

## **FRIENDS OF POOLE CHAPEL & QUIET GARDEN.**

### **Newsletter No.1 - Spring 2021.**



#### **WELCOME.**

Welcome to our first Newsletter for Poole Chapel & Quiet Garden. We have a Facebook page, which at present has daily prayers from the Methodist Church and the Church of England posted, alongside posters and publicity for events at Poole. During Advent there were daily animations from the Methodist Church counting down to Christmas.

If you would like to add any items to the Facebook page, or to future newsletters, you can either Private Message the page, or send items to Sally at [iamsally@zoho.com](mailto:iamsally@zoho.com) for inclusion.

The Facebook link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/PooleNantwich/>



We are also linked into the Cheshire South Methodist Circuit website.

[www.cheshiresouth.org.uk/](http://www.cheshiresouth.org.uk/)

The newsletters will be twice yearly – in Spring and in Autumn, both exciting and important times in the gardening year, and will be available in print as well as distributed via email – and will also be posted on the Facebook page after initial distribution.

If you would like to be added to our email list for distribution please let us know by emailing Malcolm at [maxcricket@btinternet.com](mailto:maxcricket@btinternet.com)

#### **HOW WE RUN THE QUIET GARDEN.**

We recently have had two meetings of the Management Team to consider how we run the garden and spiritual space in the chapel. Here are the main points from the meetings:

- The Poole Chapel & Quiet Garden is a Cheshire South Methodist Circuit project, and the Circuit forms the Trustees of the Building and Garden.
- A Management Team has been set up to oversee the garden and manage the accounts, repairs to the building etc.
- The Management Team consists of Rev Rob Hilton, Rev Robin Fox, Rev Will Morrey, Rev Malcolm Lorimer, Sally Graham, Janet Spibey, Isabel Brislen, Sarah Worth.
- The accounts of the previous year were audited and accepted.
- The Chapel has been risk assessed regarding Covid-19 safety regulations and the correct procedures adopted and will be implemented.



## **MAINTENANCE OF THE BUILDING.**

We extend our thanks to Andy Townsend and to Adam Meredith who before Christmas dug out a damp course at the front and back of the building.

This helps in ventilation of the chapel and will help to preserve the structure.

There is currently space on the front of the chapel, which would look lovely with pots of bulbs or small flowers.

If you would like to donate any to this display it would be greatly appreciated.

We have also created a raised bed at the front of the chapel and all it requires now are some plants.

Likewise, donations would be happily accepted for this. Please feel free to plant into the raised bed when you visit.

We will be organising a few working days in the garden in March (socially distanced of course).

Let Malcolm know if you can help:  
[maxcricket@btinternet.com](mailto:maxcricket@btinternet.com)

## **THE QUAKERS AND THE CHAPEL.**

Before Malcolm joined the Cheshire South Methodist Circuit over 12 years ago, he had occasionally attended Quaker meetings in Manchester. Looking for a local Quaker meeting, Malcolm found the nearest was quite a distance away, so he started a Quaker Meeting in the chapel at Poole.

Malcolm says:

"I contacted some Quakers who lived locally and we began, meeting fortnightly in the chapel on a Sunday Afternoon. I even put the services on the Circuit Plan. I found out there were previously strong links between Methodists and Quakers. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in Warrington there was a Methodist/Quaker chapel. They were called the singing Quakers!

The meetings at Poole went on for around two years and we built up quite a number of 'friends' who enjoyed the meetings at the chapel. Quite a few Methodists joined as well, appreciating the silent meetings and the fellowship. It was from this that the idea of the Garden came about.

The Quaker meeting outgrew Poole and they decided they wanted a more central meeting area. I am pleased to say they re-located to Crewe and meet at Coppenhall Methodist Church."

The garden at Poole was designed by a Quaker, and the Quakers continue to help with the gardening and upkeep of the garden.

Sarah is on the Management Team representing the Quakers.

Here, Sarah shares her thoughts on the Quiet Garden at Poole:

### **The Quiet Garden – my thoughts**

I have been a cyclist for over 60 years and have spent many of the last few years since retirement trundling along the Cheshire lanes. One day, having decided to try a slightly different route, I found myself going through the pretty hamlet of Poole. And I glimpsed a sign announcing the presence of a Quiet Garden. For many years I've been visiting the far north of Northumberland and was familiar with the Quiet Garden at Cornhill; so of course I got off the bike, wheeled it along the path behind the chapel. And there was such quiet pleasure!

I sat for a while, immediately feeling the "centering down" that is a core part of Quaker Meeting for Worship. Great peace came over me, time to listen to the birds, look at the plants, and just to appreciate being in such a spiritual setting. I have repeated that bike ride many times, not least when a dear Quaker Friend in mid-Wales had died and I was unable to travel to her memorial. I cycled over to the Quiet Garden at the time of her memorial and sat there to remember her, her family and her loving heart. I'm so grateful for the Garden and so glad to be able to visit – at good times and at the not-so-good times. Let's hope better times in 2021 are eventually on their way.

**Sarah Worth (Crewe and Nantwich Quaker Meeting)**

**January 2021**



Rev Robin Fox is also a member of the Management Team. He is new to the Circuit, having moved to Audlem during the pandemic, and having got to know so many people as boxes on his computer screen is especially happy to join us in the care and development of the wonderful outdoor space at Poole.

Here are Robin's thoughts on the garden:

### **Garden...**

Say the word "Garden to me" and my mind will immediately go back to the garden of my childhood home which my Dad tended with great pride and grew Dahlias in just about every spare inch! Of course, at the time, to me as a young boy, the garden was a place to run and play, and whilst I can't claim to have my Dad's green fingers, I can now appreciate the time and care he took to make the garden what it was.

The Poole Quiet Garden is a place to take time and to take stock, and whilst there must always be a place to run and play as well, I commend it to you for your thoughts, prayers and reflection.

**Rev Robin Fox**

**February 2021**

The Quiet Garden at Poole has touched many. Some have only ever visited alone – for some peace and time alone with God. Children’s groups have visited and have walked the Labyrinth, and learned about the Christian symbols within the garden. And some have visited the garden to do a little (and sometimes a lot!) of gardening, spending time with nature and in God’s marvelous creation amongst the plants, birds and insects.



Bill and Janet Field have often visited to work in the garden.

Here are some thoughts shared by Janet about their connection to gardening:

**You are nearer God’s heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.**

Gardens are very special places as in every season they show the whole spectrum of life from the tiny seed to the dying plant. My gardens have been special places to me because while gardening I find time to think and to feel at peace with God and the world.

Just at the moment (February) on looking out of the window I see snowdrops and other Spring flowers. A month ago it seemed to be a dead place, apart from the evergreen shrubs - but it was alive!

Gardens are places that need looking after. Very soon, if they are neglected they can revert back to looking uncared for. Mine is what I call a “cottage garden.” I am not a tidy gardener, but I do want each flower and each plant to have the opportunity to reach its full potential and I like a profusion of colour.

It is an ever changing garden and it changes as new things are added and new plants are grown. It is always different every year. This means working in the garden, tending the plants and making preparations for each season as it comes. The flowers you have in the spring appear to die back and remain underground getting ready for next year.

Other plants grow in their place and then you have the full beauty and colour in the Summer, the colours of Autumn and the dying back in the Winter again. This to me is a miracle of God’s LOVE through creation - and I want to be part of it.

Gardens are places of memories. Bill and I have travelled many miles in this country and a lot of the flowers in the garden remind us of places we have visited, and people we have met. We rarely came back from our travels without a plant, occasionally a tree, shrub or pot so that now we can enjoy memories of those happy holidays and of people we met. We had some cowslips that continue to make a journey! They were given to Bill from Westonbirt Arboretum, planted in Cirencester Park Caravan Site, travelled to Wybunbury, to Nantwich, to Cambridge, to Bedford and probably many more places as they have been passed on. Friendships live on through the wonders of nature.

During our travels we have visited many gardens and we enjoy seeing other people's gardens. It is amazing how gardens show the personality of the gardeners! There is a patch of land opposite our house and over the last few years we have planted snowdrops and daffodils there and we hope in future years that as they spread they will bring joy to those who see them. We also appreciate the quietness found in the Quiet Garden at Poole, where we like to go and work.

We none of us garden alone. Many of God's creatures share it with us. The birds that come, the not always welcome squirrel stealing their food, the butterflies and bees, and many other insects who share the garden - and are welcome. Gardens are to be shared and enjoyed, and I like people to come and share it with me.

I would always have to have some kind of garden and even in Winter, when the garden is looking as if plants will never flower again we have our indoor garden with orchids and other plants to brighten up the dull days.

My garden is a place to sit in and enjoy. It is not the quietest of places because of a main road nearby, but somehow I can still find peace there - a place where I can sit and think- a happy place - and if sad times come just sitting quietly amongst the plants I know again that life will go on no matter what may happen. My garden is a spiritual place of comfort and peace. I firmly believe in the words written by Dorothy Francis Gurney. "You are nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth"

**Bill and Janet Field**

**February 2021**

## **BOOKMARK AND LEAFLET.**

I have produced a laminated bookmark about, and promoting the Quiet Garden at Poole. Please let me know if you would like some.

Also, thanks to Lorna at RLH Print at Barbridge, we have a new leaflet. Again, please use them for publicity.

**Rev Malcolm Lorimer**



## **WILD CHURCHES.**

There is an interesting article in the Church Times about 'Wild Churches'. Wild Church Norfolk is a movement that takes church outside the walls and is linked to Fresh Expressions.

"A place to connect with community and care for creation. We believe nature is imperative for our whole wellbeing - physical, mental and spiritual and we need to do more to care for our one planet home."

Why not have a look at their website.

<https://arocha.org.uk/wild-church-norfolk/>

## **APPEAL FOR FUNDING TWO NEW WINDOWS.**

Last summer we started raising money for the Poole Quiet Garden. Malcolm collected apples, and asked for donations to the garden for them. He collected them from 3 trees and made over £200. Malcolm also made cider and apple cake.

**"I can't sell the cider but I can give you a bottle!!!" Malcolm**

We need to replace the two windows at the back of the chapel which are rotten and it is going to cost around £2,000. The Chapel is a grade 2 listed building, so we have to replace them with similar windows. We have had pledges so far of about £1,000 and are still fundraising to secure the rest. If you would like to make a donation, please let us know. We can also Gift Aid any donation.

Donations can be sent to:

Janet Spibey.

Waneshill, Church Road,

Aston-Juxta-Mondrum.

Nantwich. CW5 6DR.

Cheques made payable to *Poole Methodist Chapel*.

We are very grateful to all those who donated plants and their time throughout last year. We had 3 mature Acer trees donated; all three are well established and flourishing.



## **BOX OF RESOURCES IN THE GARDEN.**

There is a sealed plastic box in the garden (On one of the seats) which contains resources for Worship and Prayer. Please feel free to use them. There is also hand sanitiser in the box; please use this.



## **EASTER GARDEN.**

We are hoping to do something special for Easter. We'd like to hold a special service in the open air - perhaps on Easter Sunday. We are also hoping to make an Easter Garden in part of the Quiet Garden.

With the ongoing successful roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccines, and the thankfully now reducing case and death statistics, hopefully we will be able to get back to Worship soon at the Chapel.

Watch the Facebook page for more details and announcements.



## **THE QUIET GARDEN MOVEMENT.**

The Poole Quiet Garden is affiliated to the Quiet Garden Movement.

“The primary vision of the Quiet Garden Movement is to initiate and resource a network of local opportunities for prayer, silence, reflection and the appreciation of beauty; for learning about Christian Spirituality; and for experiencing creativity and healing in the context of God’s love.”

**The Quiet Garden Movement website**

Why not have a look at their website:  
[www.quietgarden.org](http://www.quietgarden.org)

So, our final word in our first newsletter goes to Rev Will Morrey, as he offers an invitation to visit Poole Chapel & Quiet Garden:

My journey to the Quiet Garden began in 1974 when as a student I went to spend a day at a Convent where Silence was the daily practice. As I came to the library with its polished wooden floor, I tiptoed across trying not to make a noise. Two nuns smiled, clearly amused, and one kindly took me aside to explain that Silence did not mean absence of all sound! I thus began to learn about Silence which might better termed Stillness.

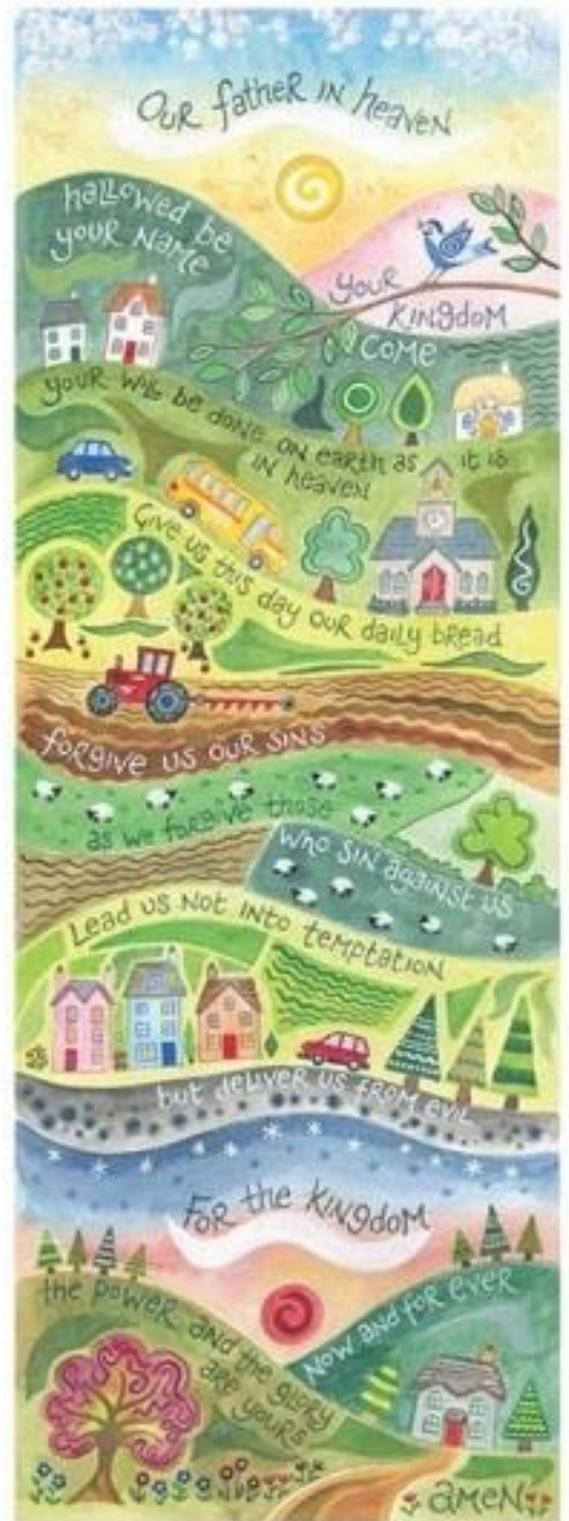
In a very hectic and busy life I have come to learn that to be still is an essential part of practical Christian Faith. Stopping to inwardly listen is an important part of growing in awareness of oneself, and of God. And, for me, time spent being in a garden is conducive to practicing the art of being STILL.

So I warmly commend visiting Poole Quiet Garden to you.

Rev Will Morrey.

February 2021





## The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me  
 and I wake in the night at the least sound  
 in fear of what my life and my children's lives  
 may be,  
 I go and lie down where the wood drake  
 rests in his beauty on the water, and the great  
 heron feeds.  
 I come into the peace of wild things  
 who do not tax their lives with forethought  
 of grief. I come into the presence of still  
 water.  
 And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
 waiting with their light. For a time  
 I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

### Wendell Berry

From *New Collected Poems* (Counterpoint, 2012)