

Even factoring in for the "things aren't what they used to be" tendency which comes with age, I have seen a developing trend to ignore road traffic rules, (eg: double yellow lines and traffic lights are deemed advisory.) Three weeks ago I wrote to my MP but I'm still awaiting a response.

Significantly, in reacting to Covid 19 the Government introduced a number of "guidelines". The conscientious comply, and the arrogant and those who claim to know better do their own thing.

Thankfully, being a Christian is not about obeying a set of rules. It is about a relationship with Jesus Christ who continues to be revealed to us through scripture and experience. But that does not mean "anything goes" and I would hope that all of us frequently wrestle with the question of whether what we do (and don't do) is in keeping with our calling in Christ. The "Golden Rule" can be found in Matthew 7:12: 'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.'

The "rule" is found in other traditions and religions. It is a code that many non-religious people try to live by. As Methodist Societies increased in number, John Wesley issued the Society Rules:

- Do no harm
- Do all possible good
- Attend on the ordinances of God

I wonder if our church and Circuit deliberations would be different if we thought about these rules before each meeting? God bless you in all you do. Paul.



Jesus said,

"Have the salt of friendship among yourselves"

Mark 9: 50

URGENT NEED for FOOD at The Brick Foodbank

Margaret Parker writes: "I have noticed as I volunteer in the Brick Foodbank more and more commodities not being available. For the first time, this week, there were NO cans of soup – normally we have a crate each for meaty soups, vegetable soup, tomato soup. As I mentioned at the September Circuit Meeting, there is a very real and urgent need for food for The Foodbank, both now, and as we move into winter.

At this time of HARVEST, please would you consider giving some food items to The Brick Foodbank to help alleviate this unprecedented shortage at this time?

(If churches could each collect together these gifts and deliver to St George's Centre, Water St., Wigan, this would be very helpful, or collection could be arranged. Ed.)



These are items which are the most urgent:

- **CANS:** soup, meat, spaghetti, beans & sausages, peas, carrots, potatoes; jars/cans of meat or vegetarian sauce or chilli con carne or curry to go with rice or pasta; puddings – rice, custard or tinned fruit.
- **BISCUITS**, crackers, chocolate bars, goodies for children.
- **RICE** and also **CEREALS** – both currently VERY low, also sugar.
- **CONDIMENTS:** Cooking oil, HP or tomato ketchup, mayonnaise.
- **TOILETRIES:** bars of soap, shampoo, deodorants (male & female), wet-wipes, disposable razors & shaving cream; toilet rolls.
- **CLEANING AGENTS:** antiseptic spray, Flash liquid, washing up liquid, washing liquid/powder for hand-washing.
- **OR donations of money** which gives The Brick more scope for providing necessities. There are several, easy ways of donating – see www.thebrick.org.uk

If the Government remove the £20 Covid up-lift to Universal Credit at the end of the month, countless individuals and families will be seriously affected, many of them CHILDREN – hungry and cold as energy prices rise, inability to pay bills. Real poverty and stress.

Also, what many people do not realise: people sleeping rough rarely have cash and asylum seekers are also cash-less; they are not allowed to work but are issued with just a card to be spent at certain outlets which has to pay for food, transport and maybe topping up a phone, vital to keep them in contact with the authorities and their families. If they fail an appeal, then they become destitute.

We can hardly imagine the poverty and hardship some people are living in but it is here amongst us in Wigan."

Margaret Parker

'Doing all the good we can, in all the ways we can...'

Churches will have also received, again at the request of Circuit Meeting, an emailed flyer and information sheet from The Edge Church, Pottery Road who, partnered with 'the message' are operating a **Community Grocery**, where people can purchase donated surplus supermarket groceries at much reduced costs on a regular basis (£5 annual membership and £3 per visit up to twice a week). *If you think this facility may help a needy family you know, ask your church newsgroup rep. for sight of these further details to pass on to them, or see the grocery website found at: www.communitygrocery.org.uk/wigan, or contact Viv Lowe, our Wigan Circuit administrator.*



"Thank You" from Ince Methodist Church

Ince Methodist Church are delighted and grateful for the contributions of toys, clothes, and household items received so far via their recent appeal. Olwen Calland writes: "Please does anyone have a mobile hanging rail that they no longer need for hanging the garments that are now being made available from our Church? All donations still gratefully accepted." Please contact either Olwen - 01942 843281 or Viv, on 07958 274483.

DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING ADVANCED TRAINING



We are running a face to face Advanced Module Safeguarding Training event on Saturday 16th October at the Triangle Methodist Church in Bolton. The training will start at 10am (9:30am for tea/coffee) and will finish at 3:30pm. The aim of the day is **to enable leaders to develop a deeper understanding of your roles & responsibilities in relation to safeguarding**. Including, **responding** to disclosures, survivors, those who pose a risk, serious situations and to support congregations, and to build confidence in **reporting** and **referring**. Attendees will need to bring a packed lunch. Anyone wishing to attend **MUST** self register via the Bolton and Rochdale District website. We are limited to 24 places on a 'first come first served' basis . . . <https://barmd.org.uk/>

Agnes Houghton, & Kevin Brabrook, District Safeguarding Officer

Circuit Vacancies

Wigan Circuit are looking to fill the positions of:

- **Circuit Treasurer,**
- **Circuit Safeg'dng Officer,**
- **Circuit Meeting Sec., and**
- **Circuit Stewards.**

Administrative changes made during lockdown have simplified many of the processes associated with these roles.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in finding out more about these vacant roles then please contact:

Mrs Viv Lowe, Circuit administrator on 07958 274483 or e-mail wiganmethodist@outlook.com

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP Special Time

- Sunday evenings at Aspull

As well as their regular morning services, Aspull are going to start having a time of worship on the first Sunday evening of each month, at 6pm. The first one is on 3rd October, led by Rev. Richard, and will also include communion. All are welcome to join us. PLUS...

- Sunday Evenings at Bispham

You are also most welcome to join in Evening Worship at Bispham on Sunday evenings at 6pm as follows:

2nd SUNDAY - Communion with Revd Shaun (10th Oct; 14th Nov for this plan)

3rd SUNDAY - Praise & Prayer (17th Oct with Rev Simon; 21st Nov with Rev Richard)

Here are my thoughts, Lord,
here is my mind.

Here are my deeds, Lord,
help me unwind.

Here is my strength, Lord,
here is my will.

Here is my life, Lord,
help me be still.

Here is my heart, Lord,
here is my hope.

Here is my love, Lord,
help me to cope.

Here is my time, Lord,
here is my might.

Here I am yours, Lord,
bless me tonight.

David Adam STF 144

MWiB - Methodist Women in Britain

Some ladies have previously been associated with MWiB (formerly Women's Network) but over recent years the Wigan circuit has not been represented. Now, there are a few ladies who are showing a genuine interest in knowing more. If you would like to be part of a 'revival' group for Wigan MWiB, please give your name to Viv Lowe, Circuit Admin, to collate - email: wiganmethodist@outlook.com.

Also, there will be a **MWiB District Day on 20th October in Bolton** as detailed below: - give it a try! - Invite your friends! - Share a car!



Guest Speaker is our Chair of District Revd Paul Martin who has always been a strong supporter of the work of MWiB & will share some of his own journey

Methodist Women in Britain

District Day

Wednesday 20th October 2021

10:00am - 1:00pm

Harwood Methodist Church

Bolton, BL2 3HX

Guest speaker: Revd Paul Martin

Conversation, Commissioning & Communion

**ALL WELCOME - Please bring a packed lunch,
- drinks will be provided**

ALL are welcome (including men) . Normal Covid restrictions and guidelines will be in place including the option to wear a mask if preferred, regular hand washing and maintaining safe distance. A register will be kept of all present. Further information from Philippa Hill (District Secretary) pPhill28@gmail.com

"I DON'T GO TO CHURCH BUT..."

The Tour

COMING TO A VENUE NEAR YOU THIS AUTUMN

Shevington Fri 15th Oct - 7.30pm

"I don't go to Church BUT..."

95% of under 18s don't go to church, but are open to faith! Come and discover how you and your church can make the most of this opportunity to reach the 95%!

This free Scripture Union presentation evening will be hosted by Sandra Morris on **Friday 15th October at 7.30pm at Shevington Methodist Church, plus tea/coffee & ... cake!** **Book your place at**

SU.ORG.UK/TOUR ... or,

please let Sandra know if you would like to come – phone: 07711 371427, or email: sandrafamilyworker@gmail.com

Come away encouraged, inspired & empowered in your outreach

BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE AT SU.ORG.UK/TOUR



Also: PRISONS WEEK



SUNDAY 10th TO SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT PRISON LIFE ?

- TO HEAR FROM PROBATION ON THE INSIDE?
- LIFE AS A PRISON CHAPLAIN?
- BEING A MAGISTRATE?
- WHAT IS PRISON FELLOWSHIP?

THEN WHY NOT JOIN US ON FRIDAY 15th at 7.30pm

AT SHEVINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT DEACON KATHY LAMB ON 01257 255658

Yes, these two events **are** at the same time and at the same venue, but will be in different rooms! **Refreshments** provided for both. Please come along to one or the other of these interesting presentations Let's make it a "reet good'un"!

Wigan Wire Monthly

Next 'Wigan Wire' items, dates and info deadline for our proposed **NOVEMBER** issue is:

NB: SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER

to: prosser_alan@hotmail.com



Thank You

"You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So, then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another . . . just as the Lord has forgiven you.

And to all these qualities, add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful. Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts . . . sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts.

Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father. . . . Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God. . . .

Be wise in the way you act towards those who are not believers, making good use of every opportunity you have. Your speech should always be pleasant and interesting, and you should know how to give the right answer to everyone."

Colossians 3 : 12 - 17 ; 4 : 2 - 6 GNB

CHRISTMAS - TINSEL - TREATS - THANKSGIVING - !

Let's get Christmas off to a good start and come together as Wigan Circuit

The Circuit Stewards invite you all to

Diary Date!



"TINSEL TREATS THANKSGIVING"

To held on **Sunday 5th December at Queens Hall**

Commencing at 3.30 pm

Looking forward to seeing YOU there

Margaret, John, Keith, Norma and Olwen