

# Connexion

The magazine  
of the family of  
Independent  
Methodist  
Churches

Nov/Dec 2025  
IN THIS ISSUE



Jesus was speaking to his disciples about loving enemies. Ouch! I suppose that didn't go down well. To be truthful, there must have been those who crossed our path in life that we have not liked very much.

Jesus calls us to follow His example of love which means 'love in action'. Christ's love in us takes the initiative, meeting needs when you and I come against them, and this means there will be occasions when this love is called upon even to those we may dislike or have hurt us. Paul gives a great example of Christ's love in action:

**"If your enemy is hungry feed him, if he is thirsty give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head" (Romans 12: 20)**

Eleven years ago, I had an invitation to see the musical Mama Mia. It was not in a huge theatre or auditorium, but the hall was packed to witness a show filled with joy and enthusiasm. The cast worked together, and it was a joy to watch,

not professional but every pupil played their part with gusto including my grand-daughter and class 6. At the end the headmistress thanked everyone - the teachers, the children, the crew, and she also gave a special thank you to the few children on the big night too shy to take part who were behind the scenes. No-one was more important than another.

At the top of the wall in the hall were these words on a banner (picture on the right).



Jean Tavener (Roman Road)

Page 2: Statement of Faith

Page 9: Church Focus

Page 14: Book Report

Page 5: In the Joy of the Lord

Page 11: Uke can do it !

Page 15: Day One

Page 7: Church Corner

Page 13: Carrie O'Nions

Page 16: Good Bye...

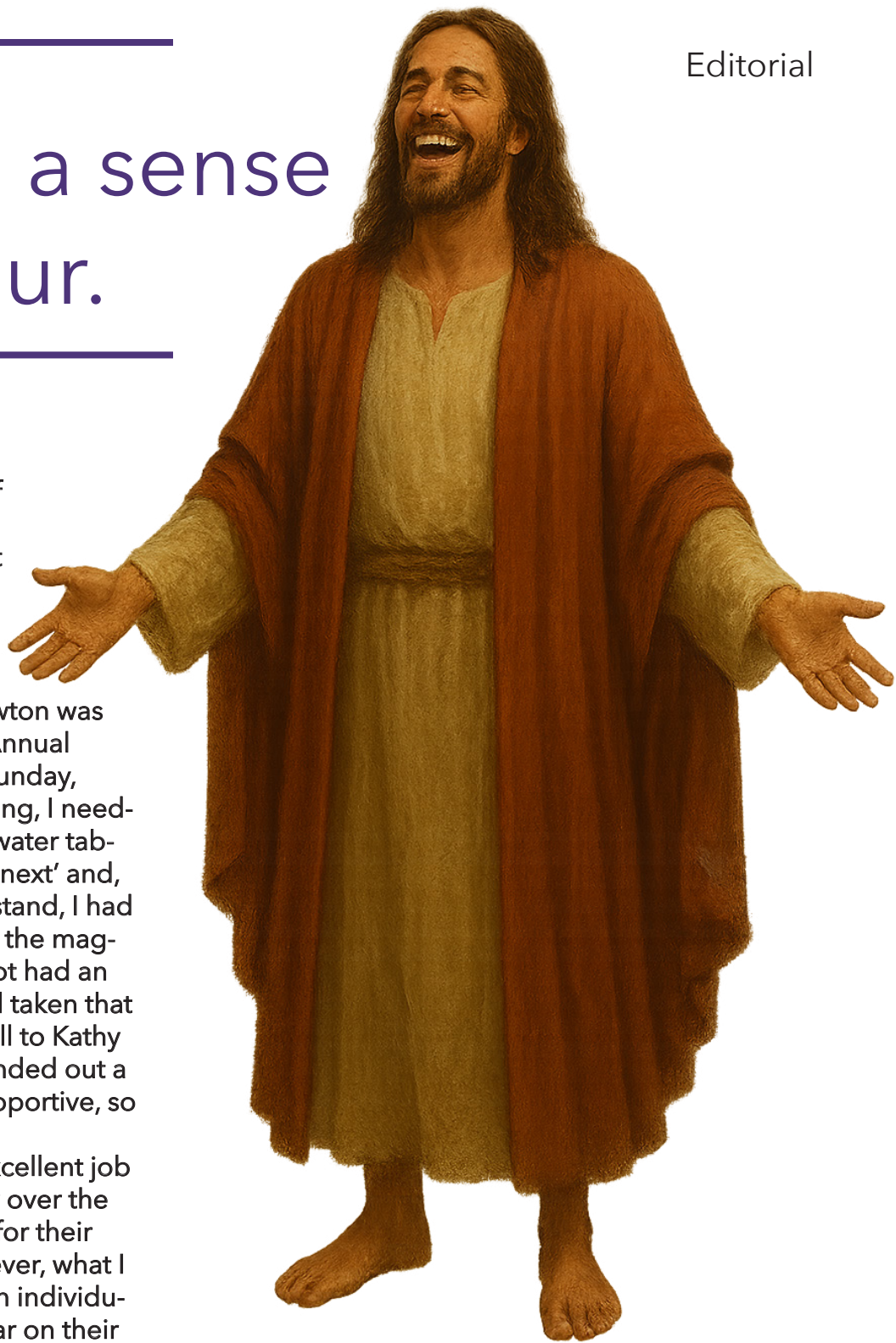
# God has a sense of humour.

The piece on the back page of the July-August edition was written several weeks before I had a heart attack at the end of April, and at that time I had no idea that what I'd written about holding onto a position too tightly was about to be tested.

As you will now know, Shaun Newton was elected as General Secretary at Annual Meeting this year. Later on the Sunday, while David Robinson was speaking, I needed to go out briefly (I blame the water tablets ...). I was reflecting on 'what next' and, as I was walking past the Admin stand, I had a distinct feeling about taking on the magazine. For some time, we have not had an editor, and the Admin Group had taken that responsibility, which ultimately fell to Kathy and Laura to fulfil. Anyway, I sounded out a few people, and they were all supportive, so here I am!

Kathy and Laura have done an excellent job in putting the magazine together over the past few years, and I thank them for their efforts in keeping it going. However, what I intend to introduce is a feature on individual churches, focussing in particular on their outreach activities. To do this, I would like to visit the churches that I'll be including, especially where they have midweek activities, to gather information and take pictures. So don't be surprised if you get a phone call from me to find out when it would be appropriate to drop in!

Needless to say, any offers of material will always be welcome. If you want to send me copies of any local magazines that you



produce, they will also be welcome, and I may lift certain items to supplement material that I'm sent specifically for the magazine. Please send articles and photographs to [magazine@imchurches.org.uk](mailto:magazine@imchurches.org.uk) as at present.

God bless you all,  
Brian Rowney

---

# Independent Methodist Churches Statement of Faith

---

*SALVATION - We believe that salvation from the guilt, penalty and power of sin to eternal life is a free gift of God.*

*Salvation is His purpose for all mankind and is only possible through personal faith in the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

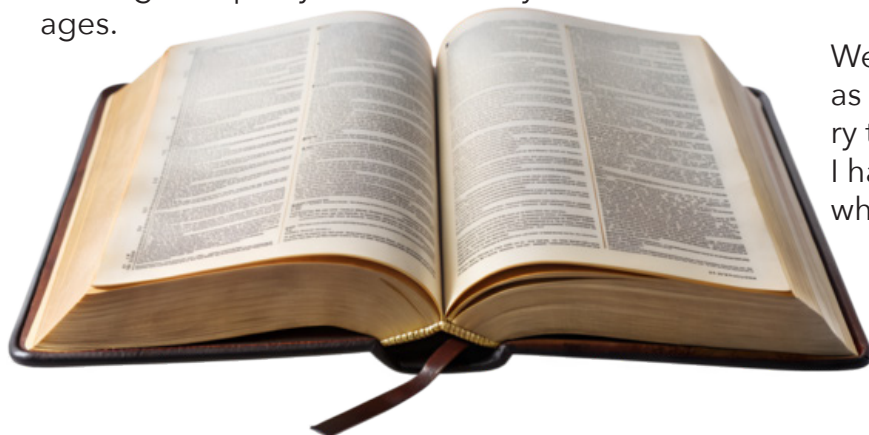
*We believe that all must stand before the final judgement of Christ and that those who have refused His salvation will be separated eternally from God.*

Last time I concentrated on the first two parts of this section of the IM Statement of Faith. To summarise what we have learnt so far, mankind is naturally sinful and is incapable of rescuing itself from sin and its consequences. However, God decided that mankind couldn't be left in a state of everlasting sinfulness, and decided to do something about it, by sending Jesus - the man who is God, as Graham Kendrick put it - to take the penalty of sin on himself. All that man has to do is to believe in Jesus, to receive the gift of eternal life. It isn't something we deserve, or something that we can earn by our own efforts, and although God's perfect will is that all mankind should be saved, he has given us free will so that we must choose whether or not to accept it. 'Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to thy cross I cling', as Augustus Montague Toplady wrote in the hymn Rock of ages.

We also looked at Matthew's account of the parable of the wedding banquet (Matthew 22:1-14), and considered the man who had got into the wedding feast in his own clothes. This is a picture of someone who chose to be different. He rejected the special wedding costume that the host had provided for his guests (remembering that those who had been brought in off the streets would have probably been in shabby, not to mention smelly garb) and decided that what he was wearing would be good enough. It wasn't, and it isn't. If you choose to reject the salvation that Jesus offers and trust in your own goodness, it won't work and there is no alternative.

The third part of this clause reminds us that we must all stand before Christ at the final judgement. Those who believe that this life is all there is will have an unpleasant surprise. Hebrews 9:27 tells us that '...man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement', and Paul wrote to the Corinthians that '... we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad' (2 Corinthians 5:10).

We need to be careful how we interpret this as it applies to the Christian. I used to worry that it meant that everything wrong that I had ever done would be broadcast to the whole of mankind, saved and unsaved.





After all, Jesus told his disciples that ‘... there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known’ (Matthew 10:26). Does that mean that my sins, whether clear and obvious or seemingly well-covered, will be made known to everyone so that, in eternity, people can ‘tut, tut’ for evermore? No. When God’s planned new covenant was announced to an unrepentant Israel (Jeremiah 31:31-34), the Lord said ‘...I will forgive their wickedness, and will remember their sins no more’ - verses that are repeated in Hebrews 8 and Hebrews 10. Just to emphasise this, David wrote that ‘... as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us’ (Psalm 103:12), and Micah prophesied that God would ‘... hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea’ (Micah 7:19). With all these promises, we can be confident that God will not dredge up all our misdeeds for one final occasion on Judgement Day. So what does it mean? Firstly, we must remember Romans 8:1 - There is now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus. Secondly, what we are talking about is not the judgement of believers but the judgement of believers’ works, described in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. However, what this is saying is that the quality of what we have done in our Christian lives will be assessed - gold, silver and precious stones will survive the test by fire: wood, hay and stubble (as the Authorised Version puts it) will not, and the extent to which our works survive the test will determine what rewards we will receive in heaven. He himself will be saved (v.15) - our salvation is not in question, we do not have to stand before Jesus in fear of our eternal lives.



What, though, of the unbeliever? We saw in Hebrews 9:27 that man is destined to face judgement though, for the believer, the judgement is of his works rather than him. Revelation 20:11-15 give a picture of the final judgement, with Jesus sitting on a great white throne. Books were opened ... another book was opened, which is the book of life ... the dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books ... if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Go back to John 3:18, which has been quoted several times in this series. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of God’s only begotten Son. If you have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, your name is written in the Book of Life. If you haven’t, it isn’t. That, rather than the individual’s deeds or misdeeds, is the criterion for being thrown into the lake of fire. Everlasting separation from God. As has been said so many times, if you reject God’s offer of salvation through belief in Jesus’ atoning death on the cross, there is no Plan B, no other way. But, for us who believe, there is the promise of being welcomed into Jesus’ presence - well done, good and faithful servant.

(all scriptures taken from the New International Version)

Brian Rowney

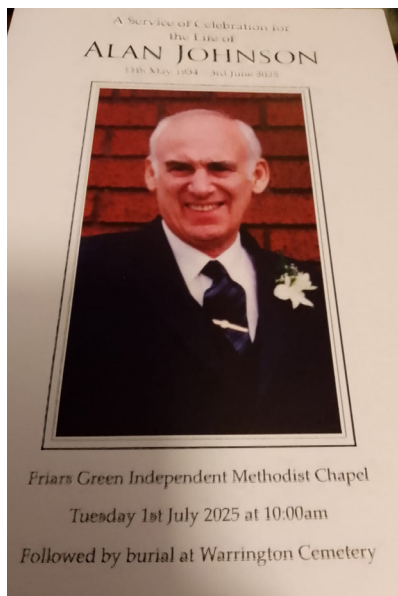


# In the Joy of the Lord

At Friars Green we have seen three very special people on their final journeys, this year. I would just like to put on record the thanks for all the prayers for Friars Green that have been prayed for us. We may not see much of each other, but like true friends you have been there when needed. Your support, prayers and love have been truly appreciated.

Brian Yates (14 December 1930 – 22 February 2025)

It was only last year that Brian Yates' picture featured in the Connexion Magazine along with his dear wife, Betty. They were married for 70 years, and Brian only had eyes for Betty over this time. They did everything together. Brian sadly passed away very quickly, to the surprise of us all. There he was, picture the scene, making lunch with Betty, each doing their little job when, next minute he was gone. A brain haemorrhage took him. Brian was in the Warrington Male Voice Choir for many years and they came and sang at his funeral. Our school room, now church was full to overflowing and they sang so wonderfully. The whole service was a testament to this most wonderful, caring, thoughtful gentleman whom we are all honoured to have known and loved.



Alan Johnson (11 May 1934 – 3 June 2025)

When Buckley Street closed its doors, our friends from there came and joined with us. Alan Johnson was a quiet man who dearly loved his Lord. Caring for the premises of Buckley Street over the years took a lot out of him, and as the building and congregation began to dwindle they went through what they could do. With a heavy heart, the Church closed. With a new heart, we welcomed them here at Friars. Alan had this to deal with as, like many, he took on the roles to keep the doors open. But he always looked after and was devoted to his wife, Jean. One day he wasn't well and was given the devastating blow he had cancer. He carried on as before, relying on his God. It became too much and he went home. It was our privilege to have got to know and love him, this true gentleman in every word and a true man of God. Once more our church was full with people saying a last goodbye to Alan. This gentle man would purchase a bunch of yellow roses every week for his beloved wife, and so the yellow rose means so much more now. It is known to represent friendship, happiness, joy and gratitude, which sums up Alan.

Sue McDermott (11 January 1965 – 28 July 2025)

At Friars Green, we had no minister for quite a number of years and Aunt Betty once said that God would bring us a minister through those doors!. For years we prayed, then one day a young man came and sat at the side of Church (our upstairs church!), notebook in hand, taking notes of the sermons etc. Eventually, he came as he was called, and took up his continuing work for God here at Friars Green. Some years later his wife joined us and transferred her membership from Stockton Heath to us. Oh, what a day! Sue McDermott came and joined her hubby Ken, here at Friars Green. Her wonderful smile and caring ways were a joy to see. A few years ago, a picture in the magazine told you all about this couple who celebrated their Ruby Wedding. But now our hearts are broken, yet we rejoice because God claimed Sue and took her to his own, her work done here on earth.



What a wonderful inspiration she has been, her encouragement, her warmth and love have touched each and every one of us and we all miss her! Many of you came to say goodbye. You came because you had also been touched by Sue in many different ways. Many met her for the first time as "the president's wife". Lasting friendships formed. I was told by a supporter, non-Christian, that she always had a smile and time for a chat! She touched many people in ways we shall never know, but the Lord knows. Overflowing once again was Friars Green. Tears of sorrow, laughter and joy rang through the building. Sue was a strong lady, who loved life, her God and her husband! She fought strong and hard during her illness but remained so positive. She knew what she wanted and God granted her the time to do things, to arrange things, till the day she knew it was time to say goodbye. No fuss, just closed her eyes, in the arms of her earthly love, to awake in the arms of her heavenly father, fully restored.

No more can be said other than there is such a large, large hole left here at Friars Green. We value your continued prayers for us all, but especially for Ken.

*Thank you & God bless*



# Church Corner

## Lamberhead Green Harvest 2025

Harvest 2025 was a time of joy as the fellowship met to celebrate and give thanks for God's goodness. The chapel had been simply and tastefully decorated by individual church members. Members were invited to bring monetary gifts as their harvest offering, these were donated to the Alzheimer's Society with the church matching each gift. AS a result, £300 has been donated to the Society. After the morning worship, the fellowship joined in a lunch in the school-room. Yes, God is good.

- Norman Prescott



## HINDLEY

### INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH

On Sunday 28th September we had, as our minister, Dorothy Kendrick. We enjoyed the service with her and Philip, and enjoyed fellowship over tea and cakes afterwards.

Prior to the service, we all gathered in the church garden where Dorothy kindly dedicated the new cross that we have had erected there. This has been made by a local carpenter and looks perfect to portray the cross where our Saviour died. It is 8 ft tall so can be easily seen from the main road. We thank Dorothy for doing this for us and also for her inspiring sermon.

- Jean Barlow



Easington Lane IMs are reaching out to the local community via a leaflet drop to help spread the Gospel message throughout the village. With our numbers dwindling, it is vital for us to be proactive so we can help the church to grow in the future.

- Ian Grey

**EASINGTON LANE**  
INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH  
Would like to invite you all along to...

**16th Nov**  
4pm Memorial Service for Loved Ones

**5th Dec**  
6pm Bauble Party

**21st Dec**  
Carol Service

**22nd Dec**  
6pm Christmas Singalong

Further information if required is available via our secretary.  
Our Facebook page will be updated nearer the time

Brick Garth, Easington Lane, Houghton le Spring DH5 0LE Easington Lane IM Church

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Sunday Service**  
5.30pm Evening Worship.

**Monday Prayer Meetings**  
Held fortnightly at 1pm. Prayer requests welcome. Get in touch or post your requests.

**Wednesday Bible Study**  
7pm held over zoom - get in touch for login details.

**Friday**  
1pm - 3pm - Knit 4 Neighbours.

"The LORD is near to all who call on him." Psalm 145:18

**EASINGTON LANE**  
INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH  
Secretary Contact Details  
Amelia Harrison - 0191 526 9107

Brick Garth, Easington Lane,  
Tyne and Wear, DH5 0LE

Easington Lane IM Church





## BETHEL CHURCH, COLNE.

A special service was held in August to celebrate the 80th birthday of identical twins Marilyn and Marjorie. The minister at this service was Judith Diggins, who has known them all her life. Following this service, we enjoyed a buffet lunch.

Marilyn and Marjorie have attended Bethel Church and Sunday School since they were 3 years old. They are trustees and worship leaders. In past years they have taken leading parts in pantomimes and plays. They have thoroughly involved themselves in many aspects of Church and Sunday School life.

It is often said that identical twins are telepathic, which was true on this occasion, in that both turned up wearing identical dresses, bought from the same outlet -Boundary Mill.

## Friars Green

If any Church would like some wool for craft groups, knit and natters or similar events, please contact Ken McDermott on [k.j.macd@gmail.com](mailto:k.j.macd@gmail.com).

## Macmillan Coffee Morning Thatto Heath

On Saturday 27 September, Hilda Jackson organised a Coffee Morning for Macmillan Nurses, which raised £1,426.50. We had more cakes than Waterfield's! The event was well supported by Church Members and members of our community. A great time was had by all who attended and a big THANK YOU to Hilda! - Fay Williams



## Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Thatto Heath

Our harvest table at the front of the church was full to overflowing, thanks to the generous donations of our fellowship. This year's service fell on a Café church Sunday, so the theme was aimed at the children and young people in our fellowship but was also enjoyed

by the 'older children' in our fellowship too! The speaker was Helen Foster, one of our Church Members who spoke about everyone having a gift and if we work together, we can create an amazing work for spreading His word. Like bread, each ingredient on its own is good but if we put them together, we can create something wonderful to eat. No matter how much harvest we have, if we don't have the workforce it will go to waste, so we need to work together! Sally Britch, representing St Helens Foodbank, thanked the fellowship for the generosity shown and accepted the gifts on behalf of the volunteers who, week in and week out, put together food packages for those less fortunate people/families in our community.

Thanks be to God for all the many gifts which he bestows upon us!



# CHURCH FOCUS

Appleton Independent Methodist Church, known locally simply as AIM Church, is one of the newest churches in the Connexion. Unlike most of our churches, it does not have its own premises but meets in the local parish hall.

It was in 1986, when new housing developments began to grow in Appleton, that a small group of Christians (including former Connexional President Gordon Gleave), moving into the area, realised that it didn't have immediate local access to a church. After praying about

the situation and following God's guidance, a church was planted, and a suitable place to meet was sought. Appleton Parish Hall became the new home for the brand-new AIM Church. The first service was held on the 13th September 1987 and the church has been meeting there every week since.



AIM Church identifies three important principles for spiritual growth: "Bible Based, Prayer Orientated and Spirit Led". This phrase was coined by one of the founding members and has always been at their heart. The church has always placed great emphasis on reaching out to the community, believing that the Good News about Jesus is life-changing and their privilege and responsibility to share.

AIM's outreach today takes a number of forms. Every Tuesday, there is a coffee morning in the Parish Hall from 10.00 to 12.00, with complementary coffee, tea and cake available. People come together to meet their friends and to make new ones. Many people look forward to the weekly meetings, indeed for some it is the only time they get out of the house. For the more energetic

(i.e. not your editor!), there is a weekly Run Club, on Mondays at 18.00. After burning the calories, there is often a chance to put them back on when the participants go for a meal afterwards, this being an opportunity to chat, get to know people and, when appropriate, share the Gospel with them. Less strenuous is the AIM Community Book Club, held on the last Tuesday of each month at the home of one of the church leaders. Members begin reading a particular book, and come together to share what they have gleaned from reading it.







Family services take place every Sunday at 11.00, with the change for a 'cuppa and catch-up' from 10.30. Worship times include both traditional and modern music and songs, and members are encouraged to take part in the services, by sharing, praying and exercising the gifts God has given them. There are also two house-groups that meet midweek, one in Appleton itself and the other in Grappenhall, giving a further opportunity to pray, praise and study God's Word.

## Appleton Cross

In recent years, there have been plans for a major urban development in the South Warrington area, which could see up to 2,400 new homes built by 2039. Initially, planning permission was granted for 370 new homes as well as a local centre, which would include a church and community hub that was included in the plans at the request of AIM Church. The vision for the church building includes multi-purpose meeting rooms for use by other community groups, a café, community hall and other



facilities. AIM Church is currently working with the developer to confirm the final size and design of the new building. The business plan states that 'the building has been designed to facilitate the best expression of what church should be - a dynamic, welcoming space for the whole community to do life together, shaped to support spiritual, mental and physical well-being.

A consultation by Homes England found that the most-wanted features of the local centre were community facilities and food / beverage, both of which are included in the vision. AIM Church's vision for the new facility is both exciting and challenging. Exciting, because it represents an opportunity for outreach and growing God's Kingdom that so rarely comes our way. Challenging, because of the scale of the project, things that still



need to be finalised (such as finance!) and, when the time comes, starting the new church plant while retaining the existing ministry at Appleton. AIM Church will be holding these matters in prayer in the weeks and months to come: will you join your prayers with theirs?



# UKE CAN DO IT

A lively ukulele band based at Mount Zion Church, Cliviger, will be extremely busy over the Christmas period, with performances at rest homes, to local groups, and a major selection of carols at the Musical Memories group which uses music to help those suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

The group, led by its founder, Alan Scholes, finds they have at least a couple of bookings a month at special events in aid of the hospice, entertaining in residential homes, churches, and fund-raising charity events.

"It is nice to feel the group is appreciated and can help in these different ways", said Alan. He started the group six years ago and it now has more than 30 members, with an average of 25 at the Monday night practice sessions.

He is delighted that over the years they have had at least 60 people of all ages involved, with several beginners' groups introducing the art of playing to young and old, men and women. "It is a lovely instrument, fairly easy to learn, very practical to carry to performances, and we attract a wide range of age groups, both male and female. Interestingly some mothers bring children to learn and then decide to have a go themselves".

Alan taught himself to play the ukulele ten years ago, as a change from the guitar to which he was introduced by a fellow student with whom he shared a room at Didsbury Teacher Training College.

He and his wife Pauline, a pianist, joined the Burnley Evangelical Schools Trust which had been formed some ten years before by a leader from a nearby church. They took school assemblies and lunchtime clubs in 35 schools and nurseries all over the area, often leading up to 16 sessions a week.





When they retired from BEST after ten years, music was still an important part of Alan's life as he regularly led worship at the church and performed at other events in various residential homes. It was useful when he and Pauline continued to take assemblies and music sessions at St John's Primary School in Cliviger. The school also had a ukulele class and that gave him the idea to start a beginners' group at the church which he had attended all his life. Alan, now 79 years old, started teaching chemistry at Barden High School, Burnley, where he stayed for 32 years, before retiring at the age of 50.



When he celebrated his 70th birthday at the church he did it with a song on his lips. In fact, 70 hymns and songs - a five-hour marathon, when the ukulele and guitar figured as he raised more than £1,000 towards an extension fund at the church.

Alan regularly leads worship at the church and occasionally the ukulele appears.

"It is a lovely instrument and lends itself to many musical opportunities", he explained.

"The group play all kinds of music from the 1920s like 'Yes sir, that's my baby', music from the 50s and 60s (such as 'Rock around the clock'), and many of the popular hymns".

"We have a wide range of music, and some members who might not manage the ukulele play the wash-board or even tambourines", he added. "There is something for everyone".





# Long Lane Liverpool



September 20th was an important date in the calendar for the church at Long Lane, Liverpool and for Carrie O'Nions. After four years of study and essays, she completed the Ministers Course to be a fully-accredited Minister of the I.M. Connexion.

The church was full for Carrie's Commissioning Service and many visitors came from churches around the Connexion, as well as family and friends from our own church and Craft Group and friends from Christian Endeavour.

The church was bedecked with gifts for the Harvest on the Sunday, and flowers filled many vases giving a warm and cheerful welcome to all.

The service was led by our minister Graham O'Nions, and Sandra O'Nions, in her role as President, gave a short message entitled Looking Back/ Looking Forward. Members of Carrie's church took special parts in the service with Bible reading, prayers and music. Mary Doddridge accepted Carrie as a Minister of the church. Carrie gave her testimony of how she felt she was called to the Ministry and she was presented with a special Bible and bouquet of flowers. Our guest pianist was Kevan Booth from our Bethel Church in Wigan.

A splendid buffet was prepared by the ladies of the church and everyone thor-

oughly enjoyed the service and the reception, and the presence of God was really felt among the fellowship who were able to attend. We missed those who were unable to come.

CARRIE writes "Thanks to all who came and shared in this special occasion. Thanks to those who took part in the service to make it a memorable occasion."



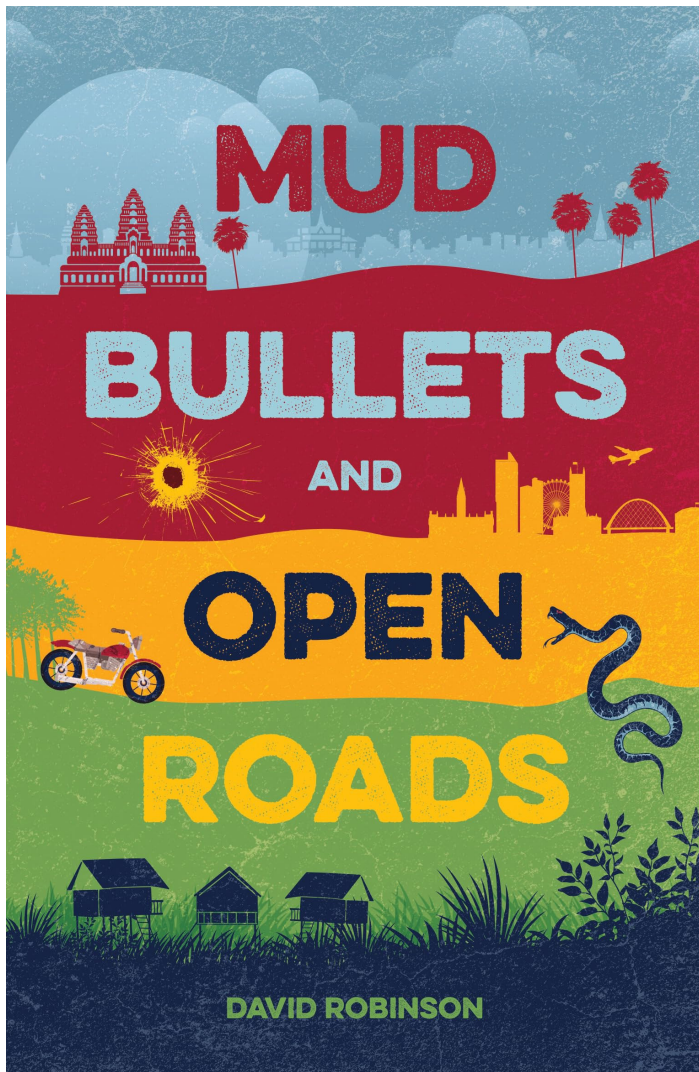
## WORLD MISSION NEWS

(Overseas Missions is now changing its name to World Missions)

L. and P. are still seeking God's guidance for their future ministry in North Africa. Their aim is to see a healthy, resilient church in their community with participating leadership from local people that will draw others to Jesus. It remains impossible for Christian workers to have residency without some professional activity. Whereas L. still has that recognition, the end of P's work in rural development now presents a problem. On the plus side, his work gave him access to many people who had opportunities to hear the word. Also, their team in the town is growing, with several young couples in the process of joining the work there. However, their friends Alan and Katie have now relocated to Australia - they will be a miss. L. has recently contributed to a book "Your Story Matters - The God Stories", currently available on Amazon. Meanwhile, they are continuing to pray for God's leading for the future, as well as His ongoing provision, as P. has not only lost the funding for his former project, but also that of his main supporting church in France.

Gail and Daniel Castro have now resigned from their mission association OMS, as they are taking up new roles in ministry. As a result they will no longer be serving as IM missionaries. We thank them for their years of ministry, first in Colombia, then in Spain and more recently here in the UK and praise the Lord for the way He has led them over these long years and used them in His service. We wish them well and pray that He will continue to lead and bless them in their future calling.





David Robinson is well-known throughout the Independent Methodist Connexion. A member and minister at Stretford church (now closed) and latterly Roe Green, he served as a missionary with OMF for many years, initially in Thailand and then in Cambodia.

David's book begins with his coming to Jesus at a Billy Graham crusade at Maine Road (the old Manchester City ground) while he was an apprentice at AEI in Trafford Park. A few years later, at the 1965 Keswick convention, he was challenged to become a missionary. His first response was that he had another five years left on his contract, having been sponsored on an engineering degree by his employer. God's answer to this – and several other objections over the years – was simply, "That's not your problem, that's my problem". How often do we make excuses instead of letting God sort out the practical difficulties that cause us concern?

David met Jenny in 1968 and they got engaged the following year. Recognising that, if they bought a house and settled down, they would probably never enter into overseas mission, they decided to leave their respective jobs that August, get married the next month and go to Bible college ten days later!

Although their savings only covered their costs for the first year, God provided for their second year by a combination of a Government grant and gifts from friends. Over the years, God was to prove his faithfulness in many situations, not least after Jenny's passing and David's doubts about returning to the mission field.

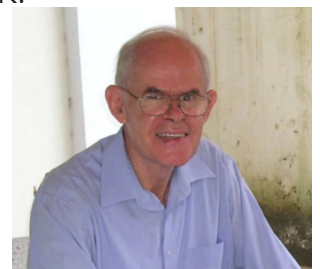
Instead of returning to Thailand, David was asked to lead a small missionary team in Cambodia: during that time he met and later married Mary, who had been working for OMF as a physiotherapist and evangelist in Thailand. Their work in Cambodia continued until 2005, when they returned to England and, to his surprise, David was asked to become interim director of the UK North Region. Following that, David and Mary were encouraged to begin a work amongst the expatriate Thai community in Britain. Today, the Network of Thai Christians in the UK (NTC) consists of 15 groups in England and two in Scotland.

That title – it refers to the three countries where David has served the Lord: mud in Thailand (rain often makes cross-country travel difficult or impossible); bullets (Cambodia was only beginning to recover from the Khmer Rouge period and subsequent occupation by Vietnam); and open roads for David's current ministry supporting those groups of Thai believers in the UK.

- BR

(Mud, bullets and open roads is published by 10Publishing, a division of 10ofthose.com.)

To receive David and Mary's prayer letters, contact david.robinson@omfmail.com or via 22 Raglan Rd, Sale, Cheshire M33 4AQ.



## Prayer Points from David & Mary Robinson



Retreat. The Network of Thai Christians committee meets 15-16 Nov for the annual Retreat; pray that good plans can be made for 2026.

Literature. Pray that the bibles and tracts David & Mary brought while visiting Thailand will be well used by the Thai Christians.

Literature. Pray that the bibles and tracts bought at the fellowship day will be used effectively.

Thai groups. David & Mary continue to visit the groups on a bi-monthly basis; pray for safe travel & effective ministry.

Grand daughters. Esther is on a short-term OMF placement in the Philippines, Isobel has just started at University, and Sally has begun at A-level college. Pray all do well in their challenges!

Group leaders. Leaders of the 15 groups often try hard but lack skills; pray we know how to help them.

Christmas is a good outreach opportunity for Thai Christians; pray for creative programmes.

Serving together. Pray that our 30th year of being together may be a fruitful year in His service.

Health issues. Please pray for various family members: Hannah, Noah, Isobel and Grace's mum.

OMF UK With the national office now in Manchester, pray for increased mission mobilization.



Are you aware that IM congregations have distributed an incredible accumulative total of 52,030 Living Word calendars across the nation in the last 20 years? Last Christmas/New Year alone, nearly 1300 evangelistic calendars were distributed via IM Connexion churches throughout the British Isles. This project is being repeated this year and IM church secretaries are currently receiving full details and order forms in their regular mailings from the Resource Centre. The Living Word 2026 calendar is produced by Day One Publications. The calendars have beautiful colour photographs, large print dates and a bold bible verse about salvation for every month of the year. These are being made available at virtually cost price - just 40p each - reduced to 35p each if you buy 100 or more. Orders must be for a minimum of 40 calendars, but there is no charge for postage. The good news this year is that the price has been reduced by

3p each compared to 2024! The cost of the calendar is equivalent to 54% less than the cost of a second-class postage stamp! Pocket sized diaries are available at the price of just £1 if the order accompanies the purchase of calendars. The diaries are ideal for slipping into your handbag or pocket. They contain very colourful photographs and have an encouraging scripture text for each day. The calendar has prominent space for churches to either stamp or stick an information label about church activities - thus increasing church profile with friends, relatives and neighbours.

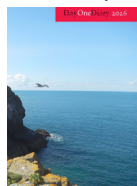
Project coordinator Andy Dalton noted that IM churches have always participated with enthusiasm in this annual calendar & diary project. He said that it was a simple but highly effective way for churches to reach out effectively to their local communities. He said "Our newspapers. Internet Platforms and TVs bombard people with a constant feed of danger, distress and anxiety from around the UK and the world. These publications are a simple and very cheap way of bringing gospel hope to people who need a message of encouragement in these difficult days". Why not run a simple project this Christmas in your congregation? Order a batch and get to work distributing



**LivingWord 2026**

The Scripture Text Calendar  
from DayOne Christian Ministries

DayOne



them amongst your friendship networks and neighbourhoods. The deadline for orders is 18 December, and calendars will be despatched within two weeks of receipt of the order. Please send orders to Andy Dalton, 14 Foster Crescent, Morley, West Yorkshire, LS27 9NQ. Cheques should be payable to Day One.





## Connexional Contacts

General Secretary  
Shaun Newton  
general.secretary  
@imchurches.org.uk

Financial Administrator  
Alan Britton  
finance  
@imchurches.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer  
Graham Edmondson  
safeguarding  
@imchurches.org.uk

Business Department  
Registered Office  
and Resource Centre  
Fleet Street, Pemberton,  
Wigan WN5 0DS  
01942 223526  
resource.centre  
@imchurches.org.uk

Association Manager  
Laura Pendlebury  
01942 223526  
laura  
@imchurches.org.uk

All Officers' Addresses  
can be found in the Directory  
which is obtainable from the  
Resource Centre.

All articles for the magazine  
should be sent to the  
Resource Centre postal  
address or via email to  
magazine@imchurches.org.  
uk

Connexion Magazine  
ISSN 0141 - 4372  
Independent  
Methodist Churches

## Good bye to Kathy Pringle

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)



On Tuesday, October 14, we said goodbye to Kathy Pringle who is leaving after six years as Connexion-al Services Manager. In her final mailing to the churches, Kathy thanked all individuals and churches for their help, love and support during that time. That Tuesday was set aside to reciprocate

those sentiments as the Resource Centre organised an 'Open Day'. During the day, a number of people from various IM churches called in to share fellowship (and refreshments) and to say goodbye to Kathy. She received many cards, presents and flowers (a lovely display being delivered from Murton, North-East circuit), but most of all love and thanks for her six years of dedicated service.



On behalf of the Connexion, Norman Prescott (Resource Centre Secretary) presented Kathy with a card and a small token (present) in appreciation of her work. We wish her God's blessing as she moves on to take up employment with a local charity.