

UPdate

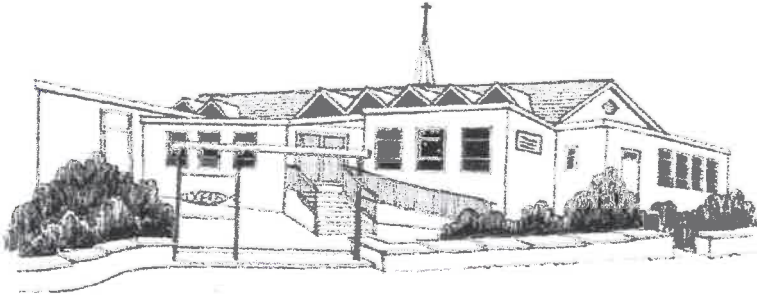
IN THE COMMUNITY



THE MAGAZINE OF
ST. PAUL'S
METHODIST CHURCH
DRONFIELD

www.dronfield-methodist.org.uk

Snapehill Lane/Green Lane Dronfield
JUNE 2017



If you wish to make any contribution or write a letter, we shall be pleased to receive them. If possible, finished items should be submitted on A5 format with bold headline and minimum font size 11 or 12. We are always happy to type any handwritten items for you. Please bear in mind that black ink produces the best quality photocopies. An Update folder for contributions is in the vestibule, or they may be sent by e-mail to:

elaineandpeterlindley@talktalk.net or gosforth28@gmail.com
or paul.a.cross@btinternet.com or nealeroger@aol.com
or gosforth28@gmail.com (Brian Beeson)

We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of Update. If you would like to contribute to the production cost of about 25 pence per copy then please either give your donation to a steward or put it into the money box provided.

If you have enjoyed our magazine, may we suggest that you pass it on to a neighbour or friend when you have finished with it?

YOUR UP-DATES FOR THE NEXT EDITION

ALL items Sunday 26th. June 2017

Your next Up-Date will be published:

Sunday 2nd. July 2017

Up-Date Committee consists of Peter Lindley, Carole Neale, Brian Beeson, Paul Cross, with Ann Cooper assisting with 'paste-up' pre-publication.

Editorial material may be reprinted in other publications giving acknowledgement of source.

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editorial committee, nor of St. Paul's Methodist Church.

“For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap...”
(Malachi 3:2)

The jeweller handed me my daughter’s repaired bracelet, pointing out how he had fixed the clasp and untangled the chain. “I also cleaned it up a bit,” he added. “I do that individually first, but for better results I wait until I have other pieces of jewellery which also need polishing” (perhaps noticing my puzzled expression, he explained further). On his work table he has a small, round container that cleans the jewellery by spinning it. Since one piece alone would not have sufficient weight inside the apparatus, he puts several in together. Then, adding some special ball bearings of assorted shapes and sizes, he “burnishes” them (*shines, brightens, rubs, polishes* - I looked it up later), one with the others.

Apparently, there is a time isolated attention and care. But there’s something about the interaction of multiple pieces (coming from different owners and homes) that can bring an even deeper cleansing. As the weight, shape and rough edges of one come in close contact with the weight, shape and rough edges of others, each is smoothed and brightened.

Such is the way of refinement. A certain amount can, and has to, happen alone. But for best results, as rough and tumble and uncomfortable as the experience may be, the Master Craftsman throws us into... *community*.

A ‘serious man’, we do not know his name, once said to John Wesley, ‘Sir, you wish to serve God and go to heaven? Remember that you cannot serve him alone... The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion.’ *Peace, Dave*



Methodist Women in Britain

Easter Offering SHINE LIKE STARS 2017
Tea and evening service at Woodseats Methodist Church

A warm welcome was extended to everyone from Rev.
Followed by Hymn StF 27 Jesu tawa pano

In this act of worship in which we would dedicate the Easter offering envelopes gathered from the churches, we would hear how the World Mission Fund supports God's mission in different parts of the world and learn how each appointed person is working in a difficult and challenging environment in their own country, but shines like a star bringing the light of the risen Christ into that situation.

* **Sandra Lopez** told of the Rev. Maria do Carmo Moreira and of her work with young offenders in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

A candle was lit.

* **Bunmi Olayisada** related the work being done by Joanna Akyeamong among female drop-outs and street children in Ghana.

A candle was lit.

* **Jennifer Jag Jivan** is doing dangerous peace building work among the Muslim community. Her life is in constant danger as Christians are in the minority in Pakistan.

A candle was lit.

All these ordinary people are Methodists working out their faith in their own countries under very difficult circumstances. They certainly are stars in their own right and deserve our concern, prayers and financial support.

Thank you to all who gave generously in the Easter Offering envelopes.
The service was punctuated with readings, hymns and prayers.

After the closing hymn the Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you,
And give you peace.

I MET A MAN WHO WOULDN'T REST UNTIL HIS PEOPLE HAD THE BIBLE

Well to be absolutely truthful I haven't met him personally but I have read about him. His name is Pastor Wenfu. He belongs to the Black Yi tribe, just one of 55 tribal groups in China.

The first Black Yi New Testament was published in 1948. But in 1966 the Cultural Revolution began in China. Religion and the Bible were outlawed and any religious material discovered by the Red Guards was burned. Pastor Wenfu concealed his copy in the wall of a rural barn. "Sometimes, when we felt safe we would take it out and read it," he said.

In 1976 the Cultural Revolution ended, and the church began to grow. The demand for Bibles was massive and work began to translate the full Bible. Pastor Wenfu driven by a passion to share God's good news decided to join the translation team. When the translation was completed he pleaded with the Chinese authorities to speed up the approval process. In 2016 his faithfulness was rewarded when the first Black Yi Bible was launched.

Imagine what it must be like to love Jesus, but never be able to read about him.

Could a response from us help to make a difference to the work of Bible Society in China and other countries around the world?

There has never been a more important time in our lives to reach out to people with the good news of the Gospel.

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Ć°s)° †'. Ē J°s)° Ī Ć°. ũ T° L')° Ć° S° S° ũ Ē Λ. ũ Ć Y. Ć" U°

And God said, *'Let there be light and there was light'*
And God saw that the light was good. Genesis 1. 4

Going to worship in mid-Atlantic –

(another in the unpopular series from our Roving Reporter)

[He says!

The rest of the editorial team say ‘Well done and thanks’]

Just recently we were given the opportunity to tick-off an item from our bucket list. Tired of being buffeted about in the Atlantic skies, we had the chance to make the crossing by sea; it turned out to be far more comfortable but equally lumpy and a lot, lot slower. After leaving the lee of Southern Ireland on Tuesday morning, we saw no more land and only four other vessels until we reached harbour the following Monday morning. Adjusting to the much slower pace was quite a challenge; small events soon became much more significant. The Captain's mid-day message, consisting of atmospheric observations and details of our position quickly assumed the status of a must not miss event. Even more important, though, was the daily Christian fellowship meeting.

Not being Catholic, we were not given the benefit of an organised Mass each morning but a small conference room was made available for us to meet and to make of it what we could. As it turned out two or three couples were on board who were on the homeward leg of a much longer journey and they were at the hub of our daily meetings. Each morning at 9.00 we met, opening with prayer and a hymn from a set of sheets printed on board for us. Then we would listen to part of a pre-recorded sermon by the evangelist, David Jeremiah and discuss it.

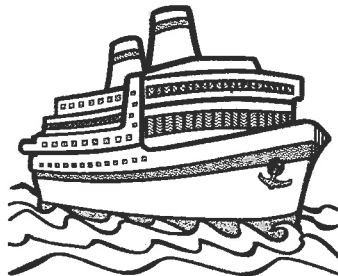
Needless to say we got off the topic fairly quickly but the sharing of Christian knowledge and experience was more than enough compensation for that.

The meetings always concluded with prayer. Each day the meetings seemed to overrun longer and each morning new faces would arrive to join in, so that our numbers rose from the upper teens to the middle twenties. It became a daily task to find new ways of fitting extra seats into the small room.

Perhaps half our group were Americans, of all backgrounds, with English being the next most numerous but we also had the benefit of sharing with people from Ireland, New Zealand, the Middle East and Asia. In age we ranged from maybe our mid-twenties to our mid-eighties. With such a wealth of age and experience from which to draw, there was always something to learn, another point of view to appreciate. At the end of each meeting there was still plenty of long, quiet morning left for reflection.

Our final meeting was on Sunday, Mother's Day in the USA. We made sure to finish in good time in order to walk to the theatre at the other end of the vessel, where the Captain was holding his weekly interdenominational service at 10.00. Taking place in a theatre, the service felt more like a school assembly, the captain making a perfect stand-in headmaster. The service consisted of readings and prayers led by other passengers and crew who we had not met at our daily meetings. The room was surprisingly about two-thirds full and the captain remarked on the good turnout at the end of the service.

Prior to leaving home we had made a point of checking on whether there would be even a weekly act of worship on board and were disappointed to find that no such undertakings were made, it being purely a matter of who happened to be aboard. Once underway it was disturbing to learn that arrangements for worship came under the responsibilities of the entertainments manager and their staff. As it turned out we were so blessed by our own provision.



Book Review:

'The Christian Athiest - believing in God but living as if He doesn't exist'

by Craig Groeschel, Zondervan publishing.

This is a book that found me. It was pressed deliberately but quietly into the hand in circumstances where the donor could have no reasonable expectation of when it might be returned. As it turned out, if the book was to be given back, there was a three week window of opportunity to get it read: so be it then.

Neither the book nor the author were familiar to me. Craig Groeschel is an American evangelist, the author of at least four other books and the founder, in 1996, of *LifeChurch.tv*.

This fifth book starts very well, drawing the reader in quickly with its direct, simple language and anecdotal style. The starting point is the elastic band model of human relationships, where sometimes people are close but then, as life happens, some closeness can be lost until the elastic draws people back together again. Mr Groeschel says that for many of us this is how our relationship stands with God, we either do not know him at all, we do not know God well, or we are someone who knows God intimately. Twelve chapters then follow, each one exploring a different scenario in which those three different relationships with God can exist.

Chapter 4 is called, "*When you believe in God but not in prayer*"; the sixth is entitled, "*When you believe in God but won't forgive*".

It might be possible to just read the introduction, then the chapter(s) that apply and then the concluding chapter. The theme of every chapter is filled-out with stories and Bible quotes; the most successful chapters also offer advice as to how to work towards overcoming that particular problem.

The Christian Athiest is well written in honest, engaging language. To his credit the author frequently writes "we" instead of "you" but

sometimes the best bits are almost thrown away: several meaningful insights seem just to have been thrown in as nothing more than asides.

As the final chapter approaches, the reader senses that it must contain the challenge, to each individual, to do everything possible to attain that third state, an intimacy with God. It is a strong chapter too, calling each one to evaluate their relationship with God in the light of the preceding dozen chapters and then to make a decision to put Him first in a complete, God-centred all-consuming faith.

PC

PS The book was returned on time. I'm fairly sure that it will already have been lent out again: wonder who is reading it now.

UPDATE CHALLENGE

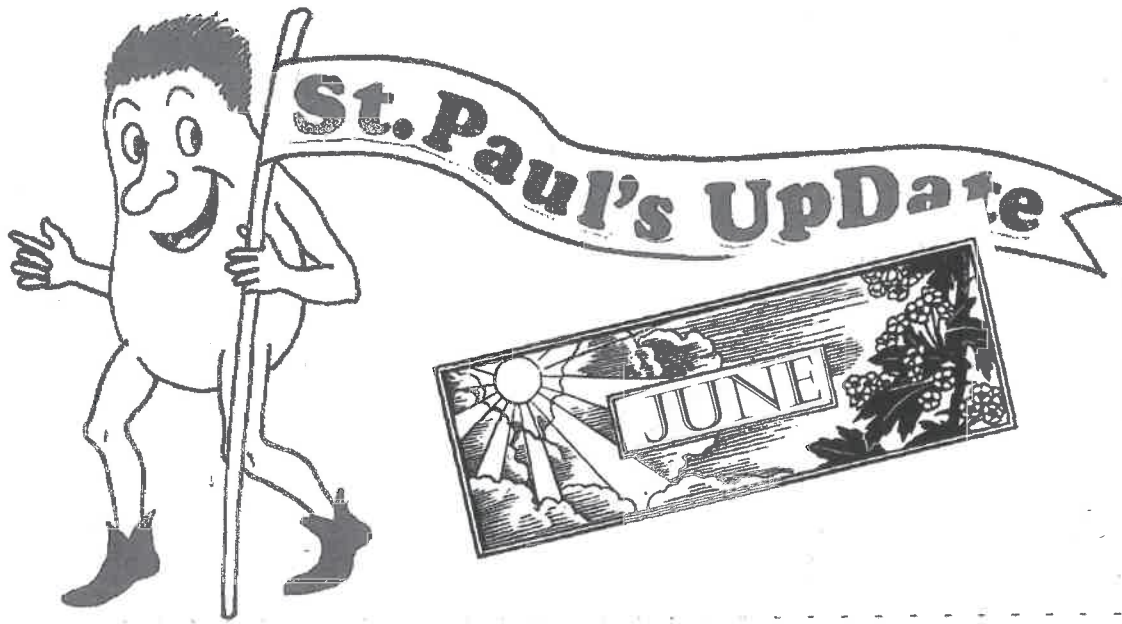
READERS OF UPDATE ARE **CHALLENGED!**

Each month a verse from the Bible will be printed and the challenge is for YOU to memorise it by reading it frequently during the month.

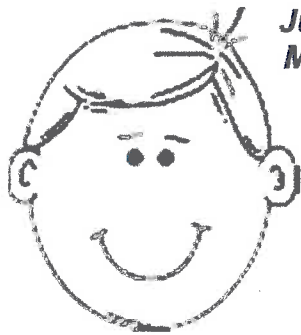
Why not copy it out onto a piece of thin card and carry it around with you or place it in the kitchen or wherever you will see it frequently during the day?

‘Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interest of others’

Philippians ch.2; v 4 (NRSV)



The Anglo-Saxons called June "sera monath" (dry month).



June is celebrated as National Smile Month in the UK.

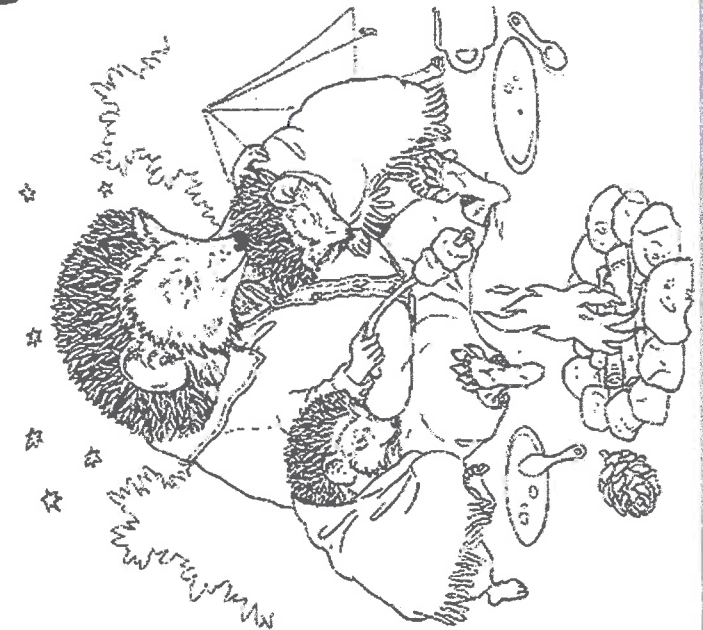
In a restaurant window just outside Brixham, Devon, UK: Don't stand there and be hungry, come in and get fed up.

At a Music Store in Nottingham, 'Out to lunch. Bach at 12:30. Offenbach sooner'.

Here's a page for you to colour



JUNE



Methodist Homes Sunday

12 June 2016

Methodist Homes Sunday is an opportunity for:

- Celebration of the work of MHA and the value of older people
- Awareness of future needs and ways to respond
- Fundraising to make a difference to the quality of life for older people
- Volunteers to work together
- Recognition of the Church in action for older people



About our METHODIST CONFERENCE



The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church under God. It has responsibility for the government, discipline, management and administration of the life of the Church.

Members of the Conference hold trustee responsibility. The Conference is also a place for worship, thanksgiving, Ordination and celebration.

The business of the Conference is done by seeking the will of God through conferring together. Members of the Conference are representatives, not delegates.

The Conference meets for eight days from Thursday to the following Thursday around the last week of June or first week of July. The 2017 Conference will take place from Thursday 22 June - Thursday 29 June at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole at the National Exhibition Centre, Pendigo Way, Birmingham B40 1PP.

Dear Friends,

You may remember that the Church Council decided that, as part of our plans to install solar panels at St. Paul's, we would explore the possibility of tithing 10% of the income generated by the solar panels to a solar power project in the global church.

With the help of British Methodist World Church representative Olumunmi Olayidade, we have been put in touch with the Methodist Church in Uganda, which is working to install solar panels in twenty rural churches, located in highly remote areas, at a fee of £737 per church.

At its last meeting our Church Council decided to send an initial gift from the St. Paul's Mission Fund to the Methodist Church in Uganda.

In April, Church Treasurer Richard Thomas was able to transfer £1150.

I want to share with you some of the correspondence we have received:

(from Ugandan Methodist Operations Manager Betty Nairuba): "May the good Lord richly bless you for such a big heart for the ministry in Uganda. As a church in Uganda, we value partnerships and we believe no church can do it alone. We thank you God for connecting us to you. We also thank God for the African coordinator's visit, Dr. Olubunmi Olayisade who visited Uganda last month...."

(from British Methodist World Church officer Olubunmi Olayisade): "Dear David, Calvary greeting! We sincere gratitude, I wish to thank you and your church for your prompt action and generosity to MC Uganda. May the good Lord continue to bless you as you reach out to help our Uganda brothers and sisters. I am confident that MC Uganda shall put the money to good use and offer updates and reports with regards to this grant. Once again, thank you and remain blessed."

(from Uganda Methodist Bishop William Muriuki Mwongo): *"Thanks very much for your love and concern toward helping Uganda Methodist Churches in Rural areas to have Solar lights. We appreciate the contribution from St. Paul's church..."* (and another email): *"Dear David, Thanks for your love and concern you have given to our churches for the solar light. We have received Ugsh. 5, 030,284 in our bank account... We are committed to put solar in some churches and soon we shall give you the report. May God continue to bless you."*

Thank you for your generosity, St. Paul's.

Let's see how this unfolds, trusting God will show us new ways to be faithful and connect with others.

Peace,
Dave

CRUISE revelations

Amazing facts from a recent 10 day holiday.

Food

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| * Cheese 610.49 kg | * Fish 2,068.45 kg |
| * Flour 1174.00 kg | * Pork 1,896.52 kg |
| * Cream 21.31 ltr | * Poultry 1167.83 kg |
| * Ice Cream 650.00 ltr | * Beef 535.86 kg |
| * Butter 242.50 ltr | * Lamb 487.29 kg |
| * Whipping Cream 695 ltr | * Vegetables 5.16 tonnes |
| * Potatoes 3,059 kg | * Butter Portions 17, 600 |
| * Milk 2,821 ltr | * Fresh Fruits 4.57 tonnes |

Minimum Temp. 10 F Maximum Temp. 63 F
Total distance travelled 2,230 Nautical Miles

Guests 1,350 Crew 510 Maximum Speed 18.5 Knots
Wind Force 1 to Force 4 Sea Calm to Moderate

Psalm 23 for busy people – from a Japanese writer Toki Miyashina

*The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush;
he makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,
he provides me with images of stillness,
which restore my serenity.*

*He leads me in the way of efficiency,
through calmness of mind;
and his guidance is peace.*

*Even though I have a great many things to accomplish
each day*

I will not fret, for his presence is here.

His timelessness, his all-importance will keep me in balance.

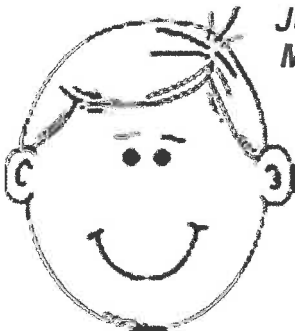
*He prepares refreshment and renewal
in the midst of activity,*

*by anointing my mind with his oils of tranquillity;
my cup of joyous energy overflows.*

*Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be
the fruits of my hours*

*and I shall walk in the pace of my Lord,
and dwell in his house for ever.*

The Anglo-Saxons called June “sera monath” (dry month).



June is celebrated as National Smile Month in the UK.

In a restaurant window just outside Brixham, Devon, UK: Don't stand there and be hungry, come in and get fed up.

Peacock Facts & Mythology

On holiday recently we were privileged to share our accommodation with a small flock of peacocks!

Ancient Greeks believed that the flesh of peafowl did not decay after death, so it became a symbol of immortality. This symbolism was

adopted by early Christianity, thus many early Christian paintings and



mosaics show the peacock. The peacock is still used in the Easter season, especially in the east. The 'eyes' in the peacock's tail feathers symbolise the all-seeing Christian God and – in some interpretations – the Church.

By Christian adoption of old Persian and Babylonian symbolism, in which the peacock was associated with Paradise and the Tree of Life, the bird is again associated with immortality. In Christian iconography, the peacock is often depicted next to the Tree of Life. *BB*



Challenging words from Youngsters

The 2017 Methodist Children and Youth Assembly produced the following statement/message at a weekend conference:

As Methodists we are called to respond to the Gospel message and live as disciples in the world. In response to this, children spoke out at 3Generate!

HEAR THE VOICE, RESPOND WITH ACTION

Wonderful Church, Wonderful Me

We want everyone to respect each other in their words and actions. We experience lots of pressure at school, particularly to perform well. We ask the church to look for ways to help us, talk to us and to support us. We want the Church to support charities and to enable us, along with the whole church, to be involved in helping others. We want to worship and discover more about God and prayer. We want the church to enable us to do this in ways that engage and challenge us and help us to understand.

We can, and want to be, involved in and contribute to the worshipping life of the church.

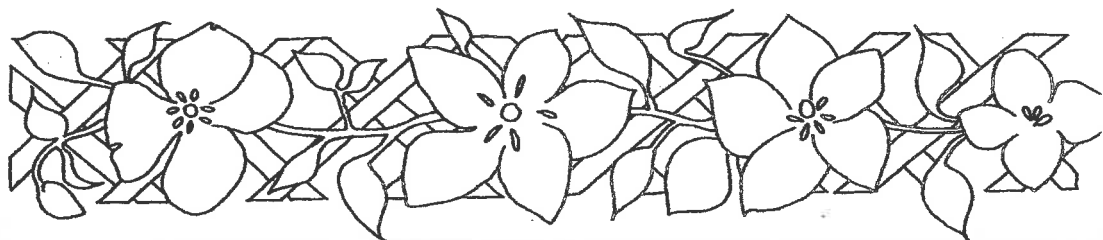
Wonderful World

We want the Church to stand together against racism and injustice. We want the Church to campaign with us to support people who are homeless, refugees, slaves and in poverty.

Wonderfully prophetic

We want guidance and support to know what to do, or what actions to take, about difficult situations in the world. We want to be Agents of Change! The people of the world should be a community that lives together in peace.

methodist.org.uk/3generate



RAMSHAW 2017

Saturday 10th June

1.30 – 4.30 pm

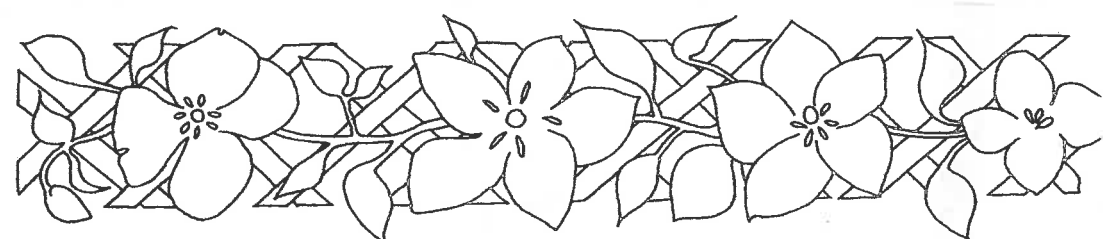
GARDEN PARTY

“Around the World in an Afternoon”

Side Shows, Stalls, Games, Refreshments,
Dancers on the Tennis Court Lawn,
Rides on the Model Steam Railway – and
much more!

In aid of much needed Renovation to
Dronfield Parish Church, which dates from
1135 - our local heritage.

Ramshaw Lodge, Unstone, S18 4AL



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

You are cordially invited to join in any of the following

SUNDAY:

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship (*Communion as announced*)
Junior Church (*fortnightly during term time*)
Lazers Teenage Group)

WEDNESDAY:

8.00 a.m. Communion (Term time)
9.30 – 11.30 a.m. Stay and Play (Term time)
1. 30 - 4.30 p.m. Chess Club
2.00 p.m. Happy Circle
5.00 – 6.00 p.m. Beaver Colony
6.00 p.m. - 7.15 p.m. Cubs
7.30 p.m. – 9.15 p.m. Scouts and Explorers

TWO HOUSE GROUPS meet at members' homes monthly
CAFÉ CHURCH as announced

PREACHERS FOR JUNE

4th. June 10. 30 a.m. Pentecost Mr. David Harris
11th. June CIVIC SERVICE 11.00 a.m. at Dronfield Parish Church
18th. June 10.30 a.m. Revd. Dave Markay **Holy Communion and Annual
General Meeting**
6.30 p.m. Circuit Service a Greenhill
25th. June 10.30 a.m. Revd. Dr John Vincent and Junior Church

Sunday 2nd. July Mrs. Jean Sprosun

Minister: Rev. Dave Markay

25 Holmesdale Road
DRONFIELD
S18 2FA

Our church website is www.dronfield-methodist.org.uk