

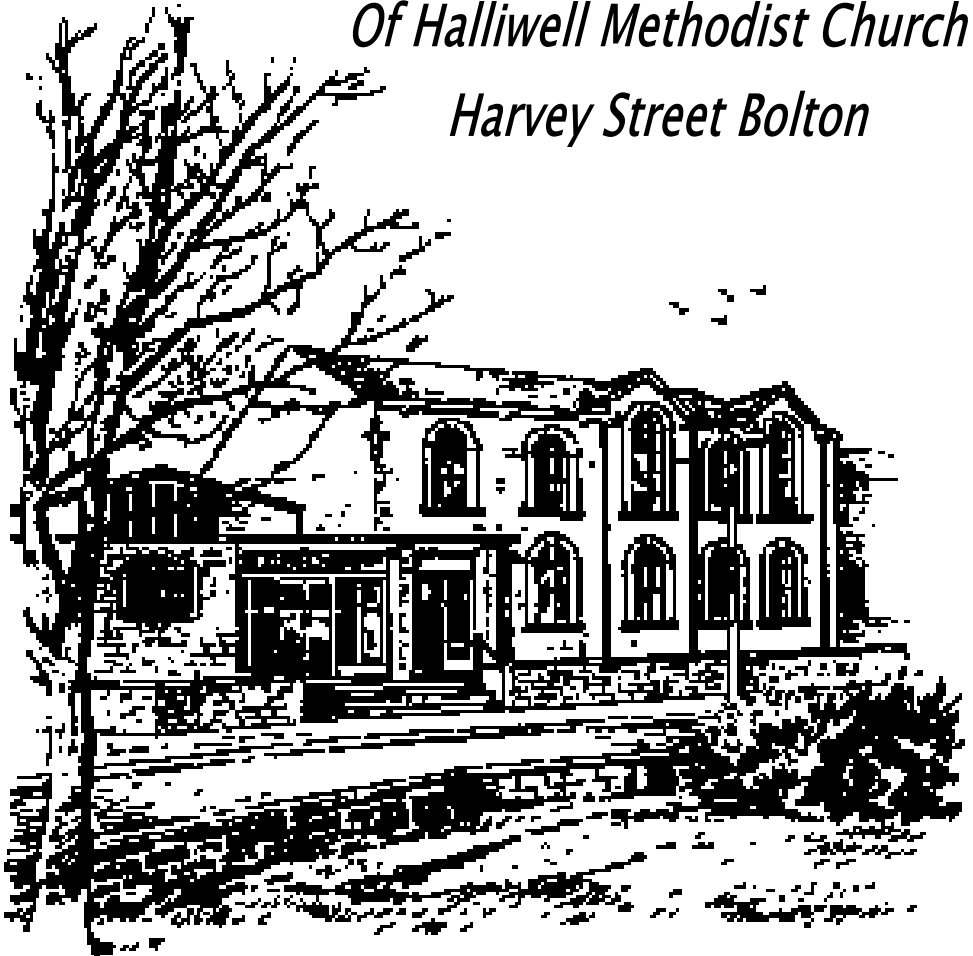


# FOCUS

*The Magazine*

*Of Halliwell Methodist Church*

*Harvey Street Bolton*



March to May 2009

## From the Minister...

Dear Friends

Throughout Lent Christians are encouraged to think and pray about their relationship with God and to remember and reflect upon more than just the deprivation and temptation which Christ suffered and of which we read in Luke 4: 1-13. This must also, for Jesus, have been a time when he received much from God and his association with the Holy Spirit, who led him into the wilderness.

I often wonder about how much Jesus knew of his own divinity, or his mission, as he approached John the Baptist in the Jordan. Perhaps he entered the wilderness an 'ordinary' carpenter, with the words, "This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased" still ringing in his ears. Yet we know he emerged at the other end of his ordeal, after sending the Devil packing, knowing that he was the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah.

Have you used Lent as a time to reflect upon your relationship with God? Have you, during this 'wilderness time', received an insight from God, as Jesus did, about His priorities and purpose for your life?

### **Easter**

As Lent draws to a close and we begin to celebrate Easter (and eating chocolate again?) we can find our emotions really stretched by the story of the passion, which unfolds through Holy Week and reaches its climax on Easter morning. It starts on Palm Sunday as a time of celebration and jubilation for the people; but as the week progresses and the crowd lose interest it becomes a story increasingly of pain and human sacrifice; to be followed by more celebration and jubilation after three days. A real emotional roller-coaster!

There are many 'takes' on what happened in that week, many views on what it says to the world today. To me it's about more than human emotions, it speaks of great commitment: the

commitment of Jesus to see his purpose through, whatever the cost; the commitment of God to see His purpose through, whatever the cost. Yet there is only one purpose, one cost. The Bible (John 3: 16) is clear on both.

The purpose? You, or more precisely, your salvation. The cost? Jesus.

Rise with Christ on Easter morning, a new creation, ready to let your commitment to God reflect his commitment to you.

Have a contemplative Lent and then have a wonderful and blessed Easter,

With Best Wishes

Bryan



**The Methodist Church**  
**Bolton and Rochdale District**  
**District Service**

with

**The President of Conference,**  
**The Rev Stephen J Poxon**

and

**The Vice-President,**  
**Mr David S Walton**

at

**The Victoria Hall**  
**Knowsley Street, Bolton, BL1 2AS**

**on Sunday 3 May 2009**  
**at 6.30pm**



# The Methodist Church



## Bolton and Rochdale Methodist District

Visit of

the Rev Stephen J Poxon, President of the Methodist Conference,  
and Mr David S Walton, the Vice-President of Conference

### 1 - 3 May 2009



Friday 1 May 12.30pm

Official Opening of Beechville MHA 653 Charley New Road, Lastock, BL6 4AJ  
by the President of Conference

Friday 1 May 7.30pm

**BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**  
of The Bridge Methodist Sunday  
School

The Bridge Methodist Church  
Milltown Street, Radcliffe, M26 1WD  
Preacher: The President of Conference

Friday 1 May 7.30pm

**BUSINESS ETHICS**  
Informal conversation at  
Café Eden, Victoria Hall, Bolton  
BL2 2AS

With the Vice-President of Conference  
To register for this event, please contact Victoria  
Hall Office, 01204 522569 (Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm)  
Email: Victoria.hall@virgin.net

Saturday 2 May 4.00pm



**Opening**  
of Boothstown Methodist Church  
Chaddock Lane, Worsley, M28 1DD  
by the President of Conference

Sunday 2 May

**Morning Services**

9.45am at Culcheth Methodist Church  
Ellesmere Rd, Culcheth, WA3 4BJ  
with the President of Conference

10.30am at Christ Church, Little Lever  
Mytham Rd, Little Lever, BL3 1JE  
with the Vice-President of Conference

Sunday 3 May 3.15pm

Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust  
**Service of Celebration and  
Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
with the President & Vice-President of  
Conference  
at Christ Church  
Mytham Rd, Little Lever, BL3 1JE

Sunday 3 May 6.30pm

At Victoria Hall, Bolton, BL1 2AS  
**DISTRICT CELEBRATION**  
With  
the President & Vice-President  
of Conference

## THE CHURCH BY THE TOWER

Many of you are aware that every month we receive the 'Messenger' magazine from 'The New Central Methodist Church' in Blackpool.

Walter and I always go to the coffee bar there, whenever we stay in Blackpool, and I always spend some time in the peaceful atmosphere of the church.

We are made so welcome; and I was fortunate at one visit to meet Harry Booth who send the 'Messenger' to us. It's great to share their news, and be drawn together in friendship this way. I always send a copy of our 'Focus' to the Blackpool folk, and hope that our news interests them.

Thank you Harry for tracing our church history and being interested enough to do it.

Greetings to 'The New Central Methodist friends from all of us at Halliwell. May the friendship continue to flourish through our magazines.

Joan Hindle

### KEEPING YOUR CHURCH CLEAN



As you know the church is now kept clean  
by a team of volunteers.  
Due to family commitments two of our helpers  
have had to resign  
If you can help by spending about 1.5 hours  
every 10 weeks or so please see Pat McMahon





**The Halliwell Theatre Company  
at Harvey Street**



Thanks to everyone who supported our last production 'I'll Get My Man' and please make a note in your diary not to miss our next production which is:

**AGATHA CHRISTIE'S**

**AND THEN THERE WERE NONE**

**FROM 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009**

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

We wish to thank everyone who has supported our recent events

**Dates for your diary:**

April 25      Spring Lunch                      11.30 - 1.30

Sept. 19      Harvest Supper

Dec. 5      Christmas Lunch                      11:30 - 1:30

**"The children today love luxury - they show disrespect to their elders and like to chatter in stead of taking exercise. Children are tyrants, not the servants of the household. They no longer rise when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter in company, gobble up the food from the table and tyrannise their teachers." .....**(Socrates: 469 - 399 BC)

## WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP at 2:15pm

- March 4** Rushey Fold Court  
**11** Warburtons  
"Staff of Life"  
**18** Annual General Meeting  
**25** Closing Day Service & Communion



Come and spend an hour of Fellowship in  
the middle of the week

### SICK MEMBERS

Please remember Mark Grundy in your prayers. Mark is, as I write, recovering from a serious illness in hospital.

George Easterbrook is currently in RBH. We send our love and greetings to them and to all who are confined to their home or in residential care.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009

In hospital after  
much suffering

ROBERT (BOB) ENTWISTLE

We send our love and deepest sympathy  
to Joyce, family and friends.

"IN HEAVENLY LOVE ABIDING"



## One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village,  
the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in still another village where he  
worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty.

He did none of the things one usually associates  
with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when public opinion  
turned against him.

He was turned over to his enemies and was crucified.

When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave.

Twenty centuries have passed and today he is  
the central figure of the human race.

No one has affected the life of man on earth  
as much as that ONE SOLITARY LIFE.

Submitted by Nora Eckersley.

# A Broken Chrysalis

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

It's truly amazing what a girl will do for love.

My wife, Jean, and I lived next door to each other for ten years before we were married. My sophomore interest in high school biology had sparked a live caterpillar collection. Their home was a shoe box, covered with screen wire. When I went on vacation, Jean fed them faithfully with leaves from her willow tree. She hated it.

Finally the caterpillars stopped their incessant crawling and chewing, attached their tails firmly to a stick and lay still, sheathed with a shiny leather-like case. For weeks they seemed to be dead, unmoving in their tiny grey wrappings. I removed the screen and waited.

One by one, the grey cases began to twist and turn violently, and suddenly split open. A beautiful butterfly emerged. It stood for hours gently moving its wings, pumping fluids into them to extend them fully. Then the butterfly soared gracefully away on the breezes of summer, leaving nothing behind but a broken chrysalis to indicate its former bondage.

The chrysalis and butterfly suggest the empty grave clothes of our risen Lord. When Peter and John heard the news that the Lord's body was gone from the garden tomb, they ran all the way from their lodging. Peter entered the tomb and "he saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen" (John 20:6-7, NIV). The grave clothes once wrapped continuously around the body now lay collapsed, mute testimony that the corpse they had once shrouded had now emerged in life.

The bondage of death is broken. Christ is risen! We can face tomorrow with the assurance that Jesus is in fact alive to help us, to guide us, to give us hope for the future. And since He is living, our problems are not insolvable. The broken chrysalis of His grave clothes proclaims that Christ is Victor even over death. Because He lives, nothing is impossible.

## Psalm 23

"The Lord is my Shepherd" - that's Relationship!

"I shall not want" - that's Supply!

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures" - that's Rest!

"He leadeth me beside still waters" - that's Refreshment!

"He restoreth my soul" that's Healing!

"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness" - that's Guidance!

"For His name's sake" - that's Purpose!

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death" -

that's Testing!

"I will fear no evil" - that's Protection "For Thou art with me" - that's Faithfulness!

"Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me" - that's Discipline!

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies" -

that's Hope!

"Thou'anointest my head with oil" - that's Consecration!

"My cup runneth over" - that's Abundance!

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life"-

that's Blessing!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord" - that's Security!

For ever - that's Eternity!

face it, the Lord is crazy about you!

Submitted by Renee Howarth.

# Harvey Street Prayer Circle

Praying for you

Joan Hindle 491307

Jean Heywood 842442 Dorothy Hilton 846665

Marilyn Taylor 492278

Pat McMahon 497165

Joyce Entwistle 405898

Stephanie Shipley 492039

Joan Sutcliffe 846079

Elsie Halligan 492393

Mary Greaves 840863

If you would like us to pray for you, or for a friend or neighbour, just ring one of the above numbers and in as short a time as possible all these people will be supporting you in prayer. Unless you give permission for the request to be shared with the church this is entirely confidential - only members of the circle and the Minister will know.

This offer of support is available for anyone, of any faith or none.

## WEEKLY CHURCH DIARY - COME AND JOIN US

SUNDAY 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship including  
Junior Church - Age Creche to 16 years

TUESDAY 10-11.30 a.m. Coffee and chat morning  
"The men come as well!!!"

WEDNESDAY 2.15 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship  
September to Easter Various  
speakers

The meeting is held at Rushey Fold Court on the  
first Wednesday of each month.

Contact: Mary 847153

THURSDAY 7.15 p.m. Church Choir Practice

(as required) Contact: Mary 847153

THURSDAY From 6:30 p.m. Barrow Bridge Tennis Club  
Junior Night. Summer Only  
Contact Steve 847229

## OUR PREMISES ARE ALSO USED AS FOLLOWS:

WEDNESDAY 7.30 p.m. Appellachian Dancers  
Contact: Margaret Ranyard 01204 842547