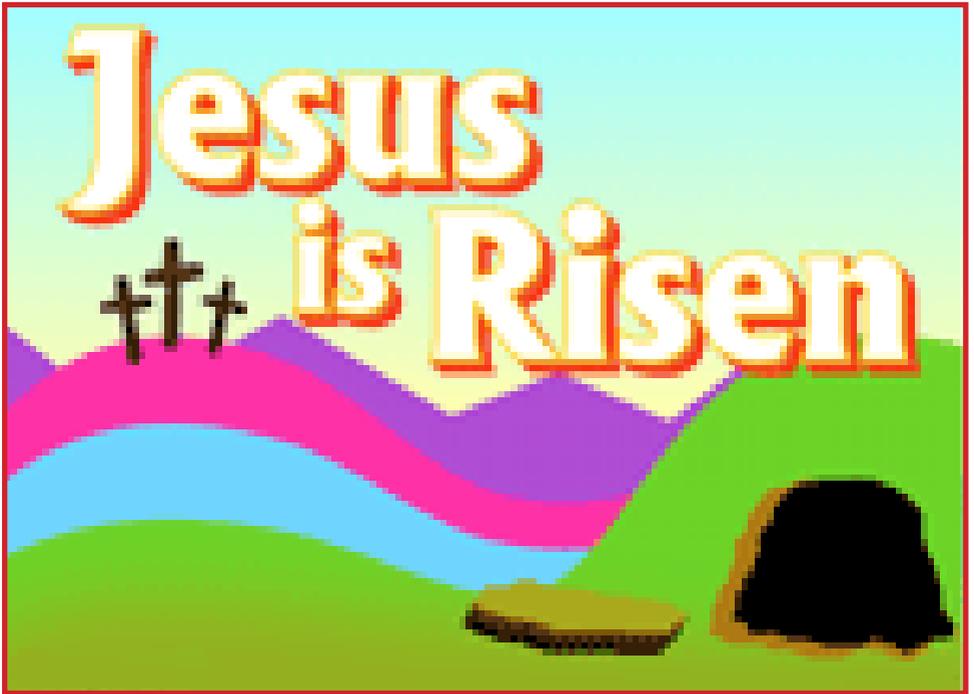


**The Methodist Churches
in Neston**



Resurrection

Easter Newsletter 2015

Easter Newsletter

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Easter Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Peace and grace be upon you

In Christ's suffering on the Cross, He enters the world of our suffering and gets truly closer to those who suffer. That means, in the power of the Cross, we experience a Christ who cries with us, forgives and saves us, embraces us with open arms and welcomes us just as we are: weary, burdened and heart-broken. He makes it possible for us to have access, direct communication with our Father in whose arms we find rest.

In the power of his resurrection, we meet the risen Christ, already by our side, raising us up, walking and talking with us, upholding, embracing, preparing us breakfast (John 21:12), and breaking us the bread for our evening tea (Luke 24:29-31). He is right by your side, take another look, He stands alongside you in His risen power to rekindle your joy (John 20:14-15).

This is the message of hope, that in Christ, we are constantly rising to new life, soaring to new heights, and approaching the threshold of new beginnings. Today is a new day for you; rise in faith and embrace it with the hope that Christ offers.

Remember, our Saviour lives; He lives within our heart.

Please, come and worship with us!

Marcus/Minister

Some People

People are often unreasonable and self-centred. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Theresa

Thanks to Jean Hutcheon.

Christian Aid Sponsored Walk

The Christian Aid Walk 2015 was great. Forty-five people, from local churches and elsewhere, walked from the United Reformed Church along the Wirral Way and across the Heswall golf course to Gayton Farm Road, where Margaret Heibel and Cheryl Ellis refreshed us with drinks and snacks – Fair Trade of course. It was a cool dry day, just right for walking, though we had to dodge puddles left by rain earlier in the week.

On the return walk along the Dee coast we enjoyed the views of the estuary and North Wales. Back at the URC we enjoyed soup (made by Lynne Vaughan and Margaret Heibel) and bread (made by Ray Renfrey and me) in the foyer of the URC. We are most grateful to the URC for letting us use their premises, even with muddy boots!

Several dogs, also sponsored, came with us.

We don't know yet how much we have raised for poor people around the world, but our organiser Lynne Vaughan is hopeful that it will exceed the splendid total of over £2,400 in 2014.

Rob Ward

pictures on centre pages

Little Neston: [ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING](#) The Church's Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday, 12th April 2015. There will be a bring and share lunch. Please bring your contribution to the lunch to the schoolroom prior to the service. Thank you.

The next [NDCT prayer breakfast](#) is Saturday 11th April 8.30am at the URC. All welcome

Meet the Cousins

On July 13th 2014 we were invited by the Wirral Circuit to 'Meet the Cousins'. We took up the invitation. We'd earlier heard people mention TPG, which we found meant Trinity with Palm Grove. We saw from the leaflet that Blair Kirby was preaching, and found online where it was.

As you would expect, we were warmly welcomed. Most of the service was familiar, but we notice a few interesting differences. The Bible was carried in with ceremony, and we stood for the reading from the Gospel. It was a communion service, and the bread and wine was brought to us in our pews. A nice touch was to thank those who had provided the flower arrangements, and why: maybe that is something we could do, as we have lovely flowers each Sunday, but we don't acknowledge who has brought them. During coffee after the service, we seemed to be greeted by almost everybody there. TPG is housed in a traditional Presbyterian building, and was formed in 1977 from Trinity United Reformed church and Palm Grove Methodist church. If 'Meet the Cousins' is organised again in 2015, we can recommend the experience.

Eileen and Rob Ward

NDCT Open the Book

Here is a photo from the group I am in. Theme was Baptism of Jesus, I was John the Baptist, Jill Woolfgang Jesus, Rev Cathy Helm introduced, Nigel & Janey Griffiths were narrator & props. Both groups are enjoying dressing up & taking assemblies & each going into 2 Primary schools once a month. Latest stories were The Boy in the Temple, Baptism of Jesus and Easter A Dreadful Day & A Happy Day. After Easter we are doing the story of Joseph. More volunteers welcome!

Margaret Heibel



The Welcome Café

Fridays, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Neston Methodist Church &
Community Hall

The Welcome Café provides cakes, pies, desserts as well as “light bites” including freshly made sandwiches, toast, and a variety of fillings for baked potatoes. Tea, coffee and hot chocolate are also served by our team of Volunteers.

We continue to issue our own “Food Vouchers” which are available from local Foodbank Distribution Points, as a way of helping local people in need. On March 6th, Margaret Heibel a regular Volunteer Staff member held a Fairtrade Table to promote goods and information as part of our Church’s commitment to Fairtrade.

Our “Pastoring” team of Rev Marcus Torchon (NMC), Mark Thomas (LNMC) and Len Sloan (NCF) continue being available to call upon customers with a view to offering pastoral care if so desired.

We would like to thank all those who supplied the Café with home baked cakes, pies, desserts, as well as donated books and goods for the Sales Table, as well as many donations through Bernie from the former Thingwall Methodist Church.

As our name says, everyone is Welcome to call in on Friday mornings to meet and make friends – why not come along and join us!

Neston Methodist Church & Community Centre website

<http://www.nestonmethodist.org.uk/>

Find out what's happening at Neston Methodist Church - take a look at our website.

All the latest news & events

Church services and preaching plans

Bookings, information etc



Prayer for Increased worshippers at Neston Methodist Church:



Father God, we want to give thanks for your son Jesus whom you sent to save us from our sins, and re-conciliate us with you. Help us O Lord, to increase our members at Neston Methodist Church so that we can continue to worship you here in our local church, and to spread your gospel through Neston and the local community. Amen.

**Unified by Love & Hope – JESUS WELCOMES ALL –
Worship Him here together.**

The Prayer Tree

(In the Porch leading to the Foyer entrance)

Jesus said “I am the vine, you are the branches. Without me you can do nothing. If you love me and follow my teachings you can ask for anything and it will be given to you. Remain in my love” (based on John 15).

Would you like to leave a Prayer – **Write your prayer on a “Leaf” or “Fruit” and then hang it on the tree.**

The Prayer could be for:

Praising God

Thanking God

Asking God for help

Saying sorry, or asking for forgiveness

Praying for peace

Other request



On Sunday mornings, during Worship Services, the Prayer Tree is taken into the Church, and a Worship Leader/Steward will recite each Prayer.

New Tea Pot room carpet

New carpet and offcuts from the Hall vinyl flooring was laid on Thursday 19th February 2015 to replace the old worn out flooring in the Tea Pot room of the Neston Methodist Church & Community Centre. The total cost was £897.

We would like to thank all those who generously granted funds to the project:

Adactus Housing Neighbourhood Fund
Grant £500

Neston Town Council grant £247

And individuals and Community user groups who contributed to the fundraising:

Afternoon Tea fundraiser held on
Neston Ladies Day, Thursday 5th June
2014 raised £149.16

And a special thank you to Dave Carter who as Property Steward oversaw the whole project.

The new flooring is very attractive to regular user groups including :

Tea Pot Club

Neston Pensioner Club

Yoga classes

The newly formed Church Mice, and of course our
Sunday Morning Coffees!



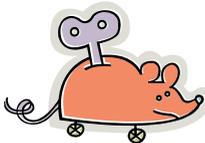
If you are interested in making a booking please visit the Community Rooms booking page

http://www.nestonmethodist.org.uk/room_bookings.html

Wirral Circuit News

A number of meetings and conversations have taken place over the last few months regarding the “Road Map” due to take effect from September 2015. At least four Options have been considered, including Option C: from the Ministerial Staff which would group Heswall, Neston, Little Neston and Willaston.

Discussions and meetings are ongoing. The Options Paper is due out in mid-April, and an Extraordinary Circuit Meeting to vote on options and adopt is set for 29th April 2015. Please check the Wirral Circuit cork board on the inside of the Church entrance doors for latest information.



Church Mice at Neston

An exciting new venture **opened on Thursday, 5th March 2015 at Neston Methodist Church** for Babies & Toddlers and their Carers.

Mums, Dads, Grandparents or Carers are invited to bring along their under 5's to a weekly half hour session, **held in the Church on Thursdays** during term time, from 9.30 am – 10 am.

Search for the knitted mice “hidden” in the church

Sing-a-long session

Craft/Activity – all inclusive for parent/carer assisting

Bible Story – short message

Chocolate Mouse – for each child at end the session.

Then from 10 am – 10.30 am, they are invited into the Tea Pot Room for light refreshments – cold drink, tea, coffee, toast – and a time to chat and make friends. A small donation of £2.00 per family towards crafts and refreshments can be made.

The Neston Church Mice Team is led by Emma Pugh, the Wirral Methodist Circuit Children's Worker. The Volunteer Team include Rev Marcus, Margaret H, and Trish from NMC and Gill from NCF. Emma will be with us until around June/July when a new Leader will be sought. We thank all those who have been knitting away, especially Nita, and the Knit n' Natter group at Little Neston MC. We thank also Bernie, from the former Thingwall MC for generously donating toys, chairs, and other items required.

If you would like to help in any way, please get in touch with one of the Team.

Please pray that the group will grow and nurture, and help spread the love of Jesus throughout our own community and at our church here at Neston Methodist.





Music Book Thanks from Moreton Methodist Church

A total of 66 hymn books, including praise and carol singing were donated on Friday 9th January 2015 from Moreton Methodist Church. It is hoped that this will supplement our Singing the Faith, Hymns & Psalms, and Mission Praise collections.

Community Activities Taking Place on the Premises

The Welcome Café – Fri mornings – in the Hall

Tea Pot Club – Mon and Wed mornings – in the Tea Pot

Age UK Office – Mon, Tues, Wed mornings – Community office

Adult Hatha Yoga Group – Mon evenings – in the Hall

Pregnancy Yoga – Tues evenings - in the Tea Pot

Keep Fit – for over 50s – Mon & Wed afternoons - Hall

Weight Watchers – Tues evenings - Hall

Neston Pensioners – Fri afternoon – in the Tea Pot

Hip n Harmony – Wed evening - Hall

Neston Community Cyber Centre – Mon-Fri

Ellesmere Port Christian Fellowship – Sun afternoon & Wed evening – in the Church

Methodist Live at Homes - various – own office

Foodbank Collection Point – leave donation in Foyer boxes

For details of any of the above, see information posters etc in the Porch and Foyer, and the Church website.

Neston Foodbank

A new report ‘Cheshire Hunger’ understanding emergency food provision in West Cheshire has just been published & sent to Churches. (Neston Methodist’s book is pinned to the wall by the Foodbank Collection box together with a summary). The book is a detailed study of reasons why people turn to Foodbanks. The research pioneered a new data collection method for Trussel Trust Foodbanks combining detailed statistical analysis with personal narrative.

Rev Christine Jones, Chair of Trustees at West Cheshire Foodbank, said ‘whatever the reason for emergency food use, any hunger is unacceptable & we are concerned that there is a level of need which is being systematically ignored. We are calling on the Government to publicly accept that food poverty is a growing problem & to take responsibility for protecting the poorest people in society’

Key findings are

*that the demands for charitable emergency food has grown rapidly over the last 2 years

*correlation between deprivation of a ward & foodbank referrals

*problems with benefits accounted for almost half of all referrals

*issues relating to low, insecure income & debt were also hugely significant reasons.

The report recommends 7 actions to reduce the need for emergency food (see p32).

Margaret Heibel.

‘ NDCT will be holding a hustings when the candidates for this constituency for the **general election** will answer questions. This will be in the town hall on April 10th at 7-30. If you would like to submit a question speak to Ed or look at the details given on the poster in the hall.’

Poster in hall: **Journey of the Cross**, Holy Week at St Luke’s Methodist in Hoylake. More info and times on poster.

Poster in hall: **Hope Journey Conference** Saturday 18th April at Trinity Methodist Ellesmere Port 1- 4 p.m.

Poster in hall **John Bell** from the Iona Community speaking at Kelsall Methodist Church. Saturday 18th April 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Women's World Day of Prayer

We shared two wonderful services on Friday, 6th March. Compiled by the Christian Women of The Bahamas, the warmth and colour of both occasions brought us a little taster of the tropical weather enjoyed by these beautiful islands. There were lovely refreshments with a Caribbean flavour after each of the services.

It was wonderful to think that we were taking part in the largest international and interdenominational 24 hour wave of prayer. Awesome to realise how the love of our Lord Jesus was being celebrated in this very special way by all our Christian sisters and brothers worldwide. And that's not all! The Offering made at each service in this country is allocated in grants and donations to specifically Christian projects and organisations around the world.

Last year, donations amounting to £248,815 were made to 50 recipients listed at the back of the service leaflet.

The total Offering this year from our two services was £527.53.

Next year it will be the turn of Cuba to compile the service – it's a real treat every year to learn more about the country involved, and meet the Christians there through their worship, so Neston WWDP Committee hope you join us again on the first Friday in March next year. Thank you for your support.

Thanks to Lynne Vaughan.

Readers from all the local churches took part in the services. In the afternoon service at St Winefride's Roman Catholic Church; and in the evening at Parkgate & Neston United Reformed Church. Pictured.



Fairtrade Fortnight

Picture of the Fairtrade stall at Neston Methodist Church Welcome Cafe held during Fairtrade fortnight. The theme was celebrating 20 years of the Fairtrade Mark & encouraging shops to stock more & people to buy more Fairtrade items as this makes a huge difference to the producers who can have a regular income & invest in health, education & improving their farms. Margaret Heibel



Musical Instruments wanted for Church Mice at Neston

Our Church Mice like to sing and play their instruments! Do you have any toy instruments that Shake, Rattle, Bang, Ring, to help them make a joyful noise? There is a Donation Box in the Porch/Foyer of Neston Methodist Church where items can be left – we are very grateful to all those who have supported this group and greatly encouraged through your prayers. Squeek Squeek (That is Church Mice saying Thank you!)



The Cross

The Home Group at Neston attached to Wirral Christian Centre are hosting the Billy Graham film **The Cross** on Tuesday 7th April at 7.30. They are using Neston Community and Youth Centre in Burton Road. It would be so good if other churches could use this evening and bring friends and thereby maximise the impact on Neston.



Obituary

Peter Williams 1927-2015

Peter died on 3rd March after a long struggle with illness. He was in the Weatherstones care home. The funeral was on March 8th and he was buried at the Mayfields Woodland Remembrance Park in Eastham.

Peter was born in Swindon which was a big railway town where most people worked for G.W.R. It was here that his lifelong love of trains developed. He was called up for national service and rose to the rank of sergeant and he served in Palestine. Peter later on worked for Vauxhalls and he and his first wife Lillian moved to Ellesmere Port. A number of years later Lillian unexpectedly passed away after an operation. Peter returned to Trinity Methodist Church which had offered him so much support where he later became a steward. Fran was a lifelong member of the church and over the months friendship developed and it was obvious to all around them that they loved each other. They were married by Gilbert Braithwaite about thirty years ago. Later they moved to the bungalow in Waterford Drive and they did a lot of work to restore the bungalow and garden. At Little Neston we remember the snow drop coffee mornings held there. We could admire the beautiful garden they had created. Peter's practical skills also helped the church when he made a noticeboard.

Please remember Frances and family in your prayers.

Ed Hilditch

Funeral Services

20th February 2015 - Kathleen Cornforth (mother of Dorothy Waller) Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington.

8th March 2015 - Peter Williams Mayfields Woodland Memorial Park, Eastham.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to two of our friends who received awards at the University of Chester's Graduation Ceremony, held in Chester Cathedral on Friday 20 March. They were Jen Thomas - Mark's wife - who received her Masters Degree in Clinical Counselling and Sylvia Torchon who was awarded a Postgraduate Diploma by the Faculty of Health & Social Care. **Well Done!**

Resurrection

The snowdrops raise their gentle heads
From winter's dark and cosy bed.
The daffodils, bedecked with gold
Stand in their glory, brave and bold.
Tulip, like bright sentinels,
Emerge from leaves so green and tall.
Buds peep through in a tree's caress,
Song birds toil long, to build their nests.
Telling all creatures everywhere
That Winters past and spring is here.
Wake from your wintry sleep so long,
Welcome the spring, with joy and song.
Our Lord was nailed to a cross of wood,
His punishment for doing good,
And in a tomb His body lain.
For all our sins he took the blame.
On the third day he rose again,
From death our Lord had loosed the chains.
At the wondrous season of new birth,
When new life springs from all the earth,
Oh Lord my faith and zest renew,
May love for thee be honest, true.
And though my heart be a stony bed
whereon to lay thy bruised head.
Through faith, help me the soil to till
That fruit may blossom at Thy Will
May all my days be Easter days,
Filled with thy love, and joy and praise.
To Christ's rebirth my soul awake!
Blot out my sins for Jesu's sake.
Lord give me faith, I sorely pray
To really know 'tis Easter day.
Gladys Elizabeth Boynett (sister of Marjorie Gooding)

Welcome to Easter Services @ Little Neston Methodist

Palm Sunday 29th March

10.30 a.m. Reverend Lily Twist.

Monday, 30th March

Lent Soup Lunch at 12.30 pm in the Tea Pot room at Neston Methodist Church.

Easter Day 5th April

8.30 a.m. Easter Communion led by Reverend Marcus Torchon.

10.30 a.m. - Mrs Pat Jones.



Sunday 12th April

10.30 a.m. Mr Mark Thomas.

Welcome to Easter Services @ Neston Methodist

Palm Sunday 29th March

10.45 a.m. Mr Roger Staines.

Monday, 30th March

Lent Soup Lunch at 12.30 pm in the Tea Pot room. Please see Margaret H, or Dave for details.

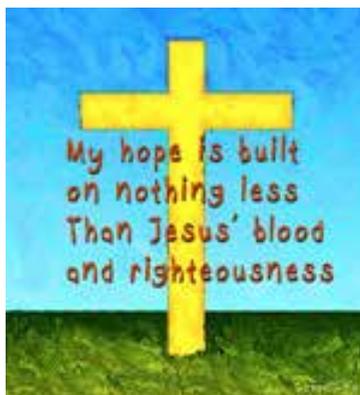
Easter Day 5th April

8.30 a.m. Easter Communion led by Reverend Marcus Torchon. At Little Neston.

10.45 a.m. Mr Ian Jackson.

Sunday 12th April

10.45 a.m. Rev. Marcus Torchon Holy Communion.



Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter, thanks to Trish Carter for the Neston content. Peter