

WINDOW ON THE MOOR



APRIL/MAY 2021

Hi All

Hope you are all well. I am finally back in the Building after a year away. As the notice sheet is so informative now, I thought it would be nice to concentrate on one thing with the magazine.

This issue contains 2 letters I have received talking about the last years events.

I hope you enjoy looking back so we can then look forward!

Blessings

Sharon

Hello

Well what a year ,
thought I'd drop you a line to
let you know how I've been
getting on and also to let you
know that I've not forgotten
about you as I am sure you
haven't forgotten about me.
Just in case you haven't
realized who it is writing to
you, it's me the building or
Church as some of you call me !

I have witnessed many
changes this year. Be still in
the presence of the lord, one
of my favorite hymns, I hear
you sing so often. Stillness is
not something that has
happened over the last year.

So where to begin, there
I was being filled up with lots
of activities going on getting
ready for Easter 2020. Then
bam nothing.....it was so still
but I was alright, the stillness
didn't last for long. Julie the
cleaner was in most days.
Getting rid of dust balls from
areas that haven't been tickled
by the duster in soo long .

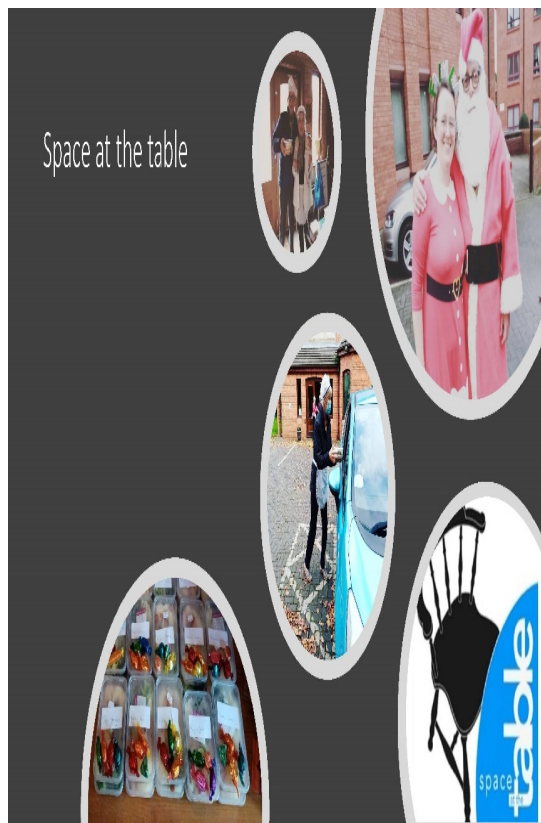
Then there were people
coming and going to collect
daffodils to hand out for

Mothering Sunday, it was great!
To see all those bunches of
yellow flowers . The clunking of
the photocopier was a weekly
event.....producing notices
for those that don't have that
internet thingy !

I'm struggling to
remember in the right order
the things that have happened
as there was so many coming
and goings that happened .
Unlike in the past they didn't
happen on the same days each
week. Best if I just tell you
what I can remember and if I
can who was doing it .

The lovely committee
from Friday afternoons came in
a few times, always with a
giggle and lots of chatter. I
think they came in to wrap
Christmas presents for all the
people that used to come on
Fridays. Then they started
hanging out in the foyer , with
the most lovely scent of home
cooked food wafting around
them .

Something about Space at
the Tableeven though there
was no table but they handed
food out for people to share as
if there was. In fact I was



Space at the table

woken one afternoon to Carols being played outside by some children from Priestnall School on Brass instruments. It was brass monkeys out there but they warmed my heart and lots of peoples hearts who were walking past too . That must have been when they handed out those presents that they had been wrapping.

One thing I was missing was babies and children giggles, didn't miss the crying though! However I didn't get much of a break from it though. After what seemed like lots of meetings where I was measured and discussions about how many could fit in my amble

measurements! They returned as long as they didn't mix with each other. In fact they were very well behaved they seemed to like the lights, the funny



lady dressed up singing and dancing. I know I did and it was good to hear their giggles. I think she worked for Baby Sensory. There was also dancing, some from Dance like a Mother, they carry the babies in a sling and have a good work out whilst doing it.



I've also learnt how to tap and a bit of ballet, well I've

watched someone recording classes for others to do in their homes. She couldn't do it at home as there wasn't enough space, also tap shoes on carpet aren't the same as on my floor!

All that measuring and cleaning also meant that people



could come and sit up stairs and have a quiet moment within the Worship area. At

first there was only a few allowed and there was no music or any thing else, just silence to pray and reflect. I felt very peaceful and thankful on those days that this happened. Eventually more were let in on a Sunday morning, all spaced out and no singing. But I had been lucky hearing the organ being played every Friday just to keep it fit! It was nice to share

it with others even if there was no singing.

Talking about music, there was a few times that I had the pleasure of listening to a beautiful trombone being played. An A level student at Cheethams had requested if he could come and record his exam piece in the worship area, apparently I have better acoustics than his front room! Who knewwell I'm sure you lot did but I had never given it much thought before.

One area that hasn't stayed tidy is the Ministers office, it's like a corner shop in there. Apparently it's food for local schools to ensure that no child goes hungry. Every few weeks it gets topped up and then parcels are made up and it all disappears .



Oh! I've just remembered



another thing that happened. It was really strange I kept hearing this buzzing noise, thought I might have a fly stuck up in the lantern of the worship area. No, it was a drone

taking pictures of my roof and the lantern outside. They have been very helpful for the property group to try and work out where the water is coming in.

My vision of the world has been blurred a bit when looking out the office and front door windows. They have been decorated with messages to the outside world.

So whilst you may not have been able to come and see me due to restrictions, I haven't been lonely, it has been good to feel useful and able to

help continue Gods work through community groups and initiatives that members of Church have done over the last year by allowing them to use me to provide the space to do these things.





Thank you for the new pictures up my stairs, I love the way that my window reflects in them, making me realise that we are linked all the time.



I have enjoyed looking at what has given you joy, during the year you haven't been able to visit so much.

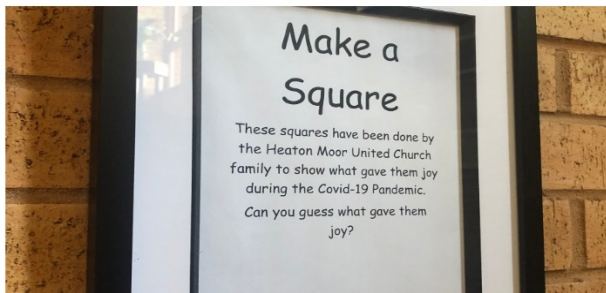


The range of your imagination of how to express what has given you joy has been amazing.

You really are a crafty lot, the stories behind what has given you joy has also given me joy.



The stories behind the pictures have been lovely. New members of your families being born and expanding your title from Grandparents to Great Grandparents!



Returning to playing the piano after many years of not having the time to do it, can you guess which picture shows this?



Starting a new hobby after receiving a cross stitch kit as a Christmas present and then sending in the completed

picture to share with you all, when you are ascending the stairs.

In fact a few of you have enjoyed using cross stitch to show what has given you joy.

Letters explaining what has given you joy.

Children's drawings have been lovely too.

Adults have also done some drawings to show joy.

Photographs, that have been sent you and ones which you have taken.

A few of you have enjoyed many things and done a collage to show this.

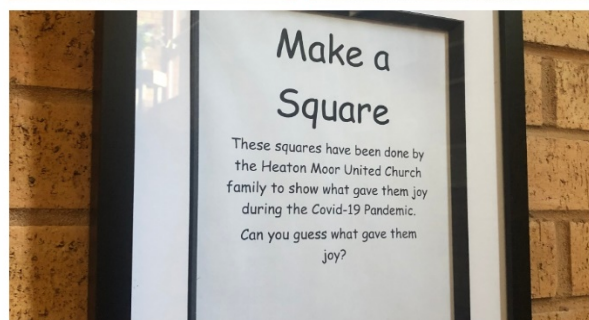
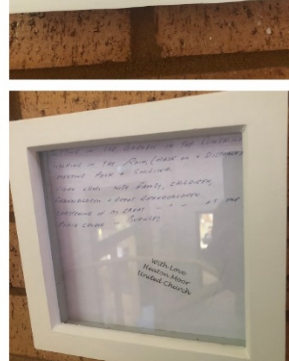
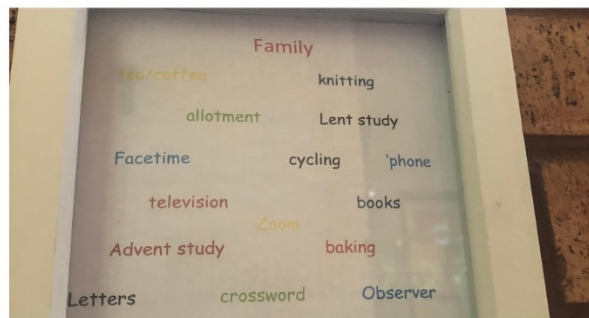
Even one of the groups that uses my hall has completed one and feels blessed to be a part of our family.

Don't worry if you haven't done one yet there is plenty of space to hang more, in fact I noticed some new ones waiting to be hung in the office after I wrote this!

I look forward to you seeing them and expanding the collection, when you return to more regular visits when you can sing, chatter and slurp tea.....

hopefully it won't be long.

See you all soon
The Building



Hello Building,

Thanks for your letter, I loved looking at your pictures and hearing that you have had a busy but different year from previous years.

It was lovely to see the Make a Square pictures and I love the way that they have been placed up the stairs going up to the Worship area.

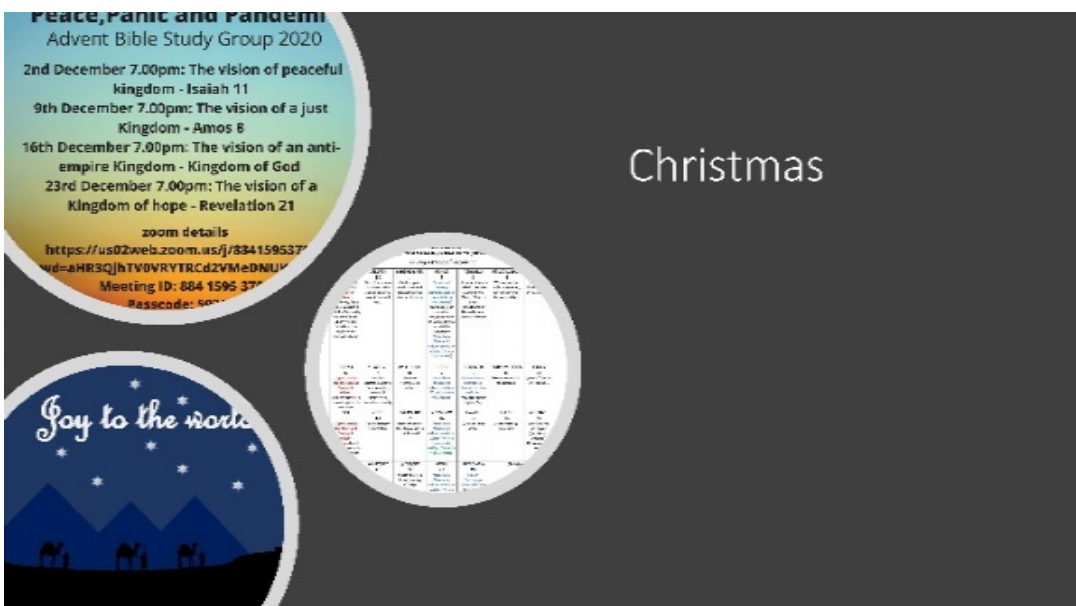
Just thought I'd let you know what we have been up to outside your walls over the last year, just so you know that Church has continued.

You mentioned all the food that was in the Minister's office,. That was for a project called School Pantry. Here is a picture of us handing it out. It was greatly received so much so that this will continue once we come back to see you.





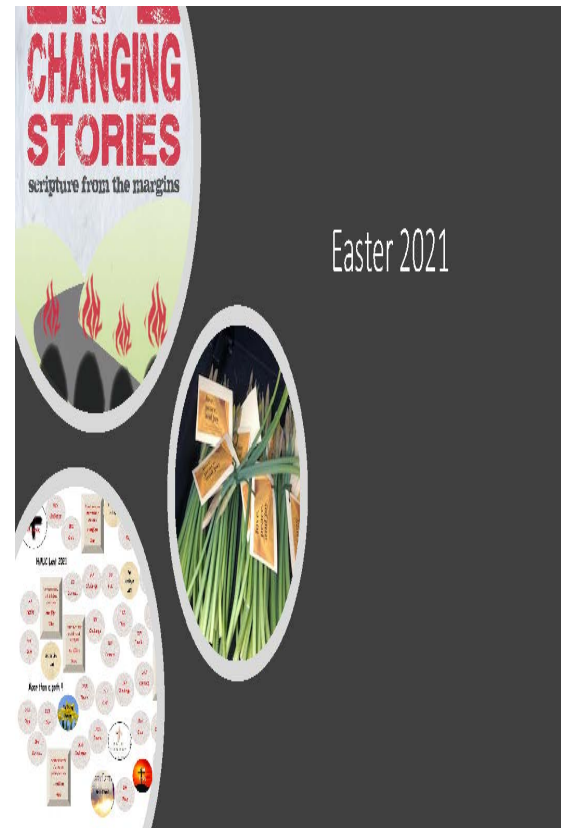
Whilst it was sad we haven't been able to meet, we have managed to still continue meeting through other ways. At Christmas we went to a drive in carol service and toured around Bethlehem via a zoom event. Christmas is such a busy time normally for us visiting you, however this year we still managed to celebrate Advent at home doing Moor than a Christmas ADVENTure and zoom advent study. We even had Wisemen wandering all over social media.



Easter, has been witnessed twice during this strange year. The first one we managed to hold at long of the things in the run up to, by visiting you.



However this year we only managed to join you in quiet reflection on Easter Sunday.



The usual stuff like meetings,



fund raising ,



and services have taken place over Zoom. We have been joining the Circuit for our services which has been good as we have met lots of new people from all over Stockport.

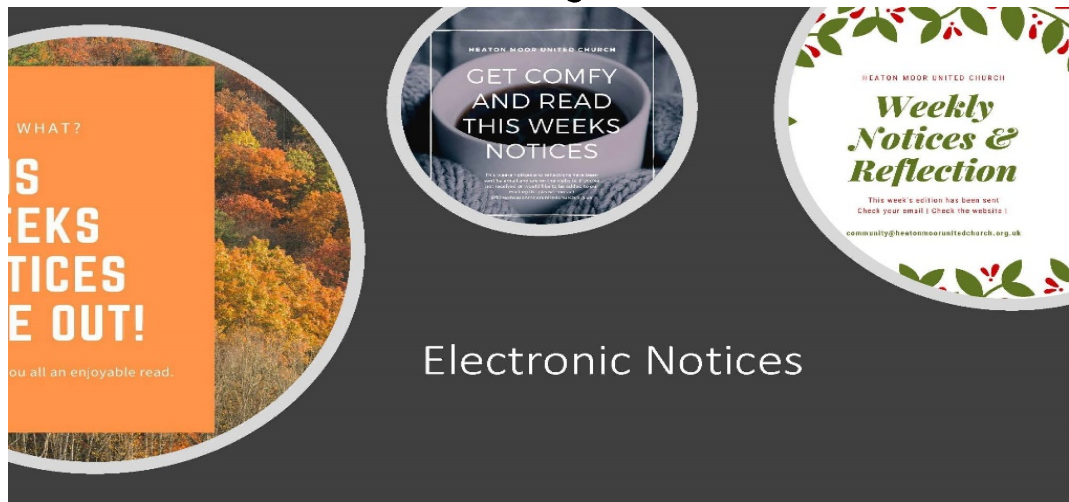


We have learnt how to use social media to get our messages across to everyone.

coffee mornings (in fact we now have an evening coffee!)

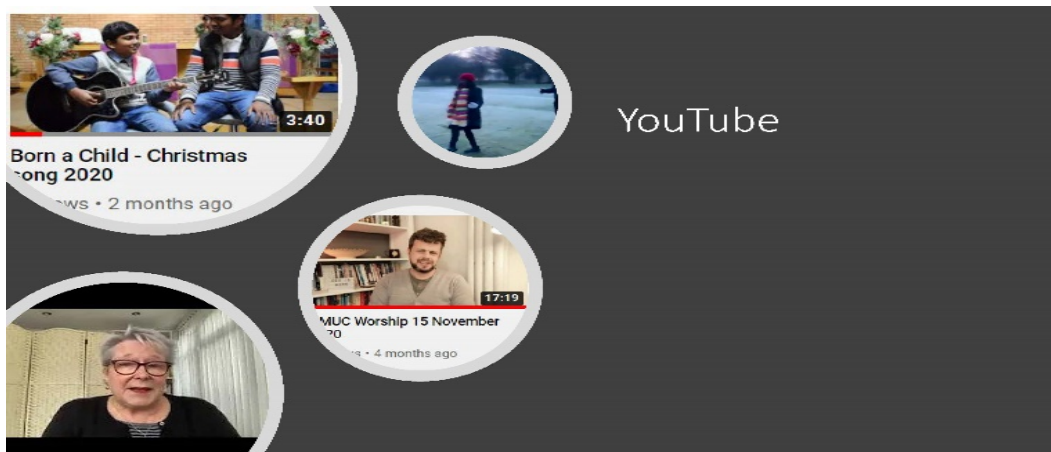


Even the notice sheet has been sent out every week via email.



Electronic Notices

And a weekly reflection now appears on YouTube, with the odd dance and song as well.



We haven't forgotten those who don't come to see you, in fact we have ensured that they are included in our thoughts along side ourselves. We contacted local business to let them know we were thinking of them.

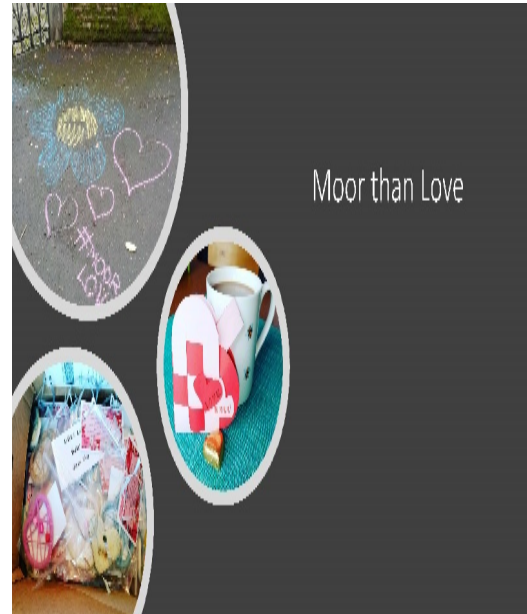


Reaching out to the community

You may of even seen us in the carpark handing out some hot drinks to the local children.



Peace flowers were distributed around the area for peace week.



Lots of lovely hearts were drawn on pavements and packs delivered to everyone for us to share Moor than Love. On that note I'll finish this letter.

So like you we have been busy too. Really looking forward to getting together as soon as we can and integrate all the old and new things together and get back to enjoying being with you again.

All the best The Church and Community Family

Obituaries



Audrey Smith 1938 - 2021

Audrey was born in Blackbarrow (2 miles south of Windermere) in the summer of 1938. She was daughter of Lena and Albert Fell and sister to Edgar.

Audrey was the only girl from the village school to pass her 11+ and so she followed her brother to Ulverston Grammar School which was a 45 minute bus ride.

As the village had very little entertainment Audrey spent

many evenings in Ulverston where her aunt lived, before getting the last bus home at 10pm, but most of the time was spent at the local Methodist church youth club and badminton club.

Her first job was at the Blue Mill (World Famous Dolly Blue) combining this with training in shorthand and typing.

When she was 20 Audrey moved to Newcastle upon Tyne (where her brother and sister in law lived) working as secretary in a wholesale flower business. She joined the Ladies Badminton team in Gateshead and the Westerhope tennis club (she always watched Wimbledon on TV) and attended the local Methodist church.

It was in 1962 that David was sent to Newcastle to work in the local branch of the Leeds company he worked for and lodgings were found for him with Audrey's brother's mother in law. Audrey went there for tea and that is where she met David and church was part of both their lives and so their story begins.

David wonders if this might be called a whirlwind courtship.....

- David left Newcastle to go back to Leeds*
- September went to meet Audrey's parents*

- *October Audrey found lodgings in Horsforth (not far from David) and worked as secretary with Western Electric who at that time provided sound for cinema tickets...free tickets a perk of the job!!*
- *November asked Audrey's parents' permission to marry their daughter*
- *January 1963 they returned as they had found a flat in Leeds and wished to set a wedding date for March 16*
- *February an appointment with the Minister*
- *They married at Neville Road Methodist Church followed by a reception at the Newby Bridge Hotel.*

They spent 6 months in the flat when David's job took them to Leyland where they bought their first house.

In February 1964 Pamela and Paul were born which was a complete surprise to everyone including the hospital staff. Specialists from Preston were called to Audrey and the twins and they went home three weeks later.

On 14 December 1966 Stephen and Nigel were born. It was reported in the Leyland Gazette, "Twins twice in 2 years!"

In February 1967 six weeks after Stephen and Nigel were born the family moved back to Leeds...what a remarkable lady Audrey was!!

In August 1969 the family moved to Stockport and joined Heaton Moor Methodist Church and have had a key part of the church family ever since. Audrey returned to work as a PA at Tilcon Ready Mix Concrete for a further 13 years.

Audrey's hobbies included tatting, crocheting, knitting, sewing (making lots of dresses for Pamela) and later when the children were grown up she did a tailoring course following by decoupage and tapestry.

Caravanning played a big part in the life of the family. They belonged to Bessacarr Owners' Club and the Caracamp section of the Brookdale Club in Bramhall where they made many friendships which continue to the present time.

Audrey was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in her early 40s and for about 10 years life carried on fairly smoothly. However, as Audrey's healthy and mobility declined she needed sticks, then an electric scooter and finally a wheelchair (leading to the wheelchair accessible vehicle which put an end to caravanning)

Pamela recalls a visit from her Mum, a two hour bus trip, to spend the day with her new grandson. They went to the baby clinic and enjoyed the very special time together before the long journey home.

Many of us reading this remember Audrey always looking lovely in her pastel colours and beautiful soft wavy hair. She wanted to know about our lives and families and never (to my knowledge) mentioned her own disabilities.

Their home was always welcoming to any who called and many of us have eaten there, either a "trial" of a banquet to be served for some special occasion at church when their family and dear friends served and washed up.

The last 14 months has been particularly difficult due to Covid – but even then she was uncomplaining and listened to family 'phone calls and to hymns and music played by David and Pauline.

I feel very privileged to have been Audrey's pastoral visitor. She was an amazing lady, her warm smile and twinkling eyes, interest in everyone she met was very touching and humbling. We have memories of a courageous, inspiring woman who it was a privilege to know and love.

Our love and sympathy go to David, an inspirational husband, Pamela, Paul, Stephen, Nigel, Hannah, Matthew and Sarah and their families.

One of the last conversations I had with Audrey was how I thought of her "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain".

What a dancer she was.

Jean James



Anne Hunt

Only daughter of Henry and Hilda Byles, born in West Drayton in Middlesex on 4th December 1936. Educated at West Drayton Primary School and then at Southall co-ed Grammar school for 2 and half years.

Father worked as machine tool engineer in Coventry during the war, and in February 1951, after the death of mother's father, we went to live in Coventry and my education continued at Barr's Hill Grammar School for girls.

Education continued at Birmingham University from where I received a 2:2 degree in Botany.

During my time at school, I was involved with Girl Guides. I felt I was not keeping the promise to obey God, and because at West Drayton, I'd been sent to a Baptist Sunday School, I decided to go to Queen's Road Baptist Church, that I passed every day on the bus. I gradually became more involved and was baptized as a believer in 1957.

After university, I began my teaching career at Rugby High School for girls, but after 2 years, I felt the call to become a deaconess in the Baptist Church. Much against my parents wishes, I applied and passed the necessary preliminary exams and interviews. I began my training at Carey Hall, Selly Oak, Birmingham in 1960. It was in the Selly Oak colleges that I met Philip, who was training for ministry in the Churches of Christ. We married in 1963 and began our life together in Leicester. Philip's 1st pastorate was at Braunstone, Leicester. Our daughter, Angela was born there. From there we went to Bournemouth for 3 years, where Andrew was born. Then we moved to Moss Side, Manchester. In all these churches I helped with the Sunday School and women's work. After the loss of the church in Moss Side, due to redevelopment of the area, we moved our membership to Green End, Burnage. It was here that I was elected an elder. In Churches of Christ, elders were ordained for the ministry of word and sacraments, so I began to use my

training from Carey Hall in leading worship and communion, receiving further training from the local ministers.

I had taught in Leicester, before having the family, and returned to it when we moved to Manchester. I was at a Roman Catholic girls school in Chorlton, when the authorities decided to reorganise the Catholic secondary schools. After having to apply for our jobs again and an interview process I found myself appointed as Head of Biology at Xaverian College. This was a very happy place and remained 'part of my family' for many years as Andrew, my 2 grandsons and 1 granddaughter did their sixth form education there. I taught there for 15 years before retirement.

During this time, Philip returned to full-time pastoral ministry, after working as a probation officer for 12 years. We went to Greenmount, near Bury, where I first encountered Trefoil Guild. (I had run a Brownie pack in Moss Side and helped with Guides at Rugby High School and I contacted Trefoil Guild headquarters and found that there was just one guild on the island. The secretary lived in our village and I soon became involved, even serving as Chair for 5 years.

In Anglesey, we worshipped at the English Presbyterian Church, where I became an elder. The minister changed soon after and resented P's presence so he began to worship at St John's Methodist church in Bangor and was soon involved in preaching in the circuit. He informed the Superintendent that I also was ordained and before long I was also invited to join the preaching team. So I transferred my membership to St John's and soon was involved in leading worship in the Bangor Circuit.

In 2010 we bought a house in Stockport. Philip's health had deteriorated and we felt it would be a good idea to be nearer Angela. We moved in 2011 and soon became involved in the life and work of Heaton Moor United Church and Stockport Methodist Circuit. Stockport became a useful place for 2 of Andrew's daughters. Zea stayed while auditioning for Chethams, and after coming to study there, she often stayed for weekends. Clodagh wanted to study A levels in England and came to Xaverian College. Although she didn't live with us, she visited often. Through a church member, I became a member of Heaton Vale Trefoil Guild and enjoyed all the activities. After Philip's death in 2017, I joined the U3A and attended Music Appreciation, Art Appreciation and Science groups.

Anne Hunt



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