

Window on the Moor



July/August 2020

Welcome

Hello, from my conservatory.

I have managed to move to a table in the conservatory, which has been rather warm over the last few days but it's ok now as it has cooled down. Hopefully by the next magazine I will be able to return to the office in the church.

There will be some news about the re-opening of the church over the next few weeks, I will keep you posted via the notice sheet. I hope you have enjoyed reading the notice sheets and reflections over the last few weeks.

There is no letter from the minister in this magazine, instead we have drawings from the Manse.

I want to pass on my thanks for all the messages of support I have received in relation to the notices and reflections I have been sending out. Even though I haven't seen many of you I am feeling all your love and prayers reaching me.

Enjoy! The Editorial Team, Sharon and Garry

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Drawings from the Manse

On Sunday, May 3rd there was a post shared to <http://thepattas.blogspot.com/> called Faith from a Child's Pencil: Jesus the gate for sheep. It showed a drawing that Jaiho Patta had done in response to Jesus's saying, "I am the gate for the sheep" John 10:7 that his father our minister Raj had shared with him and his brother Jubi .

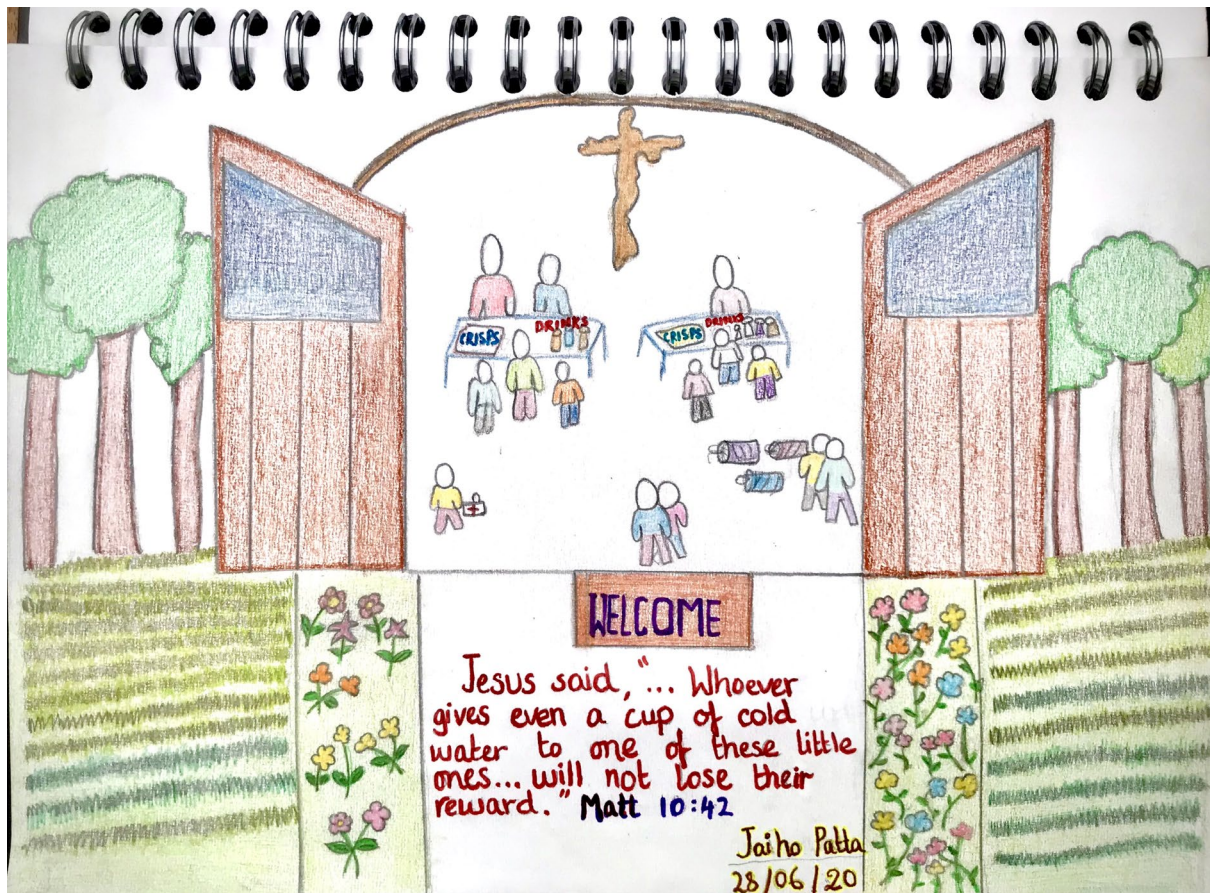
Faith from a Child's Pencil: Jesus the gate for the sheep



Shared with my boys about Jesus' saying, "I am the gate for the sheep" John 10: 7. Here is their reflection with their pencil. The shepherd Jesus sleeping as a gate for the sheep. Hope you have found that sheep of all colour are in Jesus' sheepfold. I think this drawing speaks more powerfully than more words can do. Thank you my boys for inspiring and teaching us. Who said children can't do theology?

Through out lockdown Jaiho has continued drawing the faith, in response to readings shared with him and in response to events that have taken place. One such drawing is on the front cover of the magazine. This drawing was done after hearing Matthew 10: 40-42 .

The drawing reflects welcome as offering hospitality to people with needs, particularly with little acts of love which include offering crisps and drinks, first aid, sleeping bags. When asked what is the message he conveys through this drawing, Jaiho says, when opening the doors of the church make sure to welcome those people in need.



I have enjoyed seeing Jaiho's drawings and reflection on passages and events he has discussed with Raj, that I thought it would be great to share them all with you.

They are all in the magazine between the articles, enjoy.

Sharon

We learned recently about the sad loss of Jim and Barbara Lowe's son, Paul. Please read the following article that appeared in the Southport and Formby 'Champion' newspaper, which gives a lovely tribute to Paul and his dedication as a volunteer.



Foodbank is given £28,000 donation as a legacy to a 'dedicated' volunteer

by Danielle Thompson (May 2020)

SKELMERSDALE'S Trussell Trust Foodbank have been given a £28,000 donation from a bank chain to help it through the coronavirus pandemic – in memory of a dedicated volunteer. The Co-operative Bank has worked with its trustee partners of historic special purpose entities to make the donation to the foodbank, which operates in the community around one of the Bank's main offices. It was recommended by Co-operative Bank employees to receive the funds as colleagues have been volunteering at the foodbank for a number of years, seeing the good work and the vital service in action. Colleagues also regularly collect items for donation to the initiative that provides a lifeline for those struggling to afford food and essentials in the area.

The Trussell Trust food bank in Skelmersdale has a special relationship with Bank colleagues following the passing of Paul Lowe, a bank colleague who was dedicated to supporting the Skelmersdale Food Bank at every opportunity. Paul is much missed by Bank colleagues and the Food Bank volunteers.

Tim Bleazard, Skelmersdale and District Foodbank Project Manager said: "It is simply a staggering amount of money, and a wonderful tribute to Paul.

"As a charity run predominantly by volunteers, we rely on generosity to operate. Generosity of time from our volunteers, and generosity of food and of money by the public and local businesses.

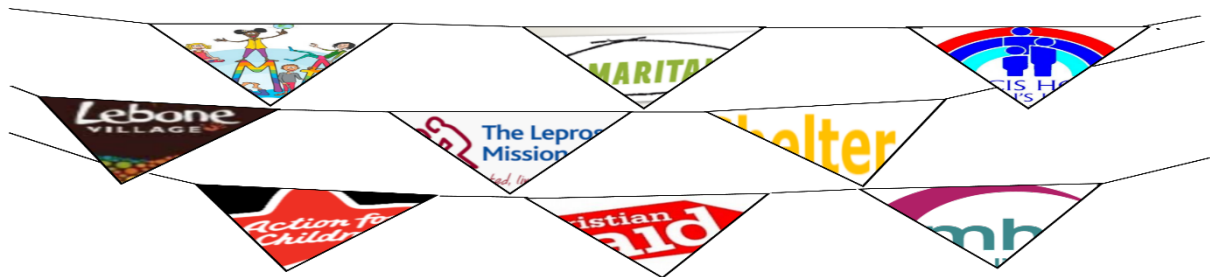
"This amount of money will enable us to plan forward in a way that is rarely experienced. Our aim is to be resilient to all challenges, and sustainable through all circumstances, so that we can continue to provide emergency food parcels to people most in need, now and in the

future. Through this amazing donation we will be able to think big and aim high.

“Paul came to the Foodbank in 2016 and even though he worked full time at the Co-operative Bank he dedicated a lot of his own time to the Foodbank. He was also a very active member of the Steering Group. He came into foodbank even when he was on annual leave from work and took annual leave to work the full day at the Tesco collection each year.

“Paul was a good friend to Skelmersdale and District Foodbank and a loyal servant to the people of Skelmersdale. His legacy will live on. Thank you, Paul, and thank you Co-operative Bank.”

Andrew Bester, Chief Executive Officer at The Co-operative Bank said; “We are grateful to have the opportunity to select the Trussell Trust’s Skelmersdale branch as a charity to receive these funds, and in doing so, we can help to make a difference to those that vitally need it. Giving funds to the Food Bank in Skelmersdale means a great deal to us, not only as it is the community one of our offices’ is part of, but also as a tribute to the commitment of our colleague Paul and the relationship he built between us and this essential service.”



Gift Day for the Church Charities

We have raised £2000!

(including Gift Aid)

Normally we would thank the washer uppers, cake bakers, gift donators, bucket holders & attenders for all their hard work in raising such an amazing sum, so which ever hat you wear at events we hold, a great big THANK YOU for raising this money in a virtual way.

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

Drawing the faith: My vision of a church @Pentecost 2020



In response to the Pentecost story of birthing a new church, Jai ho, in this drawing expresses his vision of a church for today, picking the verse from Acts 2:17, "...your young people will see visions." Jai ho says, "My dream of a church today is a church in an open space where it does not need to be contained in a building but is open to every one in the entire creation. Church for me is a place of healing, feeding, fun, friendship and listening. In the open hands of Holy Spirit church happens, where Jesus rides the boat."

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

Drawing the Faith - Trinity on their knees



Jai ho in response to Jesus' final words to his disciples (Matthew 28:18-20) "go and make disciples of all nations(ethnicities)" has drawn the Trinitarian God kneeling on the road in solidarity with #Blacklivesmatter joining all those people demanding racial justice. Jai ho says, "Trinity is one God in three reflections."

ACTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND POLLUTION (AMONGST OTHER THINGS)

We are all told almost daily of the detrimental effect some of our actions are having on our planet.

We are being encouraged to think carefully, about our actions, and some of us joined in with the young people's strike action in the centre of Manchester.

Not all of us were able to go. Here are some actions we might be able to undertake instead:

Firstly, the laundry:
I use Soap Nut shells.



They are available from The Natural Gardener website.

They seem expensive, £9.95 per kilo, but a bag lasts for ages. You put a few of them (3 – 5) in a linen bag (supplied) in the washing machine drum. You can use them 3 times and then compost them. They are organic, sustainable, biodegradable, hypoallergenic and economical. (I'm not on commission, honest!)

There are several search engines which do a variety of good things in small doses

Everyclick or **Give as you Live** (they are linked): Each search raises a bit of money and purchases made through the website by companies who donate (they have a little icon and a line saying how much they donate) and they raise variable amounts of money. Some give 4%, some 0.25%. Over the years I have raised over £543. The default charity is Christian Aid, but any registered charity can be supported, and I support a Methodist Charity, All We Can.

I use this website for purchases and to get to the next, which is:

Ecosia.

This one plants trees, and so far, has planted almost 68 million.

The Websites I click on are:

- **Plant trees Land Care Niagara** (go down to the bottom of the home page)
- **Naturavet.se** (click on the brown 'wooden' button – I click until the number increases by .10 or more.
- **Click for the earth, brother earth** (offers a choice of projects to choose from)
- **Ecology fund.com** (3 buttons to click – if you register, they donate 500 sq ft of rainforest)
- **Cannecy click to plant oaks**
- **Free the ocean** – answer 1 question (doesn't matter if you answer correctly or not) and that removes 1 piece of plastic from the ocean. You can register to see your total, and there is an overall totaliser.
- **Click to donate – clicks 4 charities** (go down the centre of the page and you'll find **Shop for your Cause bonus click Click to Donate**– I click on 17 of them. and
- **Greatergood.com** – 10 projects to click on

It sounds a lot, but it doesn't take long.

There is one more, which is **Beta freerice**, which donates grains of rice to the World Food Bank for every question correctly answered. This is a new site (was formerly Give Rice for Free) and can be a little erratic.

See how you get on!

Enjoy!!!

Rev Lindsay Kemp

A message from Ian Shore

On May 31st 2019, after nearly 30 years of service, I retired from the Police force. I joined the General Medical Council as an Investigation officer, 3 days later in June.

As a Police officer, I'd faced many emotionally challenging situations. My last 10 years was as Detective in the Major Incident Team dealing with murders on a regular basis. Generally, I coped well with emotional trauma.

However, in July 2019 we received the devastating news that our daughter Lily (aged 20) had been diagnosed with cancer in the form of Hodgkin's Lymphoma. This was like nothing I had ever experienced. When you hear that C word, you go into what I termed emotional panic overdrive. Your mind races ahead, devoid of facts, and not to a good place. I think it's fair to say I was a bit of a mess.

The first 6 weeks were awful. We didn't have full information, the relevant departments didn't seem to have a grip, and we didn't have a treatment plan.

Once we got to the Christie Hospital in Withington, things changed. We got the plan and were assured that they knew what they were doing. I think the term was "It's our bread and butter".

Lily received chemotherapy for 6 months. It seems Hodgkin's



Lymphoma is a very aggressive cancer, but it responds very well to treatment. We count ourselves very lucky in that respect.

In March this year we received the wonderful news that Lily had gone into remission.

She now has a 5-year care plan with checks that are every 3 months for the first year.

I can't thank the Christie and staff enough for her treatment.

Lily also received a lot of prayer, and I'm so grateful in that respect. Thank you to everyone for your prayers of support and healing.

I decided that I'd like to do some form of physical challenge to raise money for a truly wonderful organisation. I've always liked the idea of Triathlon, having done a short one in my early thirties. I've always loved swimming and cycling but I don't like running. I always saw it as just a necessary evil that I did to keep fit for my role as a Police officer, and I'm not good at it.

I needed something to challenge me and to make it worthwhile, so I thought why not Ironman? The distance I'm going to be completing is a 1.2mile sea swim, 56mile cycle ride, then run a half marathon (13.1 miles). To count, it all has to be

done in under 8.5 hours, and there are cut off times along the way that you must reach. I'm now 56 years old and creaking at the joints and seams. It is quite a challenge and training does take up a lot of time.



I'm entered in an event at Weymouth in Dorset on 20/09/2020. I have decided that if the event is cancelled due to Covid19, I am going to do it anyway, probably socially distanced in the Lake district.

I set myself a target of raising £5000. Currently I'm just over the £2000 mark at 41% of target. People have been really generous and it's very humbling. I would love to reach the target.

I have a just giving page and a Facebook group where you can check on my progress. If you would like to donate or just have a look at how I'm doing in training and the event, the details are below. All money goes direct to the Christie, who are linked to the Just Giving page. Thank You.

One way or another cancer **will** affect all of us in our lifetime.

Just Giving:

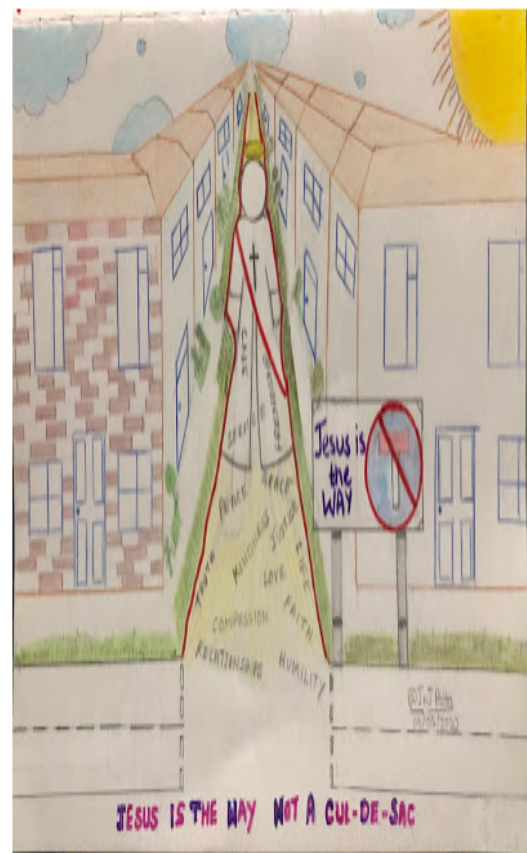
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ian-shore-ironman70-3>

Facebook:

https://m.facebook.com/groups/208419803664468/?ref=group_b

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020

Drawing the Faith: Jesus is the way and not a cul-de-sac



Jubi and Jai ho the artists have drawn the faith in Jesus based on the text John 14:1-6, where Jesus said, "I am the the way, the truth and the life." Jesus is the way and not a cul-de-sac, not a dead end, but a way open to all irrespective of their identity. There is a free flow of grace in this Jesus the way. Jesus the way is full of truth, life, peace, compassion, justice, relationships, friendships, love, faith, humility, service, care, which is open ended. Jesus is the way and not a cul-de-sac. Drawing the faith for faith draws.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020

Drawing the Faith - Sarah Laughs

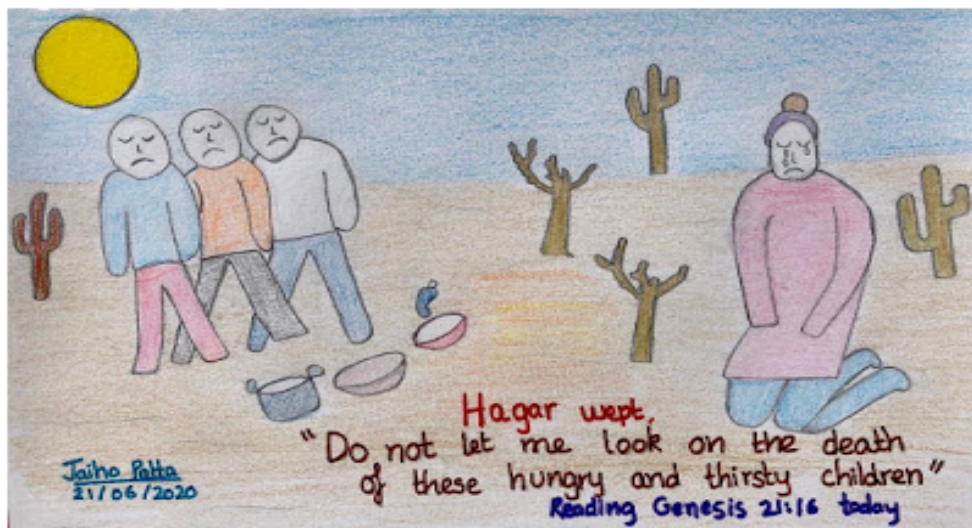


Jai ho explains, "On a hot day when Trinity appeared as three strangers, Abraham received and hosted a dinner to them. On hearing that Sarah shall have a son at her old age, Sarah laughed out loud,"

When asked what is the message you give through this drawing, Jai ho replies, "It's ok to laugh, and God loves those who express their faith through laughter."

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020

Drawing the Faith - Hagar weeps for thirsty and hungry children



Jaiho in response to the story of Hagar weeping and lamenting when her son Ishmael was dying of thirst from Genesis 21: 8-21, has done this drawing. When asked what is the message you want to convey through this drawing, he said, "Hagar is weeping today and praying not to see the death of children in their hunger and thirst, and so we need to care for these children and should be there whenever people need help."

A poem from Alan Shore (based on recent exploits!)



Hospitalisation (Part 1)

As I lie here on my hospital bed,
Lots of bizarre thoughts fill my head,
I'm tired of course, not had much sleep,
Through the curtain slats the sun starts to peep.
I had my op, they say that went well, the new ball is mine,
I've mastered the Zimmer and crutches are fine,
But I can't say I like the free extras not signed up for by me,
Vesuvius bowels and magenta coloured wee.

It's 7 am and the night shift is going away,
Dark faces of the night morph into friendly faces of day,
The kindly Jenny is a welcome sight to gaze,
She remembers me from the Prostate days.
The Zimmer has just been taken away,
Crutches now are here to stay,
Physio has been and given me grief, as good physios do,
Now a card has arrived in a tardy post,
From people I value quite the most,
True friends are friends that are there for life,
And I thank God for them, my family and my lovely wife.

Hospitalisation (Part 2)

I have just spent some time in the Theatre of Pain,
I learned many things there, including not doing it again,
The sounds of night when you just cannot sleep,
The things you don't want to see as over the blankets you peep,
The man in the next bed assaulting his nurse,
She was just trying to help, not make him worse,
You can't get out of bed, so can only press the alarm,
Staff are round quickly, to limit any harm.
Swear at me if it will help, she said, but I will not be hit.
But he didn't understand, he had not got the wit,
He was having a nightmare, lost in a huge fright.
Does this happen often, I asked her next night?
It happens she said, patients can be lost and confused,
They don't understand, they think they are being abused.



The staff are so caring, helpful and kind,
When they make up your bed for the second time in a day, they say they
don't mind,

For the protection of them and us they wear gowns and a mask,
Which can make it difficult to understand what they say or ask?
And when they are smiling, you cannot tell, but just watch their eyes,
True communication is full face we are told by the wise.

It was two in the morning and I was fast asleep,
But the nurses, they had an assignation to keep,
They pulled the curtains all round my bed,
And the light came on above my head,
What was it this time? More discomfort I'd be bound,
Carrying out tests on this bit and that to see if I was sound.

A treat for you now they said with a smile,
A bladder wash we will carry out, while,
You just lie there; don't curl up in a heap!
Then we will be gone, and for the rest of the night you can sleep.
I've had this before in the past and a treat it is not,
Certainly not something that I had forgot,
So, asking politely, nicely, meekly and lowly,
I wondered if perhaps, they might like to go slowly?
Why did they choose this time to come round?
Was it an instruction they had only just found?
Either way it wasn't a treat, but I suppose, it was OK,
And I didn't see them again until light of day.

Then when you are released, allowed to go home, you are masked up
and put into a chair,
And whisked away quickly to get you out of there.
The staff have become friends but you can't say good bye,
A wave from a distance is the best you can hope to apply.

The Home Backup service was simply superb, with nothing to lack,
A lady was waiting for me when in the ambulance I came back,
Another nurse came on plan the following day,
And a Doctor rang as agreed to keep me in play.

Back into the house and the first big thing which is alarming,
Just like skiing on a dry slope is not like the real thing,
Crutching on carpets was not covered in the tutorial,
Loose carpets slide and I panic, it feels really awful,
Health and Safety rules, they will all have to go,
And I can continue to stomp around to the rhythm of Queen
without any semblance of woe.

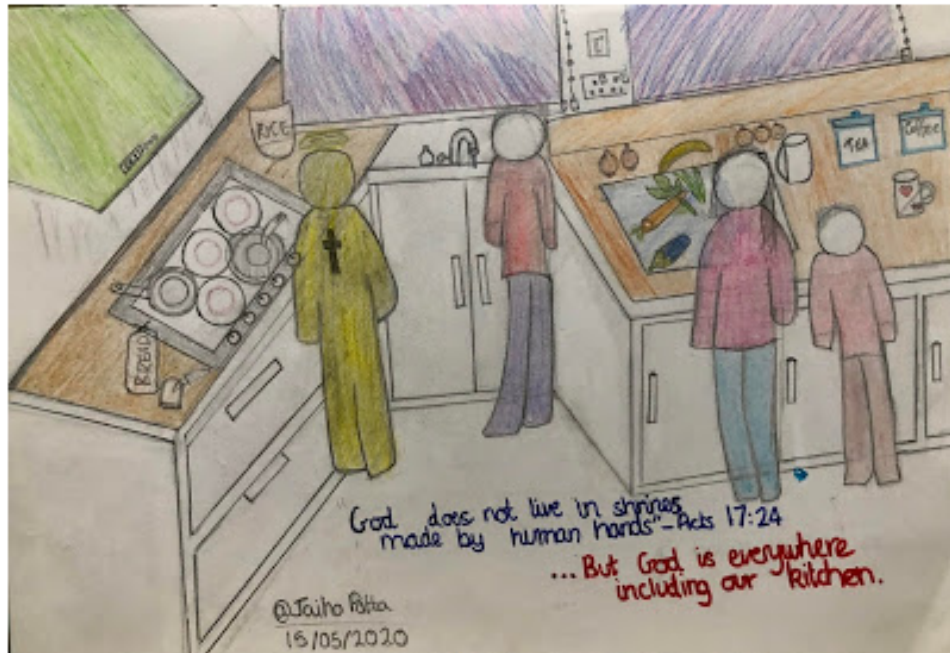


It's clear that the house has been tidy for nearly two weeks,
I know they are happy for me to be back, albeit with my odd
techniques,
But already I have made a mess, tablets and hospital letters abound,
So just sit there quietly and don't make a sound,
If I am not careful another ambulance trip could be the next big event,
And the numbers in shrouds I might just complement!

AS May 2020 v6

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

Drawing the Faith : God in Jesus Present at our Kitchen



Based on Acts 17:24, where Paul was speaking that God, the creator does not live in shrines made by human hands, the artist Jai ho presented that God in Jesus is present everywhere including our kitchen. This picture is not to domesticate Jesus at our kitchens but to affirm that God in Jesus during this lock down situations is very much present at our kitchens, along with the family members.

Cluster Groups

As reported in the March/April 'Window on the Moor' edition, there are now three *clusters* of Churches within the Stockport circuit. Our *cluster* is made up of Christ Church, Reddish, Edgeley Community Church (who under normal circumstances share services with St John's Church, Cheadle Heath) and our own Heaton Moor United Church. In the May/June edition you may remember we included an article on Christ Church.



This time it is the turn of **Edgeley Community Church**.

Liz Morrell, the Secretary, kindly agreed to tell us about her Church;

It was at Pentecost in 2008 that the congregation of Edgeley Road United Reformed Church walked up the hill, in a procession of witness led by 3 young people, to Edgeley Methodist Church to continue worship led by Revds. Stuart Radcliffe and Amanda Boon. As one of the pianists at the church, it was a poignant moment playing 3 verses of 'Moses I know you're the man' on the piano in the URC building and finishing it on the piano in the Methodist building. The URC building was finally

vacated on that day having been through a process of 'down-sizing' and had transported, what we needed to keep, up to our new worship space on the previous day.

This marked the beginning of a renewed journey as people of Edgeley Community Church, coming together in every sense of the word, under one roof. We'd travelled closer together for the previous couple of years, with regular meetings, shared worship and study groups and a clear vision of a non-conformist presence in Edgeley. There had always been links between the 2 congregations over many years through Churches Together in Edgeley and Cheadle Heath, but now we had a joint purpose ahead of us.

Of course, the meetings continued long after that special event, a constitution had to be agreed, finances shared and a joint congregation of people to be nurtured. For a while we were blessed with 2 Ministers, plus a student URC minister that was under the mentorship of Stuart. In these formative years of ECC, many changes took place, and we look back on it now as a time of fresh ideas, trying out new groups, grappling with 2 denominations, to name just a few of our challenges.

A period of review and reflection is healthy, and several groups no longer meet but others have sprung up in their place (and we're still trying to keep on top of the wealth of information from both denominations!)

Over 3 years ago the church took the decision to employ a Lay Worker, initially to work with



Children and Families. Hesitantly at first, but now well established in our Mission and outreach is Messy Church, Baby and Toddler Group, Make It Bake It and Mana Potion. Of course, COVID-19 has brought fresh challenges, particularly in trying to maintain contact with all the members of these outreach groups, as well as ensuring that Pastoral Care is continued amongst our congregation. Through IT, in the shape of WhatsApp, Facebook, Zoom, YouTube, good old Royal Mail and BT we've been able to keep in touch with our most vulnerable folk, building on all the links the church had made over the past few years and hopefully putting us in a strong position for when

we finally emerge from the current pandemic.

As a church we continue to evolve and modify in order to stay true to our purpose, and we've embraced the opportunity to work closer with St John's Methodist Church in Cheadle Heath. Up until lockdown, we'd worshipped together on one Sunday morning per month in alternate buildings, shared ideas as Leadership Teams from both churches and had a successful joint fundraiser last Christmas. Unfortunately, our planned Summer event is on hold but I'm sure that at some point it will take place, although at this rate, our Strawberry Tea might be replaced by a warming Hot Pot!

Liz Morrell

(Church Secretary)

Edgeley Community Church

Circuit News

It has been great to see a lot of you at the circuit Zoom service on a Sunday. Meeting lots of new people from across our existing circuit and from what will be the new circuit come September. To keep up to date with circuit news check their website:

<https://www.stockportcircuit.org.uk/>

Thursday 9th July 7pm 'Agape and Songs of Praise'

Another opportunity to share, eat and drink together in an act of spiritual communion. Please have your own bread

or Agape Cake (recipe overleaf) and a drink to hand. We will be listening to personal testimony again,

but this time through people's favourite hymns. If you have a favourite hymn you would like us to include, and you

would be willing to speak briefly during the service about why the hymn is important to you— please email me

cathy.bird@methodist.org.uk by Monday 6th July 5pm and let me know. We will then select some of the hymns and

let you know if yours has been chosen.

You can join all the above services via Zoom with a video link and see and hear everything and everyone else who is

participating, or you can join just with audio, or you can telephone in.

Login details for all forthcoming services are as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87212246881?pwd=VXpyMzRYV21UZ1ZoYlkrvc2R4dmV1QT09>

Meeting ID: 872 1224 6881 Password: 974333

A traditional Love Feast Cake Recipe Adapted from the Middlesmoor Lovefeast Bread used in the Yorkshire Dales at the time of John Wesley

- 1lb (400g) plain flour
- 1oz (25g) baking powder
- 5oz (125g) butter
- 8oz (200g) sugar
- 2oz (50g) mixed peel
- 4oz (100g) sultanas
- 2 eggs
- About half a pint (280ml) of milk

Mix the flour and baking powder together, rub in the butter, then add the sugar, sultanas and peel. Beat the eggs together with a little milk and add to the dry ingredients. Add the rest of the milk to make a soft consistency. Pour the mixture into two loaf tins or a large cake tin. Cook at 180°C (350°F) or gas mark 4 for at least 45 minutes for the loaf tins, or 1 hour for the large cake tin.



Obituary

Samuel Bigger 1931-2020

Sam was born on 5th October 1931 in Magherafelt, Northern Ireland. He was one of 10 children: 8 boys and 2 girls. They grew up on a farm and, as there was no running water, they all washed year round in the river at the bottom of the field. The boys often played cowboys. However, unlike most children, Sam and his brothers used real horses and real guns!

After leaving school Sam enrolled in the Enniskillen Fusiliers. Throughout his life he talked fondly of the British Army and was a very proud soldier, sharing stories of what army life was like for him. While stationed in Mombasa in Kenya, he managed to get attacked by baboons, camels and the Mau Mau and this was always because he didn't listen to advice given to him by his superiors!

As a soldier, Sam received letters from pen-pals. One of those was a young lady from Stockport called Audrey Jolly. They wrote to each other for a few years and one day ended up meeting. They were married in 1958 and settled in the Stockport area. Sam worked at Mellard and Coward, the bleach works. In 1963 Sam and Audrey had a baby girl called Marie who was, sadly, stillborn. Tracie came along in 1964 followed by Michele in 1969.

In the early 70s the family moved to Fullerton Road in Heaton Moor. They joined their local church, Heaton Moor Methodist Church. Sam attended every possible Sunday Service and regarded himself as the 'unofficial caretaker'. For many years he would act as steward at funerals and helped with the church cleaning. He was also a loyal member (and sometime treasurer) of the Men's Fellowship. At church fairs he would always be found serving behind the second-hand bookstall. Through the church he made many, many friends. Sam found love and peace within the church and developed a strong faith.

Sam was a keen gardener and turned part of the Fullerton Road garden into a mini allotment, filled with rows and rows of his beloved potatoes. The potatoes found their way onto the plate in many different forms: a Sam speciality. After Sam and Audrey moved to Wesley Court, Sam had an allotment at Priestnall. His love of gardening was passed onto his daughters and he was always quick to offer the best advice.

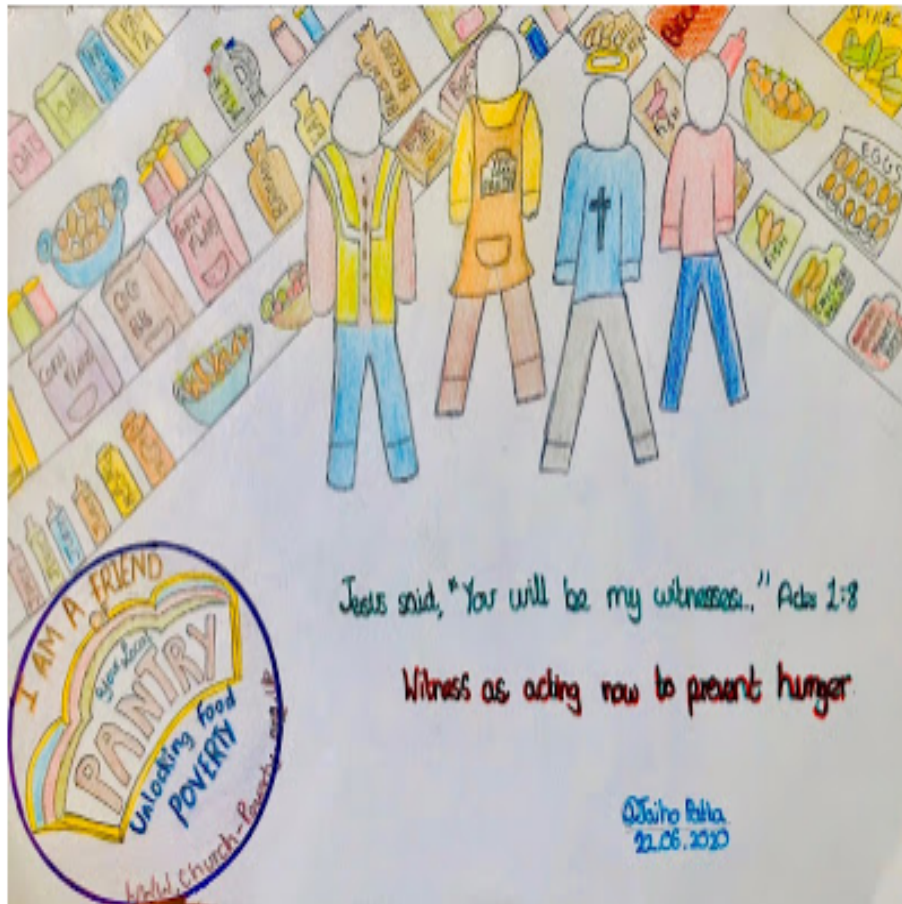
In 1988 Sam became a grandad for the first time when Kyle was born. Two years later Kelsey arrived and then Rainbow in 1995. Six months ago, his great granddaughter, Kady Rae, was born. Sam loved to hold her and found, in her, a partner for his favourite past-time – napping on the sofa!

Everyone who knew Sam remembers him as a lovely man – devoted to his family, to his church and to his God. Sadly Covid-19 played a part in his death and his name will be recorded in the Remember Me project co-ordinated by St Paul's Cathedral.

Deborah Symmons

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2020

Drawing the Faith: You Shall be my Witnesses (Acts 1:8)



As Jesus was ascended into heaven, he left his disciples saying, "You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8), so that we continue his mission and ministry with the collaboration of the Holy Spirit. Jai ho here depicts what does it mean to be witnesses of Jesus today. Having heard about "Your Local Pantry" project of the Church Action of Poverty, which is striving to unlock food poverty, by offering food to those people on lower incomes, Jai ho places such an initiative as witnessing Jesus today. We see Jesus in the Pantry joining with others in addressing food poverty. For more details on the Pantry scheme visit: <https://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/>. Also join and support Church Action on Poverty in addressing issues of poverty, for they have been on the mission of justice, and for more details visit: <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/>.