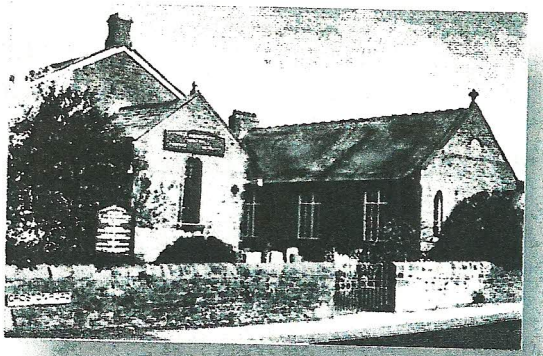
Garstang and Forton Churches Newsletter

The United Reformed Church



AUGUST 2018

Dear Friends,

I recently read extracts from the 'The Practice of the Presence of God', a compilation of the writings of Nicholas Herman, commonly called Brother Lawrence 1614-1691. Brother Lawrence made a commitment to his Christian faith at 18, and at 24, he joined the Carmelite Order as a lay brother. He was deeply committed to serving God, wanting to be rooted and grounded in him. As part of that commitment, he wanted God's love to be seen in who he was, and in all that he said and did, not just when he was at worship, but also in his everyday life as a monastery cook. An extract from one of his prayers read: *Lord of all pots and pans and things, since I've no time to be, a saint by doing lovely things. Or watching late with Thee, or dreaming in the dawn night, or storming heaven's gates, make me a saint by getting meals, and washing up the plates...accept this service that I do – I do it unto Thee.*

Friends, as part of our life long discipleship, we too can practice taking a sense of God's presence with us into our everyday lives. Yes, our gatherings within the church walls, for worship, fellowship, teaching and interactions are all very important, yet, there is much more to our discipleship than this. Since we spend only a small fraction of our time within the church walls, we need to take our discipleship outside of church into our daily interactions with people where they are. We have to be intentional about allowing not just our words, but also our actions and whole lives to speak about Jesus in the communities where we live and work. Let us be encouraged and challenged to walk the way, and live the life of Jesus wherever we are, whatever we do - *Let every detail in your lives - words, actions, whatever, be done in the name of the Master Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way* (Col 3: 17).

Every blessing

Irene John

GARSTANG UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
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Treasurer	Gordon Bell	
Newsletter	Brenda Fox	
Pastoral Link	Jean Rogers	

Treasurer	Gordon Bell
Assistant	Ray Hesketh
Assistant	John Allen

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DIARY FOR AUGUST 2018

Thursday	2nd	9.15am 10am – 12noon	Quiet time in Church Hall Charity Coffee morning in aid of the National Eczema and and Epilepsy Societies. At 11.00am there will be a musical interlude given by the children.
Sunday	5th	10.45am	Daleen Ten Cate
Tuesday	7th	7.45am – 8am	Christians together in Garstang at SS Mary & Michaels RC Church All welcome. Do come and join us.
Thursday	9th	9.15am	Quiet time in the Church Hall
Sunday	12th	10.45am	Revd Lis Mullen. Holy Communion
Tuesday	14th	7.45am – 8am	Christians Together in Garstang at SS Mary & Michaels RC Church Everyone welcome. Do come and join us.
Wednesday	15th		Men's Fellowship - Bus/train visit to a place of interest
Thursday	16th	9.15am	Quiet time in Church hall
Sunday	19th	10.45am	Henry Rose
Tuesday	21st	7.45am – 8am	Christians Together in Garstang at SS Mary & Michaels RC Church Everyone welcome. Do come and join us.
Thursday	23rd	9.15am	Quiet time in Church hall
Friday	24th	from 4.00pm	Book sorting for Book Fair

Saturday	25th	10am – 3pm	Book Fair (Bacon & Sausage Barm Cakes)
Sunday	26th	10.45am	Chris Lamb
Monday	27 th	10am – 3pm	Book Fair (Refreshments)
Tuesday	28th	7.45am – 8am	Christians Together in Garstang at SS Mary & Michaels RC Church Everyone welcome. Do come and join us.
Thursday	30th	9.15am	Quiet time in Church hall

Duties in August 2018

Readers: Bev will contact you either by phone or e-mail before the Sunday to let you know your reading. If you change your date with someone else please let Bev know

Would readers please ensure that the microphone is positioned correctly for their height. This is to enable those who use the loop system to hear you.

5 David Ralphs — 19 Mary Thornber
12 Bev Lamey — 26 Louise Banton

Flowers:
5 Stella Clarke — 19 Christine Butcher
12 For Geoff Hignett (Sally) — 26 Kate Parker

Door Stewards
5 Kate & Marlene — 19 Crispin & Marion
12 " " — 26 " "

Duty Elder(s) of the Month Gordon Bell (John Allen)

Communion Elders Bev Lamey, Marion Myerscough, Margaret Hesketh

Communion Collection Commitment for Life

Charity Coffee Morning: National Eczema & Epilepsy Societies

BOOK FAIR WEEKEND

August 27th is approaching fast. That date is, of course, part of the Book Fair Weekend.
Have you any time to spare on Monday 27th to help with refreshments?
Could you provide a cake or some scones?
If the answer to either, or both, of these questions is yes then speak to Davida who will be very pleased to hear from you!

FORTON URC. SCHOOL LANE, FORTON. PR3 0AS

A GRADE 2 LISTED BUILDING IN A RURAL SETTING.

The United Reformed Church

August 2018

Secretary Mrs Susan Redmayne
Treasurer Mrs Joyce Holden.

August 5th - Sally Watson. 9.15am
August 12th - Andrew Tattington. 9.15am
August 19th - Revd David Greenwood. 9.15am
August 26th - Revd Dr Irene John. Communion 9.15am

Please note change in Sundays for Communion is for August only.

News from Forton URC

OPEN CHURCH 2018 September 5th from 2pm

We extend a warm welcome for you to come along and chat at this afternoon get together.
We are a short walk from the A6, Stagecoach buses stop at the A6/School Lane junction.
Drinks and refreshments available.

N.B. No Open Church or Prayer Group meet in August.

Next prayer Group meet on September 7th 9.30am

Garden quiz to pass the summer days (answers further in newsletter)

1. Who was the presenter of *Gardeners' World* from 1969 to 1976?
2. What name is given to the Japanese art of flower arranging?
3. Helianthus is another name for which flower?
4. Which television presenter and gardener owns a garden in Herefordshire called Longmeadow?
5. Often used in salads, what has the botanical name *nasturtium officinale*?
6. Vanilla flavouring is derived from which flower?
7. What has varieties beefsteak, plum and cherry?
8. Which tree was traditionally planted in graveyards and is associated with eternity?
9. What word is used to describe plants that like acid soil and will not grow in alkaline soils?
10. Which fruit was cultivated from crossing a blackberry and a raspberry?

Book Fair

This year's Book Fair will be on Saturday, 25th August and Monday, 27th August from 10.00am until 3.00pm. On Saturday, we will be serving bacon or sausage barm cakes, tea and coffee and refreshments on Monday. Last orders will be at 1.30pm.

Help is wanted on both days; please let Marion or Davida know if you can help.

Eddie and Crispin will be collecting books from the beginning of August. If you have any books please call Eddie or Crispin on to arrange collection. **Modern paperbacks, quality hardbacks, CDs and DVDs only please.** Sorry no videos or magazines.

Book sorting will take place on Friday, 24th August from 4.00pm in the Church Hall. Help is required, so if you can spare an hour do drop in. Many thanks.

NATIVITY CRIB FESTIVAL AT FORTON URC
Thursday 29th November to Sunday 2nd December 2018

We hope this festival will go ahead but it depends on whether or not we get sufficient cribs etc. to put on a display. An appeal for people to lend us their cribs was made in the last Newsletter, but unfortunately nobody answered our appeal. It doesn't matter if the crib is small, medium or large, we just want enough to make it worthwhile. Myra, Mabel and Brenda went to a Crib Festival last year and were so impressed that it was decided to have one this year at Forton. At that festival there were well over 100 cribs. Some were large and some were small. Some were knitted, some were carved and some moulded in plastic. The above dates were chosen so that the cribs could be returned to their owners in time for Christmas. What you lend us doesn't need to be elaborate e.g. Brenda has several camels carved out of olive wood, a nativity scene painted in El Salvador, some carved Christmas tree decorations and an Advent calendar – unopened. You may have something similar or you may just have a Christmas star to hang up. We are hoping to get the local school involved in making things for our display. However, whether or not we go ahead really depends on friends being prepared to lend us things.

Christians Together in Garstang

Weekly prayer meetings held every Tuesday at 7.45 am. In August the meetings will take place in Ss Mary & Michael's and in September in St Thomas's.

The CTGD group met on 27 June and made the following decisions:

Songs of Praise on Cherestanc Square, Sunday 19th August at 3 pm.

Taking place as part of Garstang Music and Arts Week.

The chosen theme is **EQUALITY.** Each church will provide an appropriate reading/reflection and a hymn. The Arts Week organisers have agreed to produce the service sheets, the Free Methodists to provide the PA system and June Baker to play the piano.

The future.

The group has been offered the opportunity to attend part of a meeting of the clergy.

The situation regarding a Chair person remains unresolved. Ian Marshall of The Friends has agreed to continue in the short term.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 19 September at 3 pm** in St Thomas's Church & Community Centre.

Stella Clarke

Coffee-time in Southport – New date!

Rod and Jean Evans look forward to welcoming friends from Forton and Garstang for coffee at their home in Southport from **10.30 am on Monday 8 October,** followed by free time in the town for lunch and exploring. A list will go up in Garstang church so car-sharing can be organised. Stella has their address and maps and can be contacted as below.

Stella Clarke

OH NO!!!

There will be no Tea and Chat in August as we take a summer break but we will be back on Wednesday, 19th September. See you then.

Have a lovely summer,

Pauline and Marion.

The Prince of Wales's 70th Birthday Patronage Celebration.

There were 6,500 guests from the charities and causes of which Prince Charles is patron at a reception to mark his 70th birthday. The event was blessed by lovely weather and graced by Prince Harry and Meghan who joined Charles and Camilla on the steps outside Buckingham Palace. The palace gardens and lake are beautiful as well as spacious, there was music from a band stand, a choir sang on the stage, the beefeaters and bagpipers paraded, there was a very long tea tent and also the royal tea tent where we could watch our hosts being entertained. There were five of us from FCN – Farming Community Network - the CEO, the Chair of the Board of Trustees and three volunteers whose names had been drawn out of a hat, one from Suffolk & Norfolk, one from Somerset and me from Lancashire. All the charities were listed on a high three-sided board and must have numbered several hundred.

It was also a wonderful opportunity to talk to other guests and hear about the charities they represented and the work they did. Prince Harry paid an eloquent tribute to his father for all the work he devotes to the charities then people ranged themselves into two long lines for Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, to walk and meet as many guests as possible.

The food was beautifully prepared and presented, dainty savouries and desserts along with a variety of drinks served by an army of catering staff. The organisers are to be complimented for planning it with military precision with many uniformed officials and it all went very smoothly. Seating was provided, however we wanted to follow the royal progress and take photographs but felt the effects after being on our feet for over three hours. Proceedings came to a close with the playing of the National Anthem but there was no pressure to leave so we enjoyed the late afternoon sunshine while strolling in the glorious surroundings. It was a splendid and memorable day.

Stella Clarke

The editor of this Newsletter often picks up magazines when she visits other churches. Here are two definitions she saw in a magazine from Fulwood Methodist Church.

'A discipleship movement shaped for mission' is another way of saying that we are a movement of Christians committed to deepening our discipleship in order to be agents of God's mission, as a transforming presence in the world.

'Radical hospitality' is about inviting, welcoming and caring for those who are strangers. It looks outward with a love that motivates us to be open, adaptable and willing to change, in order to accommodate the needs and receive the talents of newcomers, as we reflect the gracious love of Christ, respect the dignity of others and express God's invitation to them.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote:

"The world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings."

Here is the prayer of a little child:

"Dear God, thank-you for fruit and vegetables. Thank-you for lightness and darkness. Thank-you for the things that I have; I love what I have. Thank-you for animals and people, thank-you for food and fish. AMEN

And this is what St. Paul said to the Church in Philippi:

"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry,whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."

In the words of an old Sunday School song: "Thank Him, thank Him, all ye children thank Him; He is love, He is love."

JOYCE HOLDEN

The name of the fluffy white teddy, donated by Mabel at FORTON URC, was "James". Mr. Fred Grass had the correct name and wins a £10 Shopping voucher.

Guests at the "Open Church" at FORTON URC on Wednesday, July 4th were sorry all the names had already been chosen, but we assured them we should be having another competition to boost Church funds.

We should like to thank all who take part in our fun competitions. We were also delighted to welcome all who came to our recent "Open Church". The donations for all our endeavours are gratefully received. Above all, we value the fun and friendship.

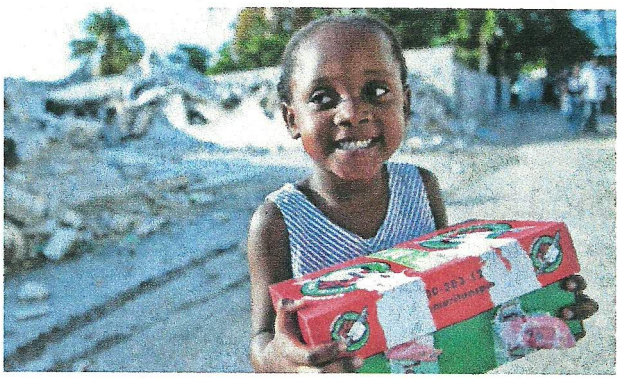
NEXT OPEN CHURCH AT FORTON URC : WEDNESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2018 at 2pm.

Operation Christmas Child

I really can't believe that it is August again and we will be going to Lancaster at the end of the month to start wrapping shoe boxes. As soon as I have a date from Ann Bowman I will let you know. It is always a good morning with lots of talk and laughter and of course tea, coffee and special biscuits. Amazingly enough we do manage to get all the shoe boxes covered! But – and it's a big but this year – I have less than half a dozen shoe boxes! I have been promised some from "Whites" but if you have any please could you let me know.

I know we all like to hear good news stories, so here are some from Operation Christmas Child.

This is Princess. When she received her box she was so shy that she couldn't open it with all the other children. She ran outside and sat on her mum's knee. As she opened the box her eyes grew wide with excitement, and a big smile spread over her face. She said: " I don't know who sent this box but they are my friend for ever."



In Burundi a teacher whose class received gifts said:

> There was a girl who really wanted someone as a pen friend. She prayed hard about it. When she opened her gift, there was a letter from a girl about her age. With tears in her eyes she told me excitedly, "God has answered my prayers."

So please continue collecting for the boxes as the simplest of gifts can make a difference to children's lives!

History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.
(Nelson Mandela)

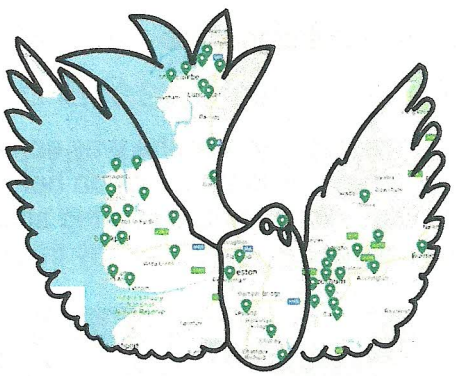
August is **Holiday Month** when we will be collecting
soft toys, games, holiday souvenirs..

Thank you once again,

Pauline

The North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church

Missional Partnerships



Churches in the Lancashire Area of North Western Synod are now recognised as four new Missional Partnerships

Our NORTH Missional Partnership includes eight churches:

Bolton le Sands, Garstang, Forton, Halton, Hest Bank, Trinity Lancaster and Morecambe (Christ Church and Sefton Road)

North Partnership Get-Together

Saturday 29 September 10 am – 1 pm
at Lancaster Methodist Church, Greaves Road
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Our Missional Discipleship Mentor **Daleen ten Cate** invites us to this Get-Together for *all* members of our North Partnership. The hope is to build relations, learn from each other's mission, and to celebrate and build on becoming a movement of Jesus shaped churches.

Afternoon Tea

Silent Auction, other activities, and...

music and singing by

The Gadabouts

starting 2pm on Sat 29 Sept

Trinity URC, Bowerham Road

all proceeds to Macmillan

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Tickets £7.50 available from Lesley Alston and Lynne Cadzow

www.lancastertrinityurc.org.uk

PROVERBS

The Bible tells us that the book of Proverbs is a collection of moral and religious teachings in the form of sayings and proverbs. Much of it has to do with practical, everyday concerns.

Here are a few of the proverbs of Solomon taken from chapter 10.

10.5 A sensible man gathers the crops when they are ready; it is a disgrace to sleep through the time of harvest.

10.8 Sensible people accept good advice; people who talk foolishly will come to ruin

10.14 The wise get all the knowledge they can, but when fools speak, trouble is not far off.

10.17 People who listen when they are corrected will live, but those who do not admit they are wrong are in danger.

10.21 A good man's words will benefit many people, but you can kill yourself with stupidity.

10.23 It is foolish to enjoy doing wrong; intelligent people take pleasure in wisdom.

10.26 Never let a lazy man do something for you; he will be as irritating as vinegar on your teeth or smoke in your eyes.

These could be modern proverbs:

Never be afraid of failure as failure is sometimes the first step on the path to success.

Talking without thinking is like shooting without taking aim.

Footprints on the sands of time are not made by sitting down.

If you want a job done well ask a busy person.

Garden quiz answers

1. Percy Thrower
2. Ikebana
3. Sunflower
4. Monty Don
5. Watercress
6. Orchid
7. Tomatoes
8. Yew
9. Ericaceous
10. Loganberry