



Minister: Rev Jackie Bellfield
0151 632 6524

Senior Steward: Trish Davies
0151 632 1174

Church Office/Church and
Community Lay Worker: Cate
Warbrick
0151 632 6524

Children and Families Lay Worker
Kirsty Jarvis
07403314312
stlukeshoylakefamilies@gmail.com

The best way to grow and change ... is to grow and change

"If we want to be the best we can be, we can't keep doing it in the way we have been in the new context we now find ourselves in. We have to adjust to changing circumstances so that others can best flourish. It's really not about us, but about how we love and serve others with the Good News of Jesus.

In the first of a two-part series, Dr Nigel Pimlott reflects on his learning and development from the Connexional Transformational Leadership Learning Community. In this first piece, he draws on the backdrop of his recent experiences as a foster carer.

During the last year, my wife and I have started being foster carers. This has required us to make some very big adjustments in order to bring about the transformation we hope for in the lives of the children we look after.

We've changed when we eat meals. We've transformed how our house is organised. We've re-designed the décor. There are now car seats in the car, a play pen in the living room and numerous varieties of baby food across the kitchen. Ornaments have been put away, clutter tidied, and finances have been significantly re-ordered. All to help the children in our care stand the best chance of thriving and flourishing. Those of you who have raised children will no doubt have experienced similar changes, but this is new for us.

Primarily, we've had to change ourselves; continually re-configure the way we do things. We've revised priorities whilst learning new things so we grow and transform who we are. These changes have developed us, but they've been largely for the benefit of the children. Our change, has enabled them to change, so their world can change for the better.

In my work with the Transformational Leadership Learning Community (TLLC) I've also seen this pattern at work in the church. People have made changes to revitalise the church, thereby helping the wider community transform. Be it feeding the hungry, offering digital solutions, looking after others, starting new Christian communities or campaigning for justice, God's people are about significant transformation.

People often respond tender-heartedly to the news that we are foster carers. They generously think we are doing a noble and compassionate thing...(please turn over)

NOTICES

19th September 2021

Notices please to
stlukemethodistnotices@outlook.com

19 Market Street,
Hoylake,
Wirral,
CH47 2BF
0151 632 6524

Sunday 19th September with Hayley James from The Neighbourhood Project

Sunday 26th September with Rev Anthony Clowes

Church Council has voted to revert to the 10.30am Sunday Service time starting this Sunday 19th September



*You are the body of Christ!
Each one of you is a part of it.*

Dates for your diary

17th September 2.00pm Thanksgiving Service for Sue Jones

2nd and 3rd October St Luke's will be open for part of each day for Wirral Festival of Firsts. The church will be hosting several local artists, the finalists of the photographic competition, a butterfly installation by Kidz Klub and a display about the community working together in lockdown.

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It's not for us to comment on this, but before we get too carried away with any sentimental notions about what it is all about, I need to say that it has been challenging. Making changes to how we live, what we do and how we do it, and re-prioritising seemingly everything has been demanding. But here's the thing – we couldn't do what we set out to do without doing the changes. We won't be the best difference we can be unless we best transform how we are.

I think the same is true about church – if we want to be the best we can be, we can't keep doing it in the way we have been in the new context we now find ourselves in. We have to adjust to changing circumstances so that others can best flourish. It's really not about us, but about how we love and serve others with the Good News of Jesus.

By its very nature, fostering means children come and go. Each new arrival means we have to grow and change for the benefit of the children. Maybe we can be church in the same way: grow and change ourselves, thus helping the church grow and change, so others grow and change."

Nigel Pimlott

Dr Nigel Pimlott works for the Connexional team as regional learning and development officer and facilitator of the God for All Transformational Leadership Learning Community.

It is with sadness that we inform you that Ken Jones passed away last week in hospital. Many of us will remember Ken faithfully attending the Wednesday morning Prayer Meeting and Coffee Morning most weeks.

Valerie Gane's funeral takes place at Landican at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd September for family and invited mourners only. A Service of Thanksgiving will follow at West Kirby Methodist Church at 3 p.m. All welcome to attend this service.

We have made a donation of £142.46 to the Fund for Human Need, as agreed at the ACM. WE have received the following reply - "Your church's support for the work of the Fund in helping the homeless, refugees and others in real need, particularly in these difficult times, is greatly appreciated. Please pass on our grateful thanks to your members.

Over the summer we have had a break from the online Quiz that so many of us had enjoyed over the lockdown months. I was due to start it again on 25th September but a) I don't have time to set one this week and b) I just want to check if we actually want this to carry on, or was it something that was just for a lockdown season? Let me know and if there is enough interest I will organise one in the coming weeks. Love Cate x

A new online gathering called "Hope & Anchor", which will launch on Tuesdays 12:45-1:15pm starting 28 September on the Methodist Church Facebook page and other digital channels.

Hope and Anchor – co-hosted by President of the Conference Sonia Hicks, members of the Evangelism and Growth Team, and other special guests – explores faith in an inclusive, fun, non-judgmental way. It features people from Britain and across the world who are taking faith outside of the box, addressing challenging questions and preconceptions with intelligence, loads of laughter, and interactive participation with an online audience.

For [more information on Hope and Anchor click here](#)



Could you put a request in notices for anyone who makes their own bread! Is it possible to make a couple of loaves extra one week?(traditional or soda). Contact Sandra Mealor at home or via Cate.

Thank you, Sandra.

Loving Lord, help us to be faithful witnesses to the truth we have received from you. Sustain us as we seek to be a welcoming community open to all. Help us as we seek to bring a message of hope where there is fear, joy where there is sadness, and faith where there is doubt. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to share your love with the whole community by our words and our deeds.

Amen.

Richard Hall, Isle of Man District Chair