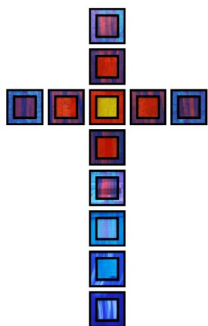


Frodsham Methodist Church



Magazine

Spring 2024

(March/April/May)

frodshammethodist.org

<p style="text-align: center;">WHO'S WHO IN OUR CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Superintendent Minister: Rev'd Neil Stacey</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Church website: frodshammethodist.org</p>
<p>Under 30's Worker: Dean Lawson mob: Email: dlawson@northcheshiremethodists.org.uk</p> <p>Co-ordinating Steward: Carolyn Frayne</p>
<p>Worship Stewards: Frank Ball; Ros Caldwell; Alun Evans; Carolyn Frayne; Alan Gerrard</p>
<p>Organists: Andrew Ellams; Harry Leather; John Holmes</p>
<p>Treasurer: John Holmes</p>
<p>Church Secretary: Ros Caldwell</p>
<p>Pastoral Secretary: Pam Bath</p>
<p>Worship Leaders: Patricia Barnard; Marion Greer; Simon Kelly.</p>
<p>Leadership Team: Andrew Ellams; Patricia Barnard; Carolyn Frayne; Charles Hill; Elizabeth Holmes; John Holmes; Dean Lawson; Caryn Hetherington.</p>
<p>Church Hall Bookings: Trish Percival</p>
<p>Sundaylink (weekly notices): Jean Williams</p>
<p>Church Magazine: Elizabeth Holmes; Carolyn Frayne; Patricia Barnard; Rosalyn Caldwell; Dean Lawson; Shelley Howell; Camille Bradford. Please forward final items for the magazine to Ros Caldwell by May 2nd.</p>

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A Letter from FMC Leadership Team Made in the Image of God

By Andrew Ellams

In Genesis we read that we are made in the image of God. Having the image and likeness of God means that each one of us is made to resemble God, reflecting and expressing his image.

The 2019 Methodist Conference Report, “God in Love Unites Us”, acknowledges that whilst we are made in the image of God, we are not God. We are finite, whereas God is infinite. God loves perfectly, whereas we love imperfectly. Yet we may be perfected by God and made holy when we open ourselves to being in a relationship with Him - being shaped by His dynamic of love.

God invites each of us to accept that love and return it, by praising Him and caring for all His creation. In the words of the psalmist, “the earth and those who live in it.”

The Genesis story is set within a broad understanding of the creation of a community of people who love, worship and serve God. The purpose of our relating is not just about pro-creation, but to share as co-workers and companions in caring for others and for God’s creation. All of us, whether single or in partnerships, can experience this, finding life and fulfilment through different, evolving forms of relationship.

On 7th December 2023, our church was licensed to solemnize same sex and opposite sex marriages. We recognise that we are being called by God to take a step of faith in developing our understanding of relationships and marriage, enabling people of the same sex to commit themselves to each other in a Christian marriage service. In response to this prompting of the Spirit, we recognise there will be those with contrary convictions. In his letter to the Romans, Paul gives us this advice, “Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block in the way of one another”.

May God, who made us in his image, unite us in his love, as we continue to discern what it means to follow Him in all of our relating.



Try Something New in 2024

By Patricia Barnard

Why not try something new in 2024? Here are some of the weekday activities that take place at Frodsham Methodist Church. Why not come along and make some new friends?

Ladies Group



The Ladies Group meets on the second Monday of the month at 2.00 PM in the church hall.

Ladies Group is a group for all women from the Church, those from other churches and women from the



local area. They meet for friendship, discussion and fellowship, with speakers and occasional trips out.

Men's Group

Men's Group meets on a Monday morning at 10.30 in the church hall. They meet for fellowship, friendship and discussion, with occasional speakers and trips out.



Warm Welcome - Stay, Play and Chat



This group meets on a Wednesday morning from 9.30 to 11.30. Games, books, toys and puzzles are available, or why not just sit and have a chat over a drink and snack? This group is for all

ages and is a wonderful opportunity for folk of different generations to meet and share together.

Coffee, Cake and Chat

Come along and enjoy coffee and cake while having a chat with new and old friends. This group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 1.30 in the church hall.



Book Club



Have you read any good books recently or watched any interesting DVDs? We certainly have at Book Group.

New members are always welcome. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month in the Quiet Room at the rear of Frodsham Methodist Church at 7:30pm.

March 20th: *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare or *My Sister the Serial Killer* by Oyinkan Braithwaite

April 17th *Old God's Time* by Sebastian Barry or

The Secret History by Donna Tart

May 15th *You Don't Know me* by Imran Mahmood

Toddler Group

This very popular group for parents, carers and toddlers meets on a Thursday morning from 9.00 until 11.00. There are always lots of toys available, both inside and outside, craft activities and snacks for children and adults.



Games Club



Games Club is for primary school children, from years 3 to 6. The group meets on Thursday at 6.30 until 8.00. A lovely opportunity for children from different Primary schools to meet together, play games, chat and make new friends.

Walking Group

Do join us for a bit of exercise, to explore somewhere new and for a chat on one of our monthly Church Walks. The walking group meets monthly, on a Saturday, leaving church at 1.30.



Walks are usually between 3 and 4 miles long, taken at a leisurely pace, followed by tea and cake!

Our next walk will be on March 23rd

Fusion 12

This group is for teenagers and meets on Sunday evening at 7.00 in the church hall. The group watch films, have discussions, play games and have trips out.



For more information on any of our regular events please email:
enquiries@frodshammethodist.org

Church Family News



Birthday Congratulations to Joyce on her 80th birthday. She had a special day with lots of visitors.

Psalms and Stretches

During January and February Pippa led 4 weekly Psalms and Stretches classes. These classes combine gentle movement with



meditation on Scripture from the book of Psalms, where wellbeing meets worship. The classes are designed to promote physical and



spiritual wellness.

The classes took place in the church, and we had around 20 people taking part who were members of 4 different churches.

Community Nativity

Our Community Nativity service was held on 17th December, ably led by Dean and members of the Youth Group and Worship Band.



It was a wonderful celebration and good to see so many children taking part, including some of our Ukrainian friends.

A big thank you to everyone involved.



Equinox

Celebrating Christmas with the Equinox Singers



Giulio Poletti – A snapshot of 100 years

By Shelley Howell

Can you imagine a life without refrigeration, TV's and numerous other electrical gadgets? Giulio can. He was born in 1924.

Giulio's father came to live in Manchester after WWI and this is where Giulio grew up with his sister Monica. Although passing for Grammar school, at 14 Giulio started work at the Star Process Engraving Company, where he later started an Apprenticeship. The family company made negatives of anything that needed printing, and Giulio was given day release to study. Who knew that he would go on to work for them for 51 years before and after WWII? His army sign-up was deferred for a year, as the company adapted to make brass name plates for army vehicles.

Giulio joined the Royal Engineers and was posted to India. Sailing from Liverpool via the Bay of Biscay, sleeping in hammocks, was tough. Giulio remembers well arriving in Bombay before getting on a train to the foothills of the

Himalayas, then travelling onward to New Delhi. From then on his skills were put to good use, and he created maps for troop movements in their fight against the Japanese. When locals moved up to the mountains in the August monsoons, Giulio and his colleagues continued to do this essential work, bearing the humidity and using their mosquito nets. Giulio was pleased not to contract malaria and was grateful for all the good – albeit different – food he was provided with. It was not until 1947 that Giulio came home to Manchester.

Back home Giulio met his future wife Norma at a friend's 21st birthday party. Following their courtship they married in 1949. His parents had saved the money that Giulio had sent home from his earnings. Promotion from Corporal to Technical Sergeant and the love of his family proved very useful in buying furniture and setting up their first home together in Timperley.



Giulio was known as “Mr P” at the Timperley Methodist church, where he and Norma helped at the Youth Club, doing all sorts of activities – canal holidays, trips abroad and even teaching a bit of their favourite ballroom dancing. Together he and Norma also enjoyed the theatre and the cinema, something Giulio enjoys to this day.

After Giulio’s wife sadly passed away, Giulio continued to live and work in Altrincham, joining the Rambling club and the Crown Green Bowling club after retirement.

It was only 7 years ago that Giulio came to Frodsham to live with his daughter Gina and her husband John. He continues to be interested in reading, puzzles and walking, and it’s apparent that this keeps Giulio well and active and able to join his friends at various clubs.

When asked for tips and hints on living a life well lived, Giulio didn’t hesitate to provide his top four: Do a job that you enjoy doing; Eat good fresh food; Be friendly & kind to people; Keep active.

This gentleman whom we know and love as Giulio Poletti will become a Centenarian on 14th April 2024. I applaud his vitality, positivity and resilience, and I wish him and his family a very lively and lovely birthday party to celebrate his 100 astonishing years. May you be able to sing “Love Divine, all loves excelling”, your favourite hymn, on many more occasions, Giulio.

A very BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY from all your friends at Frodsham Methodist Church.



Meet the Craft Maker

By Carolyn Frayne

Our artisan market/craft fair was back for the first time since Covid and was held on Saturday 18th November. It was the biggest event we have held, with 30 stalls in the Church and hall selling a wide range of original artwork and hand-crafted items, including jewellery, metalwork, textiles and woodwork.



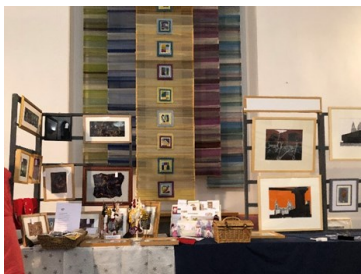
We also had a wonderful exhibition by the Frodsham Patchwork Group in the Quiet Room, with some stunning pieces of work on display.

There were various demonstrations by some of the stall holders, including needle felting and spinning.

Hilary demonstrated her skills on the potter's wheel and even allowed some customers to have a try themselves!



It was a very successful event. The funds raised of over



£1300 will be divided between our church charity Trinity Safe Space and Church funds. Many people came who had not been to our church before and we got some lovely positive comments about the friendly welcoming atmosphere.

There are more photographs

from the event on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/meetthecraftmaker>.

Thank you to the very many people who helped to make the event such a success.



Obituaries

Wilf Berry *By Patricia Barnard*

Wilf was a regular attender at Trinity Methodist church in Frodsham, where he took part in many concerts, often playing roles in comic acts, causing much hilarity. He was also a youth leader. He attended the evening service at Frodsham Methodist church when he was able to.

Wilf joined the police force in 1956, and in 1964 he was transferred to Frodsham, working as a community beat bobby until his retirement in 1984. His work in the community was greatly appreciated by everyone.

Wilf enjoyed spending time with family and friends, especially daughter and son, Janice and Ian, and their partners, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He enjoyed playing games together and taking trips out. Wilf and Margaret were very happily married for over 72 years. Margaret and the family have collected hundreds of lovely comments and memories from people in the community who knew Wilf.



Betty Thomas *By Ros Caldwell*

Betty's family attended Trinity Methodist Church and she was a life-long Methodist from attending Sunday School as a toddler. She went on to teach in the Sunday School, helped with Rose Fêtes and the many events that the church family enjoyed over the years. Recently she was a member of Ladies Group and a regular attender at evening worship, where she helped as a Welcome Steward. Her favourite hymn was "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds". Following her retirement she helped in the Cancer Charity shop.

Friendships were important to Betty, and during the pandemic in 2020 she spent hours of her time going through her address book and phoning friends from long ago. Lots of cheery calls lifted spirits during lockdown. She had an amazing memory for names and details. She enjoyed holidays with family and friends, and had special memories of her trips to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau.



Ena Dykes *By Mary Worrall*

Ena was born at Catton Hall and lived in Frodsham all her life. When she left school she worked as an Assistant Photographer at Roses in Runcorn. She married Jack Dykes at Trinity Methodist Church on Valentine's Day 1953. Ena loved walking and dancing when she was younger, and spending time with family and friends. She was a member of Ladies Group and attended the evening service when she was well. Her favourite hymn was "What a Friend we have in Jesus". She and Jack had one daughter, Valerie, and a granddaughter, Kirsten. She died peacefully at Oaklands Nursing Home on her 95th birthday.

At her funeral Kirsten spoke lovingly about her Nan's enjoyment of life and the wonderful example she set for those around her.



John Lewis *By John and Elizabeth Holmes*

John Lewis and his late wife Evelyn moved to Frodsham when John retired, and were both respected and loved members of the church for over 20 years. John was a regular and highly-thought of member of the Men's Group and a very active member of the church. As property steward he made the lovely church gates, worked with Bill Whittaker to install the new hall kitchen, refurbished two old communion tables and did a thousand and one smaller maintenance jobs which must have saved the church thousands of pounds over the years – and all done in love and good grace. In addition, he was always ready to bring people to church, or take them to hospital appointments etc, all the while never making a fuss about it and never asking for thanks or recognition.

He was a gentle, unassuming man whose Christian faith was the foundation on which he lived his life.

He is, and will be, missed, as a colleague and as a friend for some time to come.



John Osborn *By Frank Ball*

Church member Alan John Osborn passed away peacefully on 26th December 2023 at Newton Hall Care Home. He was aged 89yrs. John, as he was known to everyone, was born in Luton in 1934. After attending university and obtaining a degree and PhD, he took up employment as a Scientist at ICI Runcorn during the late 1950's, remaining there for most of his working life, before retiring from British Nuclear Fuels where he had held a similar position. With his wife Gwyneth, he moved to Frodsham in the 1960's. Gwyneth was a well-respected teacher at Helsby High School and known to many generations of former pupils. John was an active member of Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club and assisted the club in their many fund-raising activities well into his retirement. He became President of the club in 1992. In his later years John had a passion for wildlife and would often be seen walking in the Bradley area near to his home. His funeral service was held at Walton Lea on 11th January 2024 and was conducted by Reverend Sue Levitt. He is survived by his two sons.



Michael Hunt *By Mark, Ruth and Brenda*

30th October 1939 – 23rd November 2023

Michael was born in Runcorn and attended St Edwards Catholic Church and School. His sister, Pat, was born after the war. In 1961, he married Anita and their eldest son, Paul, was born in 1962 (he sadly died at the age of 7). Mark and Karen (twins) followed 12 months later. Michael and Anita moved to Frodsham in the late 60s and Michael attended St Luke's Church. They enjoyed spending time with their granddaughters Jennifer, Sarah, Katie and Lucy; taking them to Llandudno and Gulliver's World. Anita sadly passed away in 2007. Michael met Brenda at a bereavement group. They were together for 16 years and enjoyed going for a coffee at different garden centres. They also enjoyed short breaks and holidays together. Michael attended the morning services at FMC after Covid and always commented how welcoming, friendly and supportive everyone was. Rest in peace, Michael, you will be sadly missed.



We also remember Margaret Wadcock whose husband, Alan, died in December.

We continue to hold all the families that have been named in our prayers.

Prayers

By Rita Stubbs

As we move from Winter into the Spring season, what joy to look at new growth on trees and shrubs. Bulbs pushing up through the darkness to display the beauty of their flowers. Lambs, so tiny but so delightful to see in the farmers' fields.

Spring is a time of growth, new life, renewal and reflection, especially as we prepare for Lent and Easter.

Loving Lord, as we move towards the promise of Spring, we thank you for your unfailing love for us, through each season. Help us to prepare for Lent, by spring-cleaning our lives, thoughts and deeds, a time of reflection and change, which will enable us to draw closer to you, Lord.

Loving Lord, thank you for all the wonderful changes we see during the Spring season. For the gift of your precious Son, Jesus Christ, who chose to die an agonising death on a cross, so that we can be forgiven and walk in the light of his resurrection on Easter morning. May we always remember that you understand the dark nights and difficult days we go through, continually walking beside us on life's journey.

"As we trust in Jesus Christ, grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it." (New St Joseph People's Prayer Book)

Also may we accept your forgiveness, secure in the knowledge of your grace and loving kindness for each and every one of your people.

Loving Lord, I pray in the name of your precious Son, Jesus Christ, in your mercy hear my prayers. Amen.



For the earth shall be filled with the
knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the
waters cover the sea.
Habakkuk 2:14



Show me thy ways, O Lord, teach me thy
paths.
Psalm 25:4.



Frodsham and John Keble

By Rosemary Wass

I would like to encourage you to explore these early 19th Century words of John Keble, an Anglican Priest:

‘Thou who hast given me eyes to see
And love this sight so fair
Give me the heart to find out thee
And read thee everywhere.’

These words can be found on a gatepost in the Lake District, and I was used to reading them elsewhere, on an engraved tablet set into the stone wall surrounding what used to be my local Parish Church. Visitors used to pause to read it, as they came round the corner from the village to a surprise vista of open moorland and a deep valley with a stream



and old mill in the depth of the hills. These words have travelled with me across the Pennines to Frodsham, where I’ve looked up to the Monument, but now want to take you up there to the pinnacle, and look up, and out, and down and around and think about it in the context of that old fashioned verse.

There’s the poignant reminder of lives lost and freedom gained at the cost of local families, many whose surnames carry through to today in this area.

There's the skyline, carrying us from the Pennines to the landmarks of Liverpool to the Mersey and the Weaver and the Marshes and all the way round to Wales. There's the patterns of the sky, her clouds and vapour trails carrying the chattering geese vast distances, and the light upon the water and the wings of the wind farm changing the light across the scene.

There's a patchwork of fields and bridges, of parks and trees, of allotments, of homes and gardens, motorways and roads moving into the veins of villages, homes and communities.



There's the Health Centre and the library and the places for social activities. Car parks and schools, shops, the station and swing bridge and familiar Church spires..... and everything seems to be in miniature..... because of where we are... high on the edge, looking down.

In all these places are people, doing their normal daily 'thing' walking, travelling, working, shopping, mowing their lawns, hanging out the washing, teaching children in class, delivering the mail, testing someone's heartbeat, filling the car with fuel, scanning the shopping at the till, taking the children to school, listening and learning to make music, giving time to help someone, sharing conversation, ringing the Church bells or making a cup of coffee, opening the door to a new opportunity.

All of this and much more is happening, here in Frodsham. I invite you to pause and take a deep breath. This is where we are and what we are. We are here for a purpose, and all are threads in this tapestry of life.

So time to leave the hilltop, and make our way back to the reality of playing our part in society, and reflecting those timeless words of John Keble.

An Expedition to Ecuador

By Mark Heighton (Mark is Gladys Brown's great-grandson.)

In July 2023, I co-led a 28-day expedition to Ecuador with 11 pupils. The purpose of the expedition was to develop the students through a combination of adventure, community projects and cultural experiences.



The first full day consisted of a 13 hour coach to our camp in Puerto Rico. The scenery on the journey was stunning; we crossed mountain passes, rivers and jungle before finally arriving at the sea. The community welcomed us all with a game of 'Loco Bingo'.

The projects we assisted with were painting and maintenance of a local school. We created a community garden where local people could pick fresh fruit and vegetables, and we set foundations for future infrastructure to be built.

Whilst at the coast, the students took part in their adventure project, Scuba diving. The participants were able to achieve



their PADI Open Water Qualification. The marine flora and fauna was spectacular, ranging from turtles, coral to stingrays. Some of the students were lucky enough to see a whale from the boat. Overall, our time at the coast was amazing and we were all reluctant to leave.



Our next camp was situated in the Amazon Rainforest. The Kichwa community welcomed us with a traditional dance. The community in the rainforest were brilliant, we played football with them, they taught us traditional painting and how to use blow darts.

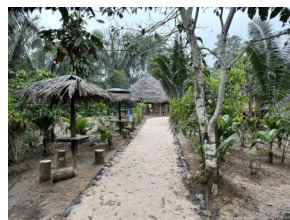
We learned jungle survival skills, which included foraging and eating some wild fruit, making shelters, and sleeping in hammocks. We journeyed on a 4 hour trek deep into the Amazon, crossing rivers and difficult terrain. The wildlife was astonishing; tarantulas, snakes, monkeys, and toucans, all sharing a living space with us. In our hammocks at night the sound of the jungle was loud and relentless.

The final camp was in the Andes region. We were surrounded by peaks reaching over 5000m. Our projects here all consisted of renovating a local

school. We painted classrooms, created play areas and made a vegetable garden to help with school meals. The mountain community were amazing and shared local games with us, taught us traditional dances and showed us embroidery skills.



From all accounts the students excelled and approached all challenges with a positive attitude. It was a privilege to see how these students made an impact, and how they developed throughout the trip. The cultural experiences that the communities shared were heartfelt and will be remembered by all.



Comment from the Editorial Group – Thanks Mark, it's always good to hear from family members with links to FMC.

5 minutes with... Jane Gibson

When and where did you start going to church and what has been your journey in faith?

I was born in the Nant-y-Glyn Maternity Hospital in Colwyn Bay, and grew up in that town, attending the local Grammar School. I went to church services and Sunday School at St Paul's Anglican Church (it is now designated by Cadw as a Grade II listed building).

After moving from Liverpool to Frodsham in 1977, I attended St Laurence's but then joined Frodsham Methodist Church. I have been very happy here, and am grateful to have always received great kindness from the ministers, stewards & other members of our church.

What is...

your favourite Bible reading and why?

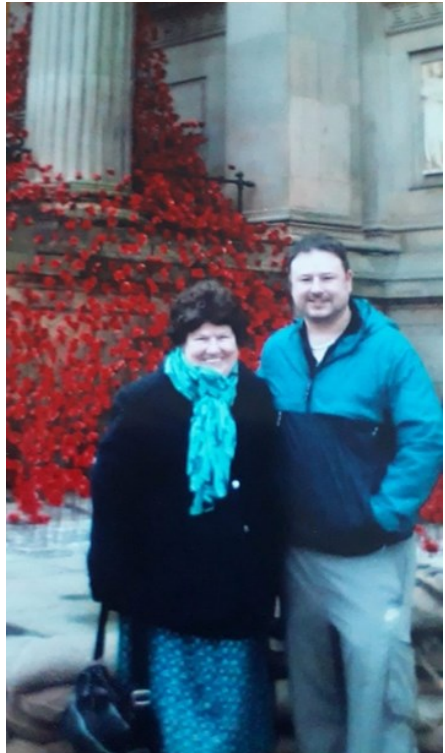
I love all the parables; they are such good stories.

...your favourite hymn?

"All things bright and beautiful" – the words concentrate the mind on our beautiful world.

...your best ever film?

"Gone with the Wind" – films are not made like that any more!



...your favourite author?

Catherine Cookson, because her novels are written so well from her knowledge of the north-east. I wrote to her once and received a lovely letter in return.

Did you have a career?

After school I went to Art College for two years and then to Teacher Training College in Liverpool for three years. I taught 7/8-year-olds in Huyton for a short time, but left work to care for my mother. I'm proud that my son Giles attained a degree from the University of Wales, and now works as Education Officer at Bolton Museum.

What are your hobbies, and your activities in retirement?

I have played Scrabble since I was seven years old; this became serious Scrabble and I have been lucky enough to win many tournaments. When Channel 4 started the programme "Countdown" they asked Scrabble players to apply. I was fortunate in being accepted and appeared on three episodes. Kenneth Williams was the celebrity; it was exciting meeting him!

I also enjoy making handmade greetings cards, and am very flattered when people buy them.



So much world to explore – our trip to Jordan

By Ros and Jim Caldwell

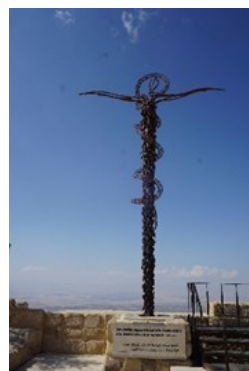
In October 2023 we travelled to Amman in Jordan. Every day we experienced something new, from the souks in Amman, Biblical history, Crusader castles, Roman remains at Jerash and the iconic desert landscape of Wadi Rum. We visited a Bedouin camp, where we ate dinner that had been cooked in the heat of the hot desert sand.



Our first stop was the Dead Sea, which is referred to in the Bible as the Salt Sea. At 408 metres below sea level it is the lowest point on earth. It's not actually a sea but a lake with incoming water and no outlet, and has a salt content of 30%. We did what all tourists do and discovered that we could float with very

little effort. We soon found out that while we were unlikely to sink, the buoyancy meant that it was difficult to stand up! It's a good job there is no video evidence of one of us flapping about in the water!

Our next visit was to Mount Nebo, which is mentioned in Deuteronomy as the place where Moses saw Canaan, the land promised to the Israelites by God. The sculpture commemorates the death of Jesus on the cross and the serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert.



In Madaba we went to St George's Church to see the preserved mosaic floor map of the Holy Land, dating from the 6th Century. We travelled on, passing massive refugee camps, home to displaced Syrians who have fled violence in the Syrian War.

We were particularly looking forward to the visit to Bethany, where Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan. In Matthew 3 v13 we read *“Then Jesus came from the Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John.”* I imagined a wide, flowing river, with palm trees and bulrushes along the banks and Jesus and John standing waist deep in the water.



Today the Baptism Site is a closed border between Jordan and the West Bank. We walked through a military zone, the river was narrow and muddy, and the West Bank was deserted due to ongoing conflict. As I was watching the Israeli flag fluttering in the breeze about 20 yards away, our Jordanian Palestinian guide asked us to pause and, if we wished, to pray or reflect on the situation in the Middle East. We stood silently with our group of Christians, Muslims and those

of no faith to do just as the guide had asked.

As we travelled south we followed in the footsteps of the Nabataeans who built Petra in the 3rd century. We walked through the cool, quiet, narrow Siq flanked by the high rose-coloured rocks on both sides, into the open space facing the famous Treasury Tomb. Here Bedouin music was played, mint tea was served and numerous camels wandered around. It was breath-taking. We walked on to further Rock Tombs, the Place of High Sacrifice and the Monastery. It is one of the world's most treasured UNESCO Heritage Sites.



Our holiday ended in Aqaba, relaxing beside the Red Sea but remembering the conflict going on in the region.

CLEAN WATER for PAPUA

By David Scott

In 2013, I became involved in the work of the Black Pearl Network¹ (BPN), a collective of church members in Perth, WA, and friends in the GKI Church in Papua. Last summer, I returned to Papua to further contribute to their clean water project.

Papua, annexed as a province to Indonesia in 1969, is one of the least developed provinces in the country. Most of the indigenous population live in small rural or remote communities, lacking adequate public services and facilities. Basic education is conducted in the local language, Bahasa Indonesian, focusing on fundamental learning. Employment is largely agriculture-based. Technical skills development is limited due to the dominance of industrial organizations from more developed western Indonesia handling most development work and government projects in Papua.

The core mission of BPN is to collaborate with Papuan communities in achieving their aspirations through community development, education, health and cultural exchange. Recognizing clean water as a fundamental necessity for every Papuan community, BPN undertook Clean Water for Papua² as a project. This initiative not only addresses a basic need but also empowers community groups and enhances general health standards, all while minimizing reliance on external technical or financial aid.

My initial visits to Papua involved researching existing sources of water for domestic use. The prevalent methods included locally dug wells (often contaminated), local streams or springs (highly contaminated), and wells lined with large sewer pipes (expensive, requiring pumps and high maintenance). Rainwater collection wasn't common due to contamination from roofs and storage. Bottled water, although often used, is very costly.



Well with pipe lining and electric pump (no electricity).

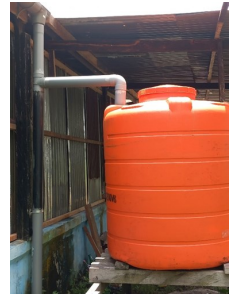


Two traditional wells, uncovered, contaminated.

1. BPN: <https://www.blackpearlnetwork.org/about-us>

2. Clean Water project: <https://www.blackpearlnetwork.org/clean-water-in-action>

Drawing upon my engineering experience in developing countries, I looked for effective and cost-efficient solutions used in Asia and Africa. I decided on the First Flush system, which collects rainwater off a roof, separating the initial flow (contaminated by roof deposits) from subsequent rain. The system's design is simple, gravity-powered, requires minimal construction skills, and utilizes locally available materials (guttering, PVC piping and a closed storage tank, in total costing less than £300). I adapted this concept to design a simple system (FFS) for use in Papuan communities.

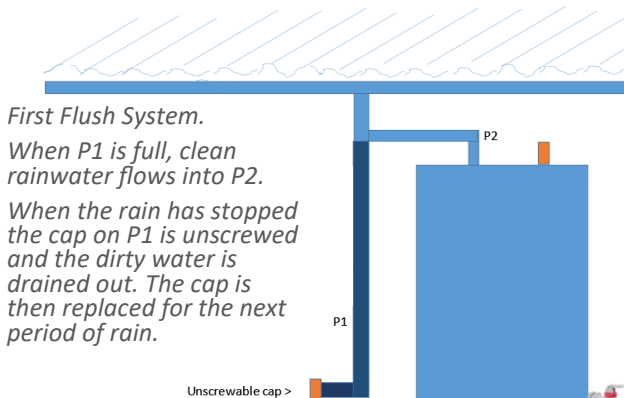


BPN works closely with Papua's very strong church community, so we trialled the design by working with churches and klassis (synods) around Papua. In each community we gathered 6 to 10 people, set up a workshop to explain the concept, design, construction and water quality testing. After the workshop we took them outside and had them construct and complete a FFS with guidance from BPN staff. This group, now armed with knowledge and experience, is encouraged to

"spread the word (and design)". We have continued this procedure around Papua. In this way we are up-skilling communities as well as allowing them to self-help with provision of clean water. We now have a Papuan engineer. She organises communities, presenting and supporting those who are constructing their own projects.

During my last visit, we initiated partnerships with three universities. All Indonesian university graduates must now undertake a community work module. BPN supplies the necessary material and expertise, offering a win-win solution where universities get student community

projects, and we, BPN, will see the construction of many more FFS systems, by the community for the community.



Church Members and the Community— Frodsham Townswomen's Guild

By Camille Bradford

Frodsham Townswomen's Guild was formed in March 1944 and the first chairman was Mrs Elsie Greening (lady on right). TG was formed in 1929 and had its roots in the suffrage movement. One of the purposes of TG is to promote continued education of women through interesting speakers and activities. Also to form a bond of friendship between the members.



As a guild we are part of the Wirral Federation of Townswomen's Guilds and the National TG. This means we meet with other guilds in the area for workshops and social events, and also attend the National AGM if possible.

Frodsham TG will be 80 years old in March. Previously we had a thriving drama group and choir who entertained all over the area. Between 2003 and 2017 we raised over £12,000 for charity, including North West Air Ambulance, Hospice of the Good Shepherd and the St Laurence church building fund. We could not have done this without the wonderful support we had from the people of Frodsham.

I joined Frodsham TG in 1983 and during those 40 years I have been in the choir, held the posts of chairman and vice-chairman and also been a member of the National Executive.

We are a very friendly group and guests are always welcome to join us at our meetings, which take place in the Community Centre at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

One year we knitted blankets for the Addis Ababa Fistula hospital in Ethiopia and decided to wear them like African ladies do! Photo was taken on the steps of the Old Hall.





Re-use Recycle Repair for a Better Tomorrow

Saturday 22nd June 10-3

Stalls Demonstrations Refreshments Children's Activities

Free Entry

Frodsham Methodist Church

Kingsley Road Frodsham WA6 6BA

Free entry!



SPRING PLANT FAIR

SATURDAY 11th May,
at Frodsham Methodist Church
Kingsley Road, Frodsham, WA6 6BA
from **2pm to 4pm**

Spruce up your garden with
young plants and cuttings from our
annual Spring Plant Fair!

Also enjoy tea, coffee and a range of tasty cakes in
the Quiet Garden or
cool off in the shade of the hall!

Proceeds from the Plant Fair will be donated to our church
charity, Trinity Safe Space, and our church funds.

What's On

Frodsham & District Choral Society

Spring Concert: Saturday 23rd March *Homage to Haydn*

St Laurence Church at 4pm.

Come and Sing: Saturday 13th April *Workshop with Bob Chilcott*

Frodsham Methodist Church 10.00 – 16.30.

All welcome to hear an informal performance at 15.30.

More details from Kathleen Povall or FDSC website and on local posters.

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 7pm

“Once in An Upper Room” – an opportunity to share soup, table talk and reflection for Maundy Thursday, led by Rosemary Wass

Easter Sunday

10.30am Family Celebration led by Mrs Liz Holmes

6.00pm Holy Communion led by Rev Neil Stacey

Everyone Welcome

Worship at Frodsham Methodist Church

Café church services for the next 3 months will be on:

Palm Sunday, March 24th led by Rev Neil Stacey

April 28th led by Dean Lawson

May 26th led by Andrew Ellams

Evening service at 6pm:

March 3rd led by Charles Hill

No service in April, replaced by Easter Sunday March 31st

May 5th led by Liz Holmes



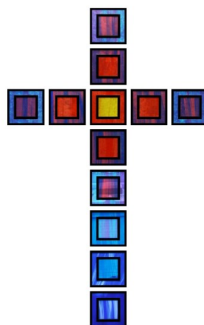
We are now able to offer a lift to our main Sunday morning service.

If you, or you know of someone who, would appreciate this
please

email: enquiries@frodshammethodist.org
and we will do our best to help.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT FRODSHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Kingsley Road Frodsham WA6 6BA
www.frodshammethodist.org



Every Sunday morning - at 10.30am

Every 1st Sunday of the month - Evening service at 6pm

Every Third Sunday - Discussion Group at 9.30am

Or watch Sunday Morning Service online via YouTube at
Frodsham Methodist.

Printed act of worship We know that not everyone has the right means to access the online service at home. So our Frodsham preachers have been producing a short printed act of worship each week, which has been delivered to a number of people. There are also DVD's available. For more information please contact Elizabeth Holmes.

Information and contributions for inclusion in the next issue
(Summer 2024):

Please forward final items for the magazine to Ros Caldwell by 2nd
May.

This magazine can also be seen on our church website at
www.frodshammethodist.org

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life".**

John 3:16