

The Newtown Hub

May 2016

From the Minister

Hello everyone!

I'm writing this in a very special week for our national life, when we are commemorating the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death and the 90th anniversary of our Queen's birth. There is no doubt that both the Bard and Elizabeth II have had a deep impact on who we are as a nation today. In different ways they inspire us and help to give us a common identity as British or English people. They are of course very different characters, but there is a common thread in both of their lives: the Bible.

Shakespeare was alive when the King James Bible - the most influential book of all time - was published. This fact has led to a wonderful (and unlikely) urban myth that the Bard was involved in the translation of the KJV. After all the 46th word in Psalm 46 is 'Shake' and the 46th word from the end of Psalm 46 is 'spear'! The Bible was a source of inspiration for Shakespeare, and references to events, characters and themes from the Bible abound in his plays.

The Queen is the Patron of the Bible Society, and the latter has published a new book *The Servant Queen*, which uses the Queen's own words to draw out the central role of her Christian faith and the Bible. She has spoken about her faith in every one of her Christmas messages and the Bible is central to what she believes. In the book she states: "I have been - and remain - very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for his steadfast love. I have indeed seen his faithfulness." Here she may well be thinking of Psalm 136: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures for ever."

In the service before our AGM the other week, I spoke about our church being a hub, with faith in Christ at the centre, and the spokes of the wheel radiating out from it, carrying the faith and love of Christ out into the world. In our own lives, as well as in the church, we need to pay attention to the hub; and the hub of what we believe is the Bible - God's very words spoken to us. This is what inspires us and gives us a common faith as Christians.

There's a lot of work for the spokes to do, but they all need to be centred firmly in the hub. In a world which is changing so rapidly we all need something that we can rely on to guide us through. Jesus said: "Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away." (Luke 23:33) His words are truth and they are eternal.

If you would like help to explore the Bible - alone or in company with others - do please have a word with me and I would be delighted to help you on your journey.

God bless you

Diane

Preachers for May

May	1	Mrs Denise Helsby
	8	Rev Michael Marshall
	15	Rev Diane Barrow
	22	Pastor David Grimshaw
	29	Mr Walter Ash

Quiet time 4th May 2016

As all Star Wars fans know this is Star Wars day – ‘May the fourth (force) go with you!’ As Christians we know that the force in our lives is Jesus Christ. He gives us the power and strength for our daily needs. It is through Him that we live, move, breathe and have our being. Take the opportunity to reconnect with our power source by coming to church on May the 4th for quiet prayer and contemplation, browse through the bible or just sit and enjoy the silence listening for that still, small voice that supports and guides us. The force of His presence will bring peace in this hectic world.

The Church will be open 10.30 – 12.00 if you have the time to come along to chat over tea and biscuits with friends in fellowship.

Donations for the food bank can also be left

Food bank

We continue to support the food bank with all donations being delivered to the Christian Life Centre, Atherton Street on the first Wednesday of every month. They have asked for the following items to be considered a priority at the moment:

- Long life milk
- Sugar
- Cartons of fruit juice
- Tinned fish
- Tinned fruit

Family News.

It was nice to see Marjorie Metcalfe back with us on Sunday (27th) after her recent fall and spell in hospital.

Best wishes to Bill who celebrates his birthday on 17th.

We ask anyone who is aware of any member of the congregation who is ill or has problems with which we may be able to help to inform any of the elders

Church Flowers

Flowers for the month of April were kindly donated by:

Barbara & Colin Sweetlove

Chris & Jeff Davies



Mrs Eve Donnelly

Mrs Rita Aspinall

If anyone wishes to give flowers on a particular Sunday during May please see Barbara, any assistance would be very much appreciated.

You gotta friend!

As an Eldership we are aware that the needs of each member of our congregation are different and we are here to help.

Do you need a lift to/from church, are you ill, infirm or housebound and need some shopping, do you need a prescription picking up etc etc or do you just need someone to talk to?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes please call any of the Elders and we'll sort it no matter what!

Our contact numbers are:

Diane 0151 352 1343

John	01744 893098	Jackie	01744 631301
Bill	01695 558486	Chris	01744 21576
Marie	01744 612982	Ian	01744 734394

Don't be frightened to get in touch no matter how trivial the problem is.

Ladies Meetings for May and June

Monday 9th May – Alice Edridge will speak about the work of the Soroptomists.

Monday 13th June – Open meeting with refreshments

Daffodil Rally

On Monday 11th April 29 ladies and Len attended our daffodil rally. We were well supported by our friends from St Teresas, Bethell Mission and St Lukes.

The church and porch were decorated with vases and bunches of beautiful daffodils. The speaker was Mrs Mary Foley from Ormskirk Street URC who spoke about the way we all as individuals fit together in God's family, using a box of chocolates(empty) as her illustration.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk together after the service. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you to all those involved in helping beforehand and on the day and preparing the refreshments. Special thanks to Chris Bosanquet who co-ordinated the event.

The daffodils were kindly donated by Barbara Sweetlove in memory of her parents.

Where am I?

Do you recognise this 'local' view?

Answer to last month's where am I.

Did you get it? Another old photo! It was a picture of part of the old 'Providence Hospital'.

Deadlines



Any items for inclusion in the May Hub should be passed to any of the Elders by Sunday 29thMay. Items submitted after that date may miss the print deadline and will be included in the following month's issue.

Clothes for Refugees

Diane is still collecting clothes for Asylum Link Liverpool to distribute to refugees and destitute asylum seekers. You can leave them at church for her to pick up on the first Wednesday of the month. Thank you very much

Baby Basics

This is the latest addition to the services provided by the Hope Centre, based at the Christian Life Centre, Atherton Street. Staff and volunteers fill Moses baskets with the most needed items for babies as well as a gift for the mother. They make sure the baskets are well presented and that the clothes that have been donated are clean and ironed. After receiving referrals from health visitors, the baskets are then donated to mums and families who cannot buy such items for themselves because of personal circumstances.

The baskets have well received as this gift helps the mother bond with her baby, provide better care as some of the difficulties are eased because of this support.

If anyone feels they would like to help in some way see Chris for more details.

If I Were 12

If I were 12 again today, what would I think? What would I say?

Could I stand up against the mugs who try to wreck my life through drugs?

What would it take for me to twig, that cigarettes won't make me big?

If told to take an honest road, would I just laugh or else explode?

Would I be strong enough to say "I want to work as well play"

If I were 12 again today, what would I think? What would I say?

Would I join in when others mock and hurt the weak by vicious talk?

Which of you would be my friend and stand beside me to the end?

And could I be a friend to you and give you help in what you do?

Who would I love? Would it be odd to try to find a faith in God?

If I were 12 again today, how would I ever come to pray?

Would I take the time to stare behind the mask I have to wear?

What would I do with all my fears? How keep hidden all my tears?

How would I cope with being alone? How would I speak without a phone?

So I and those like me now grey, who want to find a better way

All need to learn to pray for those who are still 12 today.

Outreach to Queens Park School

I recently met with Mrs Sandra Morris, who is a children's worker with lots of experience and creative ideas for introducing school children to Christian faith and values and helping them to explore these. She is based at Christ Church URC in Haydock and employed part time by Scripture Union, with the aim of helping churches to get involved in outreach to their local schools.

Sandra was very interested to learn of Newtown's interest in developing links with Queens Park School and is offering to help us do some outreach there! She will be coming along to the Quiet Time at Church on 4th May and would love to meet and chat with anyone who is interested to learn more about what she does and maybe consider taking part in a small project. Sandra says people are often nervous about doing so, but when they try it they really enjoy it!

Diane

Correction

In last month's magazine I said that there were 8 churches in the St Helens URC Team, but I forgot one! There are actually 9 of us.

Diane

Pageant Plans for Pentecost

HOPE Street will be transformed into a stage filled with performers, singers and artists celebrating Liverpool's Pentecost Pageant.

For the first time, Sunday 15 May will see the city's two cathedrals teaming up with the city council and Visit Hope Street Community Interest Company (CIC) to expand the biannual celebrations, making it a full day event.

Pentecost - a celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles – has been marked in Liverpool for 34 years with a ‘two cathedrals walk’ which sees thousands of people process between the two cathedrals on Hope Street in a show of unity and celebration.

Starting at midday and running until 3pm, the free event will see music, dance, performance and colour all the way along one of the most iconic streets in the UK, with five main performances spaces creating a unique atmosphere and experience.

Samba bands, the Liverpool Welsh Choral, stilt performers, dancers and creations from the Liverpool Lantern Company will fill the length of the street. The aim is to produce an atmospheric journey for the audience – including performances which will allow the crowds to reflect on momentous moments in people’s lives such as marriage and birth, whereas later on in the journey the music soundtrack will provide a celebratory carnival atmosphere.

At 3pm the traditional procession will take place and anyone intending to join in is asked to wear red or white clothing - the colours associated with Pentecost. The parade will culminate with a major act of worship from the steps of the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Director of Culture Claire McColgan, said: “We made a commitment to support events which showcase the different sides of the city – whether that’s in terms of a story that’s there to be told, or the location in which it will unfold. Pentecost achieves just that – a street of hope which is bookended by two inspirational cathedrals creates a magnificent canvas on which a truly international story of hope can unfold.

“By programming a whole host of activities, it is a real opportunity to enhance the already popular ‘cathedrals walk’, which will attract more people and shine a spotlight on what is a fascinating and culturally overflowing area of the city.”

Matthew Linley, CEO and Artistic Director of Unity Theatre and Creative Director for the event, said: ‘Pentecost is a fantastic opportunity for Hope Street to work with the Cathedrals and the Free Churches to bring the area alive and showcase what can be achieved here. We hope this is the first of many such events.’

The Bishop of Liverpool, The Right Reverend Paul Bayes, said: “Hope is

always something to be celebrated and for the church a great outpouring of God's grace and hope came at the festival we call Pentecost. This hope is for all and how better to mark this than with a vibrant celebration of music, art and colour on one of my favourite streets in this great city.

"I am delighted the city has embraced this desire to celebrate and I invite everyone to join in for a lively afternoon on this famous street."

The Archbishop of Liverpool Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon, said: 'The Feast of Pentecost is recognised as the birthday of the Church so it is fitting that so many from our city and region can come together to celebrate with music and worship.

"Our celebrations take place in our Cathedrals joined by a street called Hope, what better symbol of unity for our Churches and for those who will rejoice with us.'

The event is being co-ordinated by Liverpool City Council in partnership with Visit Hope Street CIC.

BBC cameras will be present at the event to capture the sights and sounds for a future *Songs of Praise* broadcast.

More information on the event can be found at <http://www.hopestreet.co.uk>.

NB

In 1982, Pope John Paul II visited Liverpool at Pentecost and processed along Hope Street between the two Cathedrals and celebrated Mass. Since that time, the two cathedrals' service has regularly taken place on Pentecost Sunday, with thousands of pilgrims celebrating uniting by walking along Hope Street

What's On in 2016?

Wednesday 4th May – Quiet time in Church at 10:30 am

Sunday 25th September – Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Friday 21st October – Church Anniversary Meal

Sunday 23rd October – Church Anniversary

Sunday 18th December – Carol Service followed by Hotpot

Saturday TBC January 2017 – New Year Party