

Dear Friends,

I remember an experience a colleague once told me of. It was Christmas Eve and he was called into the hospital where his mother lay. There had been a sudden deterioration in her condition and the staff were concerned enough to ask him to return. For over two hours he sat beside the bed as his mother lay motionless and asleep. Eventually the night nurse suggested that he go and have a cup of tea, in a side room, whilst they made his mother more comfortable. So he went, and with a brew in his hand, he stood looking out of the window.



As he looked out, he thought of the two ways people experience Christmas. On the one hand there was the bright lights of the pub – he could almost hear the people singing – and then, nearby the church – light streaming through the stain-glass windows – and as midnight struck, he could almost hear them singing as well, . . . ‘Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning’. Two different worlds, each celebrating Christmas in their own way. But then, he later told me, he realised there was a third world – a world not outside the window but one close at hand. A world of pain and suffering, the world of loneliness, and those who never knew what the future might hold.

With such thoughts in his mind, I also realised there is really only one way to worship the Christ Child and that is by being mindful of the needs of others – and then trying to help them in some practical way.

At Christmas, there are many gifts  
that are purchased with silver and gold,  
dazzling in their splendour and breathtaking to behold:  
But the one true gift of Christmas is a gift from God above,  
assuring ev’ry mortal human of God’s enduring love.  
For with this Christmas gift of love, our spirit is redeemed

and humanity at last possesses the peace of which they dream.

On Christmas day we might attend worship and sing:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning:

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord

But let us remember, true adoration, true worship is found in meaningful service – Jesus said, ‘for as much as you did this for one of the least of these, you did it for me.’

If we possess this Christmas gift of love, let us share it with others.

From your friend and minister,

*Brian*

## **SASH Diary** – Forthcoming Special Events and Services

### **December**

1 <sup>st</sup>	3.00pm	Messy Church – ‘Messy Christmas’ (AoM)
2 <sup>nd</sup>		Advent Sunday
	12 noon	Church Meeting (Sale)
	7.00pm	CTiS Taize Service (St Joseph’s)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00pm	Bible Study (Sale)
	7.30pm	Bible Study (AoM)
9 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Church Meeting (AoM)
	6.30pm	Service of Loving Remembrance (Sale)
10 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Bible Study (Sale)
	7.30pm	Bible Study (AoM)
12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	CAMEO and Elders Christmas Party (AoM)
16 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Carols, Readings and Mulled Wine (AoM)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	4.00pm	Christingle Service (Sale)
24 <sup>th</sup>	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Service (AoM)
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christmas Day Service (Sale)

## **SASH Diary - January**

5 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Messy Church – ‘Love God’ (AoM)
6 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Healing Service (AoM)
7 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Bible Study (Sale)
	7.30pm	Bible Study (AoM)
14 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Bible Study (Sale)
	7.30pm	Bible Study (AoM)
18 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	Bible Study (Sale)
	7.30pm	Bible Study (AoM)
28 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Bible Study (Sale)
	7.30pm	Bible Study (AoM)

## **Christmas Parade Service**

Our Christmas Parade Service will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018, and this year we will be supporting The Boaz Trust, who are a Christian Charity who open Night Shelters from November until April rotating around local Churches.

Please help support this worthwhile Charity by bringing your gifts of tinned food, treats, socks, gloves and toiletries, and also if anyone has an unwanted backpack and/or rucksack they would be greatly appreciated.

This year our Service is being led by the Worship Group for the first time. Please support us. Thank You

## **Hilary – Sale Church**

*The editors apologise to Nancy for this being omitted in the last edition*

## **Thanks**

I would like to say a big thank you for all the cards, visits and phone calls after my recent operation. Happy to say I am recovering very well.

## **Nancy Stringer**

## Harvest Lunch and Raffle

I am pleased to report that our Harvest Lunch and Raffle raised the wonderful amount of **£430.00**, which was sent to the Sekenani Girls School. A lovely letter of thanks has been received and is now on the Church Notice Board for you to see.

Thank you to everyone who helped and to all of you who supported this worthwhile event.

## Wendy and Hilary - Sale

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### Bible Word Search:

#### NAMES AND TITLES OF JESUS

U Q O K A I S N S M T K R P M  
V L F Z J T Y O A E E O A O R  
O M G Y V O N T N Z I C B X K  
Y D N Y M O E N U V A N B O A  
D L O V F H T C A S I R I X R  
E R I G W A R S P D S H E W E  
N T O G B M A L I D O V Z N D  
F D J L H Q Y V K R T T R Z E  
I G Q R R T A E G T H V E P E  
P B Y I H D S E K E U C T X M  
T S W K F T Y A J I O Q S L E  
L I I O N A M F O N O S A H R  
V N N Q Z Y K V A D E J M V R  
G O J E S U S E M M A N U E L  
S V B G G W T Z T P B Q J F E

CHRIST  
KING of the Jews  
LORD  
RABBI  
SON OF DAVID

EMMANUEL  
LAMB of God  
MASTER  
REDEEMER  
SON OF GOD

JESUS  
LIGHT of the World  
NAZARENE  
SAVIOR  
SON OF MAN

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# PULPIT SUPPLY FOR JANUARY 2019

\* Services include communion

Date	Ashton	Sale
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev Valerie Davies	Rev Brian Acty *
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev Brian Acty *	Rev Geoffrey Barnard
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev Valerie Davies	Rev Brian Acty
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev Brian Acty	Prof Christopher Whitehead

## READINGS FOR JANUARY 2019

6 <sup>th</sup> January	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Psalm 29	Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Isaiah 62: 1-5 Psalm 36: 5-10	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 14-21

## More Baby News

We are delighted to share the news of the birth, on October 25th, of our latest grandchild, Joshua Joseph Renfrew, son of Neil & Clare and brother of Emily & Samuel.

Thank you to everyone for your good wishes.

## Kathleen & Alasdair Renfrew

### Sale Flower Rota

December	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hilary Grierson
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Downie
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Marjorie Yeoman
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Heather
	30 <sup>th</sup>	“

### Ashton-on-Mersey Flower List

December	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gill Hunt
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Blank
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Pat & Alfred Joyce
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Clare & Dave Farr
January		To be advised

### PTA (Pleasant Tuesday Afternoon)

Programme as follows:

December	4 <sup>th</sup>	Suffragettes	-	Mrs Carole Shakeshaft
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service		
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch at “The Buck”		
January	15 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Brian Acty – also ‘Bring & Buy’		
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Annual General Meeting		
	29 <sup>th</sup>	T.B.C.		

### Katherine Paxton A-o-M



## Messy Church A-o-M November "I am the light"

Another fun and stimulating afternoon this month exploring the theme of Jesus as the light of the world. As always there were many exciting activities to choose from for our families.



Children had lots of fun using play dough to create different scenes and imaginary animals as we talked about what fun it is to make things and how, when we make, things we reflect God who is always making things.

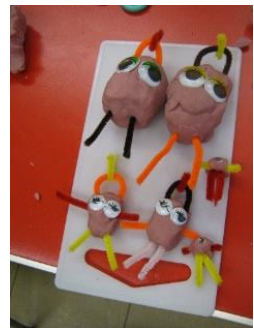
Children also had chance to make lanterns, hanging crystals and sparkly stars with glitter and glue abounding.

We talked about festivals of light round the world and how light is a powerful symbol for many religions and peoples. Children told us which festivals of light they knew?



light they knew?

Karen led us singing a really old favourite children's hymn of 'Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear light'.





Valerie and Helen led the celebration part of the afternoon with a story about Jesus at a festival in Jerusalem and people having to light lamps at night to see. Jesus told his disciples that he was the brightest light to lead the way. We played with torches in the darkened church to help

children see how having faith in Jesus will lead us as to the path we need to follow.

The next session is Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January. We would love to see you here and can assure you that you will be made most welcome. Messy church is for all ages, so come along and join us 3 till 5pm.

See more of what we get up to on Facebook:

[@Messy Church AonM](https://www.facebook.com/MessyChurchAonM)

## **Helen Priestman Ashton on Mersey**

### **Mission Aviation cake sale**



A grand total of £75 was raised at Ashton's Cake Sale in aid of Mission Aviation. Many thanks to Kath Paxton, Zoe & Caroline Howarth and all those who baked cakes.

Mission Aviation do a wonderful work both in the missionary & medical fields. Recently, the PTA membership (at A-o-M) enjoyed watching a documentary video on the history and development of the organisation which began just after WW 2.



Initially it was started by just two pilots from England operating in Africa. The two men endured many setbacks in those early days, but today it is supported at the international level from many countries and serve many places around the world where help is needed in remote locations.



The video was well produced, informative and inspirational and now the organisation employs many pilots and workers at many levels. Kath Paxton at A-o-M has the video and is it available for others to view.

## **Alfred & Pat Joyce**

### **Junior Church**

Sunday School is after some help with their Christmas service. We are going to look at the history behind some of our favourite carols. If you have a carol you would like to know about, please add it to the list on the notice board at church and we will do our best to research as many as possible.

Thank you very much.

## **Caroline Howarth (A-o-M)**

### **Church & Society**

As we meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month, we take a break in December, and will start 2019 with a New Year Party on 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 2 p.m. in Sale Church lounge. This always provides an ideal occasion for firming up our programme for the coming months. Please let Lily Lloyd know on 969 3093 if you hope to come and add your ideas.

## **Keith Argyle**

## **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice**

On Sunday, 11/11/18, the nation held a special remembrance service. The memorial window in the A-o-M church bears the names of the fallen in both WW I & WW II and was the focus of this year's Remembrance Service. John Leeming laid the wreath and took the salute and was supported by many others from the membership in the delivery of the commemorative story. The Service was led by Karen Garrattley with music appropriately chosen for the occasion. The service was based on the format agreed by all denominations of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, with special addition material published this year by the URC in commemorating the centenary of the Armistice.

Following the service, lunch was served and then we were entertained by the Hale Light Orchestra under the leadership of Andy Bate and conducted by the Revd Robert Clack. The music was magnificent with special attention to popular pieces at the time of the Armistice. The audience filled all the seats in the church and all were delighted. In particular, the audience sang with the orchestra when they played *Roses of Picardy* by Hayden Wood.

## **Alfred Joyce A-o-M**

### **FOP**

Not many people have heard of this condition. All muscles and connective soft tissue become extra bones and the sufferer becomes trapped in their own body. At A-o-M, we intend to give support.

# FOP and Me



Fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva is one of the rarest and most disabling genetic conditions known to medicine. FOP progressively imprisons the body in bone: a healthy mind locked inside a frozen body.

## MEET OLIVER!

"My name is Oliver and I am 9 years old. I am very energetic and love to run around with my friends. I have a bike and a scooter and sometimes you will even find me climbing a tree! I enjoy swimming and messing around in the pool. My hobbies are trainspotting - I hope to become a train driver one day - and Lego. I love building new kits and adding to my Lego City. I like going on holidays and exploring new places. I hope that very soon the researchers will find a treatment for FOP so I can continue to run and play like all my friends".



## WHAT IS FOP?

FOP causes extra bone to form in muscles, tendons, ligaments and other connective tissues. As these bridges of extra bone develop across the joints, it progressively restricts the sufferer's movements. Any attempt to remove the bone would aggravate the FOP, accelerating the process. Flare-ups are unpredictable and painful. There is no known treatment or cure.



## RESEARCH

We are very fortunate to have a number of excellent research teams around the world, working against the clock to find an effective treatment and cure for FOP. We now have real hope that a treatment for Oliver and his friends will be available. Research into FOP also has the potential to advance treatments for conditions such as osteoporosis, heart disease, childhood brain cancer and spinal cord injuries.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

All money raised by FOP Friends goes directly to support the race to find a treatment and a cure for FOP. We also need to raise awareness of this cruel disease.

Visit our website to find out more or to make a donation. Thank you



Finding a treatment and cure for FOP | [www.fopfriends.com](http://www.fopfriends.com) | Registered charity: 1147704

## **The Train of Life**

I found these beautiful words a while ago. I do not know the source of where they came from, but I think they have been distilled from the poem "Life is like a train ride" by John A Passaro. My daughter Victoria read them at my brother Neil's funeral on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October and I would like to share them with you.

At birth we board the train and meet our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our sides.

As time goes by other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life.

However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum.

Some, however will go so unnoticed that we don't realise they vacated their seats.

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery that prevails is that we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down.

Thus, we must try to travel along the track of life in the best possible way - loving, forgiving, giving and sharing.

**Jenny Burgess A-o-M**

## **From the Editors**

Thank you to all who have contributed to this double-month edition.

As usual, please let us have your reports and contributions for February SASH by the 13th January. May we all experience the joy and hope of Christmas with our friends and family members, and trust in our loving God's abiding presence and guidance in the year ahead.

**Keith and Margaret**