

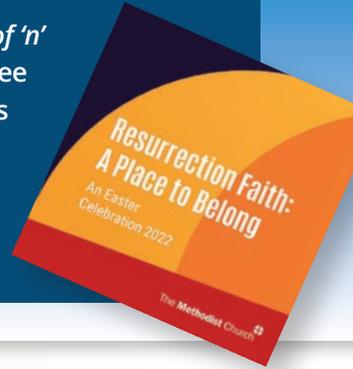
EASTER AT BAKER ST

The MMHS office closes for Easter weekend 15-18 April. For urgent help, phone **020 3848 6020** and choose the emergency option.

Happy Easter!

FREE! Easter worship CD

With your spring edition of *Roof 'n' Roots*, you should also find a free copy of the Methodist Church's new Easter CD. *Resurrection Faith: A Place to Belong* includes hymns, readings, prayers and reflections.



roof 'n' roots

The Newsletter of the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society • Spring 2022

Rock of ages

*DAD WORKED IN COAL.
HIS LAD WORKS IN ROCK.*

Revs Barrie and James Morley are dad and lad. They're also Methodist ministers who work out their calling in quite different ways.

An MMHS resident since 2011, Barrie used to work for the National Coal Board. It turned out to be ideal training for serving a coal mining community as their Methodist minister.

Son James used to borrow dad's Buddy Holly tape to play on his first ever Walkman. It turned out to be ideal training for serving rock music fans as pastor in the pandemic.

'During the first big lockdown, I thought, what would a "heavy metal" compline look like?' said James, who leads three churches in Derbyshire. He decided to find out.

He launched a service on Facebook and YouTube – mixing liturgy with heavy metal – a type of music characterised by distorted guitars and vigorous vocals.

'We were reaching out to people in the metal scene and Christians within it,' James explained. 'For some people, it became "church" during the pandemic.'

So what does Barrie think of 'Metal Compline'? 'I'd listen to the devotions and turn off the music!' he smiled. 'I respect it and I'm glad it's cutting ice, particularly



Photo: Clive Price

MISSION FAMILY: (from l to r) Joan, James and Barrie Morley discuss outreach

with younger people, but it's not my style. It did draw folk, particularly when there was no physical being together. It was very important.'

Barrie knows about cultural sensitivity. He and wife Joan have experience of relating to others in a specific social setting – but amid a different 'rock'. Barrie had an administrative job with the National Coal Board when he decided to become a Methodist minister in 1973.

'My family and I had been around the coal industry all our lives,' Barrie recalled. The plan was to have a break from the coal industry. But he was sent to a circuit in North-east England that boasted three mines – and became chaplain to two of them!

It was a warm, friendly community, but the shafts took the workers out to remote locations deep under the North Sea. It was a tough life – which became tougher with the miners' strike in 1984. ▶

NEW! Listen to Roof 'n' Roots at www.mmhs.org.uk/podcast

A message from Mairi



I am sure, like me, you experienced shock when Putin invaded Ukraine.

In the MMHS office, we have two colleagues impacted severely with what is happening. We've featured my EA, Anya, in this copy of Roof 'n' Roots. Well done, Anya, for finding the strength to take to the stage to make a difference for good. Please pray for Anya and her family and friends still in Ukraine. Please also pray for my finance team colleague, Jamila, who has family in Ukraine some of whom have fled to Poland.

I have found myself reflecting on the extent to which I take things for granted. The present unfolding horror reminded me of the need never to take freedom for granted. I recently read an article on how freedom is never free – it always comes at a price.

On a lighter note – the MMHS staff team definitely shouldn't be taken for granted! I would like to pay tribute to my colleague, Glenn Fry, who is retiring at the end of April. Glenn has been with MMHS for more than 11 years and will be known to many of you. He will be missed. We all wish him a very happy retirement.

Mairi

How to stay safe when surfing

WHAT IF A CALLER HACKS INTO YOUR COMPUTER? HOW ABILITYNET CAME TO THE RESCUE OF A RESIDENT

Folders vanished from his screen as Revd John Pritchard followed the phone instructions. Before the retired minister realised what was happening, the so-called 'consultant' had remotely ransacked his machine.

An 80-year-old MMHS resident in Sussex, John was victim of a scam. It happened just a few years ago – a caller phoned out of the blue, claiming there was something wrong with John's computer.

'They said they could help, if I would give them control of the computer for a few minutes,' John recalled. 'They absolutely wiped it.'

John called computer help group AbilityNet. 'They found someone local who got to the bottom of it,' he recalled. 'Nearly all was restored.'

John had a direct link with AbilityNet. His brother-in-law Myles Pilling is among their nationwide network of 300 volunteers. MMHS has a creative collaboration with them to help our residents. It was Myles who encouraged John to phone AbilityNet.

So how do we stay safe while enjoying the wonders of the web? The key is to be vigilant. Myles offered guidance to keep us safe while using electronic services:

Photo: Stuart Walden



ABILITYNET RESCUE: Revd John Pritchard recovered his files and enjoys the web again!

- check website addresses, particularly if claiming to be Government, NHS or bank;
- if a phone message or email sounds too good to be true, it probably is;
- if a call or email sounds threatening or makes you feel fearful, it's possibly a scam;
- if the call is an automated message by a robotic-sounding voice, it could be a scam (be aware some organisations like flood agencies will use automated calls);
- if a call or email makes you feel uneasy, check it out;
- if a call or email asks you for user name and password, they're a scammer.

Despite the dangers, there is much on the internet to enhance our lives. We can contact family or friends far away, we can reunite with old friends and enjoy books and articles in new ways – such as enlarging the text for easier reading.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
For computer advice, phone AbilityNet's helpline **0800 048 7642** or email them at enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk

◀ Rock of ages

Barrie and Joan helped struggling villages through those times – such as supporting the local foodbank. They took cash gifts to mining families under cover of darkness, to preserve people's dignity. 'I remember the sadness,' said Joan.

Ministry appointments followed in other parts of England, and the couple had two sons – James and Christopher. Christopher is a personal trainer.

Barrie and Joan, both 75, have lived in an MMHS property in the East Midlands ever since retirement. 'There's a helpful, sympathetic soul on the other end of the phone, and we appreciate that,' said Barrie.



Photo: Clive Price

MINISTRY COUPLE: Joan and Barrie helped mining families

WHAT YOU CAN DO
James continues his Facebook ministry as 'Metal Methodist' and has produced a special programme about Ukrainian bands. Watch a new video about the Morley's at www.mmhs.org.uk



Join the party

We're marking our 75th anniversary next year! We'd be delighted if you could join us on that journey as we prepare to celebrate.

Are you, your family or your church also celebrating an anniversary in 2023? If so, please share it with us so we can make that part of our festivities too.

We will create a special section on the MMHS website to share our residents' anniversary events. We'll consider featuring them on our exhibition stand at next year's Methodist Conference.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
In the first instance, please send us a 200-word description of your anniversary event, with a photograph. Email to: comms@mmhs.org.uk Join the party!



Photo: Anya Chaika

MERCY MUSIC: Anya Chaika with Imelda May

to sing for her people'. Featuring other acts like Bob Geldof, Chrissie Hynde and Franz Ferdinand, the London event raised funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal, in response to the Russian invasion. 'The response from the British public and the international community has been amazing,' said Anya, who is Executive Assistant to our CEO Mairi Johnstone.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
You can help Ukraine by donating to appeals at www.dec.org.uk or www.allwecan.org.uk

The day time stood still

When time stood still at The Museum of Methodism, our own 'time lord' – Revd Neville Pugh – came to the rescue.

Museum staff discovered the MMHS grandfather clock had mysteriously stopped working. You could say it looked a bit long in the face. So Neville travelled from his Society property in Wales to lend a hand.

Neville – who is the clock's creator – found part of the delicate mechanism had been pulled out of place. He used a screwdriver and pliers – with plenty of WD40 and patience – to tackle this difficult case.

It was Curator Christian Dettlaff who'd alerted us to the crisis. 'We found that someone had been mucking around with the mechanism,' he said. 'Neville had a challenge – but he managed to put everything back together.'

MMHS donated the clock to the wider Methodist Church in 2019, to mark the culmination of the Society's 70th anniversary celebrations.

We think whoever tampered with the clock should be ticked off. But however time-consuming it was, Neville got the job done. When it comes to clocks, he's second to none. Neville beats everyone else – hands down.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
Check out the MMHS clock at The Museum of Methodism in City Road, London.



Photo: Clive Price

CLOCKING ON: 'Time Lord' Neville saves the day



Check your trader

Just as you'd expect a builder to turn up with a bucket of cement or a hammer and nails, you need to ensure they have public liability insurance too. It's another tool of the trade.

It's so important, MMHS cannot raise an order or reimburse residents unless evidence is given of a contractor's public liability insurance. A copy of their policy certificate is proof enough. It means the contractor is covered if something goes wrong.

Public liability insurance comes into play when a contractor has made an error resulting in accident or injury, and they are ruled to be responsible. The cover allows the householder to seek compensation for any damages caused.

Tradespeople are also expected to have appropriate qualifications and be conversant with customer care standards and practices – and health and safety procedures. They should be appropriately dressed and carry some form of identification.

Where possible, contractors should be registered with professional bodies such as NICEIC, FENSA, CERTASS, Gas Safe, Federation of Master Builders, etc. 🏠

WHAT YOU CAN DO

For more details, refer to the Residents' Handbook or contact the MMHS property team. Call **020 3848 6020** option 1 for general repairs; email property@mmhs.org.uk

The thrill of gardening

REFLECTION BY ANN BROOK

Have you ever experienced the thrill of eating your own food? You've never had a carrot until you've had one straight out of your own ground. All you have to do is wash the soil off and eat it.

My husband Paul and I have been gardening for many years. We've been in our MMHS house here in north-east England since 1997 – and put in a shed, five raised beds and a waist-high trough.

Gardening is good for your mental health



because you're close to nature. It's something we should all try and do.

Start growing with something easy like salads – various lettuces and radishes. The key is not to plant all at once. Do a row and then a fortnight later, do another row.

Next, try carrots. We plant them in our waist-high trough. They're easy to grow, and look after themselves, though you've got to thin them.

Then plant some potatoes. There's nothing like a potato straight from the garden. Leeks are easy and are very tasty, and they freeze well. Runner beans are easy too.



PLANTING PAIR: Ann with husband Revd Paul Brook – and their veg trough

It's good to be out in the garden. But remember it can be hard work! Just one hour a day can see you through quite a lot. Gardening will give you that good feeling of achieving something. 🏠

Ann Brook is an MMHS resident and a former board member. Husband Paul is a retired Methodist minister. 'We're very grateful to the Society for our lovely home,' they told us. 'They are excellent landlords and over the years have always been very kind and helpful.'

WHAT YOU CAN DO

For advice on using gardening for good health, get a free copy of Gardening For Hearts & Minds from horticultural charity Thrive. Their guide can be downloaded at www.thrive.org.uk/shop/gardening-for-hearts-minds-guide, or bought as a hard copy for £11.50 including P&P. Contact Thrive at The Geoffrey Udall Centre, Beech Hill, Reading RG7 2AT, tel 0118 988 5688 or email info@thrive.org.uk

