion collections:

January – Mind

February – Methodist Church Fund for Human Need

March – Bitesize Church

April – Easter Offering (World Mission) (see p 6)

May – Christian Aid (CA)

June – Methodist Homes (MHA)

July – Action for Children (AFC)

BMC updates - Links with the wider community

The Coffee Shop continues to be popular with the local community of Bramhall but the number of available helpers remains a constant concern with last minute calls for assistance/swaps being a time consuming added responsibility.

The Thrift Shop is thriving but Margaret highlighted the need for new volunteers. Three members of staff have recently stepped down and there is an urgent requirement for a regular Friday afternoon volunteer, plus others to join the standby list.

In October 2023 - £8,000 was donated to charities nominated as usual, by the team of shop volunteers. Each charity received £1,000 with the exception of Copperdale who received £2,000 (Please click on/ see the links to read more about each charity).

Embrace the Middle East

<https://embraceme.org>

St Ann's Hospice (Let's get digging campaign)

<https://www.sah.org.uk>

Action Cerebral Palsy

<https://actioncp.org>

Beechwood Cancer Care Charity

<https://beechwoodcancercare.org.uk>

Together Trust Centre

<https://www.togethertrust.org.uk>

Ikasi Youth Everyday Heroes

<https://ikasiyouth.org>

Copperdale Trust

<https://www.copperdaletrust.com>

Need to advertise for new volunteers in the Coffee Shop and Thrift Shop.

Repair Café – BMC have now been providing the rooms for Sustainable Bramhall to host their monthly event for a year. The Repair Café is growing in popularity and always provide statistics on their social media sites of the repairs after each event. Here is a copy of their post following the event held on 3rd Feb 2024:

“Thank you to all our visitors and repairers. Sewing was busy including repair of child’s seam on their school coat, hole in jumper mended, Child’s dressing up princess dress seam mended.

Two broken suit cases mended. Lamps, toaster, kettles, hair straighteners, radio, all repaired or faulty part identified to be returned next cafe with the new part to complete repair. And Digital radio pre-sets set up for elderly lady, and explained how she can do it herself if needed....hopefully.

There were a total of 25 repairs. Items repaired represented a saving of an equivalent of 630.4 kgs CO₂ emissions from not having to manufacture, transport, etc replacement products; and prevented 44.0 kgs of materials going to landfill. The CO₂ emissions equivalent saving is for driving an average petrol car 1803 miles.”

Foodbank initiative/ Worker Bee Markets

Jo Fletcher reported that Moss Hey Primary School held a collection in January 2024 and the donations were all taken to Hope Central by one of the school governors. Donations continue to be delivered from BMC to Hope Central and Brownley Green, Wythenshawe on a monthly basis.

Worker Bee Markets – The meeting decided not to take up the offer of free charity space at the five worker bee markets during 2024 (for Foodbank collections).

Following the relocation of Sainsbury’s from the precinct, donations dropped off dramatically during 2023. It was concluded that the volunteers’ time and efforts would be more usefully engaged in other activities.

It was agreed that a stall could be set up and

made available within Church, at specific events, and it was the right time to seek approval from Resources to purchase an all-weather outdoor drop off “bin” for donations.

Links to Wythenshawe

There was an excellent response by BMC members to the Warm Fund appeal before Christmas, which provided Rev Dave Warnock with funds to top up pre-paid meters for needy households, known to him, over the coldest weeks of winter.

The idea to bring a gift of a selection box to the Nativity service was also a welcome initiative which boasted the seasonal treats for families in Wythenshawe. There is now also a steady stream of household goods and clothes being delivered each month. These are mainly distributed directly to needy families or sold in Mo’s Cabin, St Andrew’s Church (Emmaus Emporium). Unsold items are sent to the Lawton Moor monthly rummage sale.

Action – Jo and Alison to produce a strategic plan for ongoing support to Wythenshawe on a year-round seasonal basis. For example, feeding families during school holidays, preparing for next winter, exploring new options.

Bitesize Church – Colshaw

(Bitesize Church is being established as a “New Place for New People,” Caleb community.) Sarah reported that there weren’t quite as many guests at the February meeting, with a mix of regular attendees and new ones. Good links are being established with the Tenants & Residents association and there is a good stable team of volunteers from BMC. One of the regular guests has now taken ownership for tea/coffee prep.

Shoebox Appeal

Work is now beginning on this project for 2024 and will run throughout the year, with a drop off, collection place made available on the Church premises.

Next WaNT meeting – Sunday June 23rd @ 11.15 am in Fellowship Room

HOLIDAY@HOME

20th - 22nd August 2024

Preparations are now well advanced for this year's Holiday at Home at the United Reform Church, Robins Lane, Bramhall.

Three days of fun and friendship for any of our more senior neighbours who cannot get away on holiday - lots of chatter, entertainment, arts and crafts, quizzes and fun and laughter along with a delicious, hot freshly cooked lunch and much more. On Wednesday a coach trip is being arranged in the afternoon for a visit to Buxton.

Make a note of the date in your diary, you can come for one, two or all three days; the choice is yours. Arrangements can be made to transport you to and from home if needed.

Nearer the time I will invite anyone who wants to come to book their place by completing a short form and I will also be appealing for drivers and helpers along with cake makers.

Watch this space!!!

Barbara Grafton

07484 260394

Evening Service

Wanted: More singers for Sunday evening.

We are always on the lookout for anyone who fancies singing with the Music Group that helps to lead worship at the Evening Services. We meet every 1st Sunday of the month in the Welcome Area at 5.15pm to practise before the service which takes place at 6.30pm. No need to be able to read music.

If you are interested please contact Ian Castledine or Alan McPhail. Thank you



Church Flowers.

This month we have been enjoying flowers which have been donated in memory of the following family members:

Robbie Phillips

Dan and Wyn Dennis

Bob Kyle

Marjorie and Norman Gay.

Neil Simpson.

We thank those donors for their support and would welcome offers from church members who would like to remember loved ones in this way.

Our talented flower team will be happy to do an arrangement.

Many thanks, Ann Bonner





Saturday
20th April 2024
7:30 pm

Duruflé 
Requiem

with
Vaughan Williams: Five Mystical Songs

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church
Bramhall SK7 2PG

Tickets £12 (concessions £10)
from Roo Lumb (0161 439 3634)
or on the door

Music scores supplied by Cheshire Libraries

Easter Offering

The Easter Offering is the recipient of the April communion collection. (even though Easter Day is 31st March)



LET JUSTICE ROLL

Easter Offering 2024
A worship resource offered by
Methodist Women in Britain

JUSTICE

The Methodist Church

Congratulations

This is a section to mention any special celebrations.

Please let the editor know, having obtained permission from those concerned.



Diary Dates

Worship Night – nothing planned at the moment.

Future Stewards' Meetings

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Wednesday 10th April | 7.30pm (Manse) |
| Tuesday 7th May | 7.30pm (Manse) |

Future Church Council Meetings (Fellowship Rm)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Thursday 18th April 2024 | 7.30pm |
| Church AGM Sun 28th April 2024 | 11.15am |

Future WaNT Meetings (Church)

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Sunday 23rd June | 11.15am |
|------------------|---------|

Future Pastoral Visitors Meeting

| | | |
|--------------------|--------|----------|
| Tuesday 23rd April | 7.45pm | room tbc |
|--------------------|--------|----------|



Congratulations to Olwyn Davis who celebrated her 100th birthday on Thursday 28th March
Happy Birthday



From the registers

(events during the last two months)

Weddings:

Congratulations to Heather & Scott Pennells who were married at BMC on 9th March

God of grace, source of all love, may they live together in love and faithfulness to the end of their lives. Amen

Funerals / Memorial Services:

The funeral of **Pat Musther** was on Thursday 8th February at 12.15pm at Macclesfield Crematorium. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Bob Kyle's Thanksgiving Service was held on Monday 19th February at 12pm at BMC, and afterwards at Davenport Golf Club, Middlewood Road, Poynton. Please think of his wife Brenda in your prayers.

The Thanksgiving Service for the life of **Chrys Guneratne** was held on Monday 26th February at 1.30pm at BMC, followed by refreshments. Please hold Devan, Julie, Helen, Kristy and their families in your prayers.

Loving God, we commend them to your perfect mercy and wisdom, for in you alone we put our trust. Amen.



A.G.M. The **Annual General Meeting** of **Bramhall Methodist Church** will take place on **Sunday 28th April at 11.15am**, after morning worship. Agendas & nomination forms are on the church website, or available from the church office.



Messy Church will now take place on the 4th Sunday of each month

28th April

26th May

4pm in the Community Hub for craft activities followed by a time together for our story or message, before tea.

All children welcome, with their parents, grandparents or carers.

3rd Sunday @ 3pm

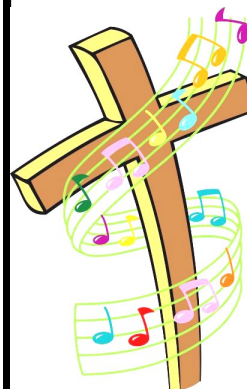
A new opportunity to share in worship and fellowship!

Join us - at 3pm on the third Sunday of the month in the Welcome Area for a short service (30 minutes) with some favourite hymns, followed by tea & biscuits and conversation.

For more information, please speak to Sarah

Sunday 21st April

Sunday 19th May



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The named person can supply more information about an activity.

Rambling Club John Theakston



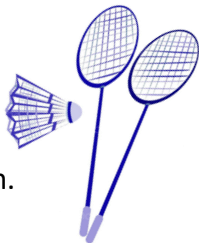
We continue as a small group of friends who enjoy a 7/8 mile walk every couple of weeks, weather permitting.

Friday Nighters Diane & Malcolm Webb

The Friday Nighters generally meet on the first Friday of the month. The social programme ranges from quizzes and games in friends' homes to meals out, walks and theatre trips.

Badminton Ann Durnford

We meet in the Community Hub for mixed doubles on Mondays 8-10pm and Ladies doubles on Wednesdays 1.30-3pm. Sub to cover hall hire etc.



Art and Craft Group

Ann Bonner and Margaret Burgess



The group meets every Monday in the Community Hub from 2.00-4.00 pm, sharing the space and joining together for refreshments.

Members choose their own activity and help and encourage one another. (sub to cover hiring of hall, heating and refreshments)

Indoor Bowls Ian Anderson

The new season will recommence in October.



BABY CHAT

Friday mornings (during term-time)

Baby Chat is a relaxed, informal safe space for mums to come and chat, with their babies. Seedlings is in the community hub at the same time as Baby Chat, with lots of activities for little ones to get involved in, including story time.



SEEDLINGS



A meeting for women offering friendship & fun

We meet (usually on Thursdays) in the Back Hall 2.30pm

- April 11 Life behind the front desk
Barbara McNab
- April 25 Unmentionables
Frances Raftery
- May 9 Christians Against Poverty
Clare Byfield
- May 23 Healthwatch



This month's Prayer Diary will be available separately. Please pray for Pam Oakley as she compiles it.

Looking Forward

Services in Church will be recorded, as well as being available live. Visit : <https://bmethods.link/ThisSunday> or call 0161 509 4285

Our Connect service, in Centrepont, will also be recorded, as well as being available live. Visit: <https://bmethods.link/Connect>

Both Morning Services start at 10am.

There are no plans to record **Sunday evening services**, at present, which will continue to happen on the first Sunday of each month.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL

April 7

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| Church | Mr Bob Bartindale |
| Connect | Mrs Angela Clowes |
| 6.30pm | Rev Dave Warnock |

April 14

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| Church | Rev David Clowes HC |
| Connect | Mrs Mary Langton |

April 21

Joint Service in Centrepont

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Connect | Rev Sarah Parkin HC |
| 3rd @ 3pm | Rev Sarah Parkin |

April 28

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| Church | Rev Charles Nevin |
| Connect | Rev Sarah Parkin HC |
| 11.15am | Church AGM |
| 4.00pm | Messy Church |

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

May 5

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| Church | LA |
| Connect | Mr Ian Castledine |
| 6.30pm | Rev Sarah Parkin |

May 12 **Christian Aid Week**

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| Church | Rev Sarah Parkin HC |
| Connect | Rev David Clowes |

May 19

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Church | Mrs Pat James |
| Connect | Mr Andrew Pennells |
| 3rd @ 3pm | Mrs Chris Hall |

May 26

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| Church | Mr David Allaby |
| Connect | Rev Sarah Parkin HC |
| 4.00pm | Messy Church |

THURSDAY WORSHIP

10.00 - 10.30am


A short service of worship providing an oasis of peace, encouragement & friendship in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.


| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| April 4 | Bob Bartindale |
| April 11 | Rev Sarah Parkin |
| April 18 | Colin Walter |
| April 25 | Rev David Russell |
| May 2 | Rev Sarah Parkin |
| May 9 | David Langton |
| May 16 | Mandy Hawkyard |
| May 23 | Linda Rayner |
| May 30 | Rev David Clowes HC |

Bite-Sized Church - Colshaw

April 14
May 12
June 9







NEXT ISSUE of CONTACT

Articles for the **June/July** edition of 'Contact' are requested by **Sunday 19th May**

To - magazine@bramhallmethodists.org.uk -

Articles to be about 500 words. Photographs and illustrations welcome. Please acknowledge sources.