

KNOWLE GREEN CHURCH



You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

**1 Peter 1 vs 8&9
NLT**

December - January 2016

www.knowlegreencc.com

Knowle Green Congregational Church

Clitheroe Road, Knowle Green, Longridge. PR3 2YQ

Tel: 01254 878394

Knowle Green is an independent Church affiliated to the Congregational Federation. Our ultimate loyalty is to Christ Himself and to His Word. We seek in our dealings to be guided by the Holy Scriptures and aim to build a spiritual house worthy and fit for the Lord Jesus.

If you would like to know more about our fellowship here you are welcome to speak to our Pastor, who can be contacted at the Manse, or by telephone (see above) or speak to one of the Deacons on duty, who will be happy to provide more information.

Services are Open to all and you are invited to attend any or all.

9. 45am Devotional Service

This takes place every Sunday morning excluding the 1st Sunday in the month. This Service is facilitated by a Church member. It is Devotional in orientation, is an open Service and attendees are encouraged (optional) to take part through reading of Scripture; sharing of testimonies; choose a hymn/Worship song etc. This Service offers you the opportunity to be still; Seek God and listen to what God through the Holy Spirit is saying; to share; encourage ; bless and share in the Believers Breaking of Bread.

11.00am Family Service

This is a traditionally structured family Service. It is led from the front by the Pastor of the Church (1st and 2nd of the month) and invited speakers thereafter.

2.30pm Agape Fellowship Meeting (1st Sunday ONLY)

This is a 'MUST' for all. It takes place every 1st Sunday. We recognise the fact that increasingly Christians are becoming more isolated and marginalized hence this Service. It is more of a celebration/fellowship meeting. We share a meal (bring and share). This follows on after our usual tea/coffee recess. The gathering gives insight into the Church and the opportunity to meet Church members. We also recognise that we have a number who travel in and miss out on fellowship hence the need to be part of the family and enjoy each other's fellowship. Knowle Green remains unspoilt and is a designated 'Area of natural outstanding beauty'. On a good day take the opportunity to explore the Ribble Valley. If you have not come prepared (brought food with you) please do still join us. Your fellowship means a lot to us.

Visitors

If you are visiting, we welcome you to the service. We hope that you will be at home with us and experience the presence of God as we worship together. If this is your first visit, please sign in the visitors' Book in the foyer and we would love you to stay with us for coffee after the service. On Sunday mornings we warmly invite visitors to make use of our crèche, children and young people activities. Please ask for the group relevant to your child's age.

Regular Weekly Fortnightly Schedule of Meetings/Activities

Sunday	9.45am –10.30am 11.00am –12noon	Holy Communion and time of Open Worship Family Service	Weekly (not the 1 st Sunday of the month) Weekly
Monday	6.30pm-8.00pm 6.30pm-8.00pm	Life of Faith Girls Group Boys Club	Alternate Weeks Alternate Weeks
Tuesday	9.00am-10.00am 7.30pm-9.30pm	Prayer Meeting House Group @ the Manse	Weekly Weekly (not 1 st week of the month)
Wednesday	7.30pm-9.00pm	House Group in Longridge	Fortnightly
Friday	9.30am-11.00am	First Fruits	Weekly

Regular Monthly/Quarterly Schedule of Meetings/Activities

Sunday	11.00am-1200 noon 2.30pm-3.30pm	Family Communion Service Agape Fellowship Meeting	1 st Sunday in the month 1 st Sunday in the month
Tuesday	7.30pm-9.00pm	Deacons Meeting	1 st Tuesday of the month
Wednesday	9.00am 1.30pm-3.30pm	Finance Group Prayer for Israel	Usually last week of the month (or as required) 1 st Tuesday of the month
Thursday	10.00am-3.00pm 2.00pm-3.30pm 7.30pm-9.00pm	ACE Home School Support/Fellowship Group Thursday Fellowship (All Ages) Building Committee	Usually 3 rd week of the month Usually last Thursday of the month Quarterly
Friday	7.00am-6.00pm 7.30pm-9.00pm	Day of Prayer and fasting Prayer Meeting	Last Friday of the month
Saturday	9.00am-12noon 9.00am-10.30am	Bikers Breakfast - Last Saturday of the month Men's Breakfast	Monthly (Mar-Oct) Quarterly

SEE NOTICE BOARD FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES

Date	Deacon's	Reader	Coffee
Dec 6th	Jean Procter Margaret Mellor	Richard Grimshaw	Barbara Sutcliffe Kath Bowyer
Dec 13th	Tony Jackson Michael Redmayne	Ruth Woods	Jane Maher Ellen Saunders
Dec 20th	Joss Daune Robin Clark	Mick Cook	Barbara Waring Mel Gilday
Dec 27th	Jean Hoole Sue Catlow	Andrew Rowland	Tom & Margaret Mellor
Jan 3rd	Colin Procter Tony Jackson	Margaret Mellor	Ruth Woods Jean Hoole
Jan 10th	Margaret Mellor Joss Daune	Isaac Okpoti	Michael & Elaine Redmayne
Jan 17th	Sue Catlow Jean Procter	Debbie Mills	Tony & Pat Jackson
Jan 24th	Michael Redmayne Colin Procter	Colin Procter	Brian & Audrey Wynne
Jan 31st	Jean Hoole Robin Clark	Tony Jackson	Barbara Sutcliffe Kath Bowyer
Feb 7th	Sue Catlow Joss Daune	Steve Gilday	Jane Maher Ellen Saunders

Thursday Fellowship

The Thursday Fellowship in December will be on the 17th and this will be the fellowship's Christmas party. There will be no speaker on this occasion. There will also be no Thursday Fellowship in January either.

Senior's Lunch

There will be our usual, God willing, Senior's lunch in January 2016.

Please watch out for your invitation and if there is anyone in your family, Community, or a neighbour who you have prayerfully considered and would like to join us please give names to and speak to Julie.

This is always a very special afternoon and we look forward to time together with the Lord.
Date TBC.

Daniel “resolved not to defile himself.”

(Daniel Chapter 1-3)

Our world has seen much freedom in the last few decades. Very few people, however, really are free. Most live in bondage of one form or another to such things as fear, the future, guilt, uncertainties, inner turmoil's etc. We live in challenging times. The Freedom of thought, Conscience and religion and Freedom of expression are being redefined. In all likelihood the 'British values' will precede and replace extensively the known values and practices we have enjoyed for generations. The new expression 'British values' will in due course legislatively be imposed and it will seem an 'alien culture' to what we have known. It will without doubt be an 'alien culture'. Are you ready for the new challenge?

‘What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun that has been before.’ ((Ecclesiastes 1:9). If you've ever wished God would come and show himself, boosting your faith and striking awe into the hearts of mankind look in the book of Daniel where it tells of a miraculous rescue, the humbling of pagan kings and how God would intervene.

The name Daniel means “God is judge “. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were just teenagers when they were forcibly extracted from Judah and exiled to Babylon (modern-day Iraq), stripped literally of their human rights. They were catapulted into a society and culture with life choices that were totally alien to them. They had no rights, 'Freedom of thought, Conscience and religion & Freedom of expression'. They were stripped of their identity and rebranded with Babylonian names. Daniel changed to Belteshazzar, Hananiah to Shadrach, Mishael to Meshach, and Azariah to Abednego. They were **compelled to learn** and to **be re-educated** for three years in the norms of Babylonianism. It was a **compulsory** state sponsored education coupled with 'Ofsted inspection' towering over them. The King ordered Ashpenaz, chief of the court officials, to teach and supervise their education. Daniel and his friends had tough decisions to make:-

Option 1 'Go with the flow for an easy life'.

Option 2 'Come up with excuses for conforming.'

Option 3 'Insist on staying faithful and obedient to serving the God whom they and their forefathers had known for generations'.

Daniel and his friends dutifully obeyed initially as directed but they also drew a '**red line**'. They were offered **the very best** of the king's food and royal wine. Daniel “**resolved not to defile himself.**” He asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. God graciously caused the official to show favour and sympathy to Daniel. Daniel took a risk but was also prepared for whatever consequence awaited him. Daniel and his associates were in due course instrumental in becoming the saving grace of Babylon.

One of the biggest challenges facing those who profess Jesus as Lord and Saviour, individually and corporately, will be in deciding what is central to our faith, what our "**red line**" is and what is simply the result of our own history, background and tradition.

God said to Joshua in the face of stiff opposition “**Do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous**”. (Joshua 10:25). We can be certain that whenever we go out to battle in the authority of Almighty God, we can be assured that God goes with us and He makes available to us his heavenly resources. Someone has said that obedience is, “**Doing exactly what one is told to do when one is told to do it, with a good spirit.**” God expects obedience. Our spiritual success or failure depends on it.

As we approach the season of Christmas let us be thankful, remember why Jesus came as a baby, fully God yet fully man, and pray for our world. Pray for our brothers and sisters across the nations and cities, for our neighbours, friends and families. That in the midst of the celebrations and holidays we will remember “**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.**” (Isaiah 9:6). **This is God's plan.**



God Bless you all as we move into what the Lord Jesus Christ has for us in His Sovereign will and governance for 2016.

God Bless

Pastor Chris

(Pastor Chris.)

YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL

In all the world there is nobody like you.

Since the beginning of time there has never been another person like you.

Nobody has your smile, your eyes, your hands, or your hair.

Nobody owns your handwriting, your voice, YOU'RE SPECIAL.

In all time there has never been anyone who laughs in exactly your way, and what makes you laugh or cry or think, may have a totally different response in another. SoYOU'RE SPECIAL.

You're different from any other person who has ever lived in the history of the universe.

You're the only one in the whole creation who has your particular set of abilities.

Nobody in the universe can reach the quality of the combination of your talents, your feelings.

Through all eternity no one will ever walk, talk, think, or do exactly like you. YOU'RE SPECIAL.

You're rare and in all rarity there is enormous value, and because of your great value, the need for you to imitate anyone else is absolutely wrong.

YOU'RE SPECIAL and it is no accident that you are.

Please realise that God made you for a special purpose.

He has a job for you to do that nobody else can do as well as you can.

Out of the billions of applications, only one is qualified.

Only one has the unique and right combination of what it takes and that one is YOU!

YOU'RE SPECIAL!!

(Anon)

A Very Big Thank You

Thank you to all the fellowship for all your practical help, support and encouragement at the Autumn Fayre; it was a Stirling effort and honouring to the Lord.

So many came and we pray were blessed and enjoyed fellowship, the time of being together with our Community, new and old friends.

Thank you to everyone who gave and helped. Well done, we do it all to the glory of God.

THE MYSTERY OF GODS 'CALLED OUT ONES'

Matt. 13:10-17 The Mystery Kingdom

Here Jesus states that the mysteries of the Kingdom were not given to be understood by unbelievers, but only by believers; & even then, they can only be understood by the believers who are willing to hear & understand. This requires discipline of study.

4 Classes of people reside in the Church as described in 1 Cor. 2:6-16 & 3:1-3

Unbelievers who are churchgoers

New Christians who are babes in the Lord & who can only feed on the milk of Gods Word

Older Christians who are still babes in the Lord & have no desire to grow. This is carnal man. He is still on milk & seeks to fill his needs through worldly things & experiences.

Christians who desire to grow & become mature. This is spiritual man. He understands the mystery & is disciplined to study Gods Word; He is instructed by the Holy Spirit; he understands the deep things of God & Gods program for this age. He understands the mystery that awaits him in the future.

Only God can call forth a new creation. (CALLED OUT ONE'S) 'The Ekklesia'.

This is a very exclusive club – by appointment & invitation only! Not brought about by man, - no matter what some evangelists say. Like a dam-sel-fly lives the 1st part of its life in its watery home, eventually to transform into a beautiful flying creature, our transformation is not yet a visible transformation, but it is a change of spirit & soul – an individual calling by God to become a member of the Ekklesia.

Ekklesia can be translated to the word Church only if they have the same meaning.

Today, the Church has become a building (rather than a living kingdom), somewhere to – 'hatch, match & despatch'

Anyone & everyone can go to church, but only the elect can be the Ekklesia.

The church building can & will rob us of our exclusiveness.

This has been a very clever strategy – to change the meaning of the word.

Let us see we are not deceived, & being not deceived, retain our exclusiveness.

Peter Cunliffe

Charis Ministries Prayer Meeting

When: 1st Thursday of every month
Where: 1 Sunnyside Ave, Wilpshire,
Nr. Blackburn
Time: 7:30pm
Tel. 01254 240893



Thank You

On a regular basis someone anonymously puts an envelope in the collection with a sum of money in it for the work of Charis Ministries. A very big **Thank You** to the person who gives this wonderful gift

Biker Breakfast

Biker breakfast has finished for this year, however the bikers are still out there, there are a large number who know the Lord Jesus and need our prayers especially as winter time is a dangerous time on the roads.

Also there are many more bikers who do not know our Lord Jesus and his forgiveness, pray that many of these will come across believers who are able to share their faith with these bikers.

Ace Space Date

Thursday 10th December 2015, party for end of term
Thursday 21st January 2016, Restart

Deadline for articles for the next issue of Voice is:
Sunday 10th January 2016
Please pass articles to Pastor Chris
or email them to:
andrew.aco012000@gmail.com

Prayer for Israel

We meet to pray for Israel in the cabin on the 1st Tuesday of every month from 1.30pm—3.30pm.

The next meetings will take place on:

1st December 2015

5th January 2016

2nd February 2016



I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated clothes for the refugees abroad..

The clothes were taken to an International Aid charity shop on Blackpool Road, Ribbleson, Preston to be sent to their own warehouse for distribution to needy people.

We cannot imagine what some people have to go through in life and must thank God every day for the privileges we have in this country.

God Bless

Margaret Bolton

End of Month Day of Prayer and Fasting Prayer Meeting

Prayer and Fasting for the Mission, Church, Community, Nation, Israel /Middle East, Outreach, local/Personal needs.

Time: 7:30pm – 9.00pm

Venue: Knowle Green Sunday School Building The last Friday of each month.



A Life of Faith Girls Club exists to provide an encouraging and inspiring environment for mentoring young girls, primarily ages 6 to 16. The objective of the Club is to help each club member develop a life of Faith.

We look at a range of issues including forgiveness, rejection, truthfulness, jealousy and more through using the historical fiction novels of Martha Finley. The main characters - Elsie Dinsmore, Millie Keith and Laylie Colbert serve as excellent role models to teach us faith and godly living as a lifestyle.

The evening sessions include dressing up, baking, drama, craft and the much-loved tea party!

Forthcoming Events in 2015/16

December - 14th (end of term)

January - 11th & 25th

Meetings start at 6:30pm and end at 8:00pm

Every 2nd Sunday Evening Service 6.30pm – 7.30pm **Gospel/Testimony Service**

Is informally led from the front and takes place in the Sunday school building. Come and join us and be encouraged. We are ever eager and willing to hear testimony of the Lord at work. Come and share your experience of what the Lord is doing in your life.

Speakers

13th December Andrew Rowland

10th January Jos Daune

Every 1st Sunday Agape Fellowship Meal

It is good to note attendance in numbers continues to increase month after month and we are thankful to God for the encouragement we can draw from the meeting and the messages we have received. We would encourage those who attend to please bring enough food for yourselves and another. If in doubt about what to bring please speak to:

Julie or Maureen.

Agape Service 2.30pm—3.30pm

Speakers:

6th December Robin Clarke

3rd January Pastor Chris

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, 12th December 2015

Time: 9.00am – 11.00am

Venue: Sunday School

Please invite a friend and join us. It offers the opportunity for fellowship and a time of sharing.



Solution to the crossword in the Sept—Nov edition of the Voice

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

ABMAEL	OPHR
ABRAM	PHUT
ADAH	REU
ARAM	RIPHATH
ARPHAXAD	SABTECHA
ASSHUR	SALAH
CANAAN	SARAI
DIKLAH	SEBA
DODANIM	SERUG
EBER	SHELEPH
ELAM	SIDON
ENOS	TARSHISH
HARAN	TERAH
HAVILAH	TUBALCAIN
HETH	UZAL
ISCAH	MEHUJAEI
JAVAN	MESHECH
JOKTAN	METHUSELAH
KITTIM	MILCAH
MAHALALEEL	NAHOR
	NIMROD



Boys Club

Knowle Green
Congregational
Church,



Clitheroe Road, Knowle Green, Longridge. PR3 2YQ
Tel: 01254 878394

When: Every other Monday Time: 6.30pm-8.00pm

Age Group: 6-16year olds

Forget the gadgets: The Wii; The Xbox; Computer games; The Blackberry.

Upcoming meetings in 2015 / 16 are:

December - 7th

January - 18th

Why not dare to be different?

Preaching Plan Dec 2015 to Jan 2016

Dec 2015

6th Pastor Chris
13th Pastor Chris
20th Nativity
20th Carol Service (6:30pm)
27th Songs of Praise *

Jan 2016

3rd Robin Clarke
10th Pastor Chris
17th Pastor Chris
24th Clem Talbot (tbc)
31st Pastor Chris



* Share your favourite carol, a poem, favourite bible passage or reading, for more details see Diane Daune

PHOTO'S FROM THE RIBBLE VALLEY FAMILY BIBLE WEEK 2015



The DVD Library is now Open!

We have a growing number of DVDS now in the church bookcase.

Please ask Jean or Annette for details. DVD's can be borrowed for up to 2 weeks and they include great teaching DVDs/CDs by Derek Prince...Do have a look and we pray this resource will bless you

This is a **Ministry** with the aim of sharing the gospel; to encourage and bless through DVD's.

All DVD's will be secured in a locked cabinet and only accessible via Jean Hoole / Mel Gilday



And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child. Luke 2:4&5

The hymn, or more correctly, Christmas carol 'O little town of Bethlehem' was written by the Rev Phillips Brooks. He was born in Boston, America in 1835 and after graduating from Harvard and then the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia in 1859 he became a minister of the gospel and pastor serving in Philadelphia from 1859 – 69 and then in Boston from 1869 – 91 before being made bishop of Massachusetts till his death in 1893.

Phillips was a big man in every respect, standing 6ft. 6ins tall, but he was also a powerful preacher of the gospel, and though never married, he had a great love for children and them for him. He had visited the Holy Land in 1865 and spent Christmas that year in Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, and the town made a great impression on him.

Three years later, as he was preparing a sermon for the celebration of the Saviour's birth, he was pacing the floor of his study, but no inspiration was coming. He could hear from the church organ the strains of some music the organist and Sunday School teacher Lewis Redner was practising for the same occasion. Brooks' mind went back to the Christmas he spent in Bethlehem and his thoughts took in the scene of the birth of Jesus as recorded by Luke in his gospel. For a time he forgot the sermon and began to write the words of the still popular Christmas carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem". He soon completed the four verses and took them to the organist and asked if he could compose a tune so that the children could sing it that Christmas, and he did.

What a joy it would be for the children to have a new carol to sing that year, and one written by their very own minister. Such was their love for their Pastor that when he died in 1893, one little 5 year old girl said, with tears in her eyes, "How happy the angels will be."

Sadly, the town of Bethlehem is not so peaceful in our day and age. The majority of the population are now Muslims who deny that Jesus was the Son of God, they also hate the Jewish people from whom Jesus, in his human nature was descended, and though there are a small number of Palestinian Christians living there, life is very difficult for them. May the Lord guard them this Christmas and add to their number many from the Muslim people.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
Yet in your dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.



In the picture there are a number of items that you would expect to find in a barn, some that you would expect to have been there at the birth of Immanuel.

But how many items can you identify that are also to be found in other parts of the Gospels or the epistles (letters) along with their New Testament references to them

There are at least 10, how many can you find?