

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 21

October 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In my first station as a probationer I was responsible for five congregations in very distinct communities. The problem was that they had previously been looked after by two ministers and therefore there were two diaries of events for me to pick up. This resulted in a couple of occasions during the harvest season where there were two harvest 'pie and peas' suppers for me to attend on the same evening and around the same time. By the end of the week I was beginning to feel like the *Vicar of Dibley* at Christmas! It was impossible to move the dates or times, so I ended up with a 'takeaway' version for the second events.

The celebration of the harvest is important to many church communities as they also see it as an opportunity to celebrate with the community the blessings of God. Sadly, some of what we would normally do around this time has been taken away from us as faith communities, along with so much more that is important to us.

There are many stores in Scripture of restrictions on worship and daily life and how new ways of worshipping in a strange land.

What stories will we be telling each other and future generations about how we came through it all? Will it be the stories of how we couldn't do certain things but found new ways of doing others? Will it be stories of how we felt crushed by it all with no hope? Or will it be stories of how the celebrations normally held throughout the year didn't happen but the faith of the people was deepened as more time was spent in prayer and reading the scriptures and hope grew stronger in the churches and then through each of us to the communities we are part of?

STORIES

In this magazine there are stories from churches and individuals that will encourage you and make you smile. What has God done for you and through you that would make interesting reading for others that could go into the next issue? If you have experienced something worth sharing, then please send it to the Circuit Office.

May God bless you and those precious to you,

Rev Terry Keen
Circuit Superintendent Minister

The Simple reflections photography group has been continuing through lockdown via email, with a variety of themes for each weeks project. The group is for anyone who enjoys photography without the critical view of photo's sent in.

All of us are complete amateurs who just enjoy taking photo's and enjoy seeing the back story of some of the photo's taken. It is a group purely for pleasure and enjoyment of photography.

If you enjoy taking photo's and would like to be included please feel free to contact me and i can inform you how we organise things.

Rev Paul Welch

Simple Reflections Photography Group



Following on from prayer drives, and our online work, which we continue to do, we are now starting back to work carefully in the community with Busoasis. In conjunction with North Halifax Partnership we have started 'Re-imagining Communities' a conversation on how people feel about the Covid situation (which fit in with our 'So what's your Covid story series) and it will shape delivery of community services which Busoasis is part of in that area.

I urge you to listen to your community, they have a lot to say and need to feel listened to and cared for.

Have you thought about having a 'Community Chaplain' from your church? Someone to visit shops, business etc in the area, show some care? Have you thought about a local litter pick? Show you care about your environment. Ask me if you need any support or advice.

Are you creative? Knit some Angels as part of the Calderdale Christmas Angels project we have run for several years now, to distribute during advent or make some face masks to donate to a college or secondary school ... lots that can be done to share Jesus in the community.

Also, we will be working with Halifax Central Initiative in Park Ward where infections are currently high. Community engagement will be centred on education and information

on the effects of the virus and on the latest Government guidance. We will hand out face masks and information leaflets (all appropriately quarantined).

We will be working in partnership with West Yorkshire Police in a similar fashion across the area on local issues.

We are re-engaging with schools now they are back, as they are currently not having guests in the same way as before, we have worked with Rev Paul and filmed a puppet harvest assembly and have sent it into the 3 schools we are involved with, we plan to do this once a month until we are able to deliver Open the book, prayer spaces and Unique course again in person.

Along with several others across circuit we are planning Messy Advent in a Bag. A journey during advent with instructions, crafts and 'build a nativity scene' challenge, we then ask photos are uploaded onto the circuit facebook page.

As part of our Circuit's Mission Enabling Team, CMET we are busy planning a zoom quiz for November (flyer will be out soon) and a series of discussion sessions to run throughout Advent called 'Christmas Unwrapped'.

The Connexion are holding more interesting webinars covering lots of subjects to help folk/churches through Covid 19. Details can be found on: www.methodist.org.uk.

Sharon Longman
E:staff.busoasis2013@gmail.com

A Recipe from Clifton

Today's recipe is for French onion soup - just the thing for the weather we have coming this week. Let us know if you have go.

INGREDIENTS

50 g butter
4 medium onions, thinly sliced
1 clove garlic, thinly sliced
1 sprig of thyme, leaves chopped, plus a few small sprigs
100 ml dry white wine - optional
1.2 litres good-quality vegetable or chicken stock
4 thick slices of French baguette, or other crusty bread
125 g mature reserve Gruyère or other cheese, finely grated

METHOD

Melt the butter in a large pan and cook the onions with 1 teaspoon of salt for 30 minutes, uncovered, stirring often, until caramelised.

Add the garlic and thyme, then the white wine if using, and simmer until the wine has evaporated. Add the stock to the pan and simmer the soup, uncovered, for 30 minutes.

Towards the end of the simmering time, preheat the grill to high. Lay the slices of bread on a baking sheet and grill on one side only until toasted. Remove from the grill, turn over and sprinkle the untoasted sides with grated Gruyère/other cheese.

Check the soup's seasoning and adjust if necessary, then pour into heatproof bowls. Top each serving with a slice of cheese-topped baguette and scatter over a few small thyme sprigs.

Place the bowls under the grill until the cheese on the bread is bubbling and golden brown.



BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL

The Brig Build

Busier, Brighter, Better for Brighouse



We are excited at Brighouse Central to have launched the **Brig Build** which sets out our exciting plans for the future of our building. Over the last few years we have started to build a strong connection and commitment links with the community of Brighouse.

The Pandemic has been, and still is for all of us a difficult time. Throughout the Pandemic we have had lots of virtual gatherings of small groups, our regular Facebook services and reflections and, of course, the Foodbank remains busier than ever. As we look to re-open our Worship Centre at the beginning of November we are aware that many will not be able or wish to attend a service here so we will continue to build our digital communication and activities with our community.

Throughout it all our work has continued on plans for a major refurbishment of our building, a project we are calling **The Brig Build** and we are now ready to move to the next stage. Our architect has submitted our designs to Calderdale Council for

planning permission and we are eager to start the work as soon as possible to provide a building that is 'Open to All'.

The Brig Build was launched via zoom to a party of interested people including local councillors and journalists of local newspapers. During this presentation we pointed out that we are looking for **The Brig Build Partnerships**, seeking interested parties with ideas who want to form a collaborative partnership with us and deliver a shared vision.

For these partnerships we are looking for **Events Management Partner**, to include Music and the Arts and also a **Catering Services Partner**. These partnerships are important for us to be able to achieve our full potential of being a church that is Open to God, Open to All.

Over the coming months we will be using Social Media to keep people informed of our progress by using Facebook and Lindekin. For those who cannot access Social Media we will be keeping the local press informed, sending out regular updates as needed.

Our sincere thanks go to the Calderdale Circuit for supporting us thus far and we ask for your continued support and for your prayers as we move forward with this exciting vision.

Together, we can ensure that Brighouse remains a community of which we can all be proud and a vital part of bringing Central alive for the community of Brighouse.

Susan Yates - Senior Steward

ST ANDREW'S



We continue to use the final words of the hymn by Joseph Hart which ended our last offering to the Circuit Newsletter:

*'We'll praise him for all that is past
and trust him for all that's to come'*

and now we can tell you that the doors of St Andrew's are finally open again thanks to the hard work of our 'Covid coordinator' and our Senior Steward and things are working safely and well. Thank you Hazel and Leah.

We are continuing to Zoom our Services for those unable to get to Church and this is also working well and a great blessing to those still happier to worship from home at the moment.

October sees the start of our Planned Preaching Bible Month Services based on the Book of Ruth, which we are looking forward to. We have also started to plan our Christmas Events, maybe in a very different way this year but, as our 'church window' message at the present time reads, 'We're Worshipping separately but We're never apart.' It means that nothing can separate us from God's love.

This is what is keeping the Church Family at St Andrew's alive during

these very trying times. Of course we are sad as we continue to miss contact with our friends and even more so now that we are unable to meet up even in our gardens for a chat and cuppa, but we do continue to meet virtually via zoom for our Coffee and Chat get together's on four mornings in the week and we are still convinced that 'all will be well' in the end.

We continue to share together our concerns and also our joys with one another via our WhatsApp Groups, telephone calls and email messages. In fact in some ways we now seem closer to our Church Family friends, as we are in contact with them on an almost daily basis. It is great that when someone posts a concern or problem, before you know it a link to a piece of music or some wise words appear on screen which helps to make the burden easier to bear.

Our cottage industries have been going well and over £1,000 has been added to our Church Development Fund, which incidentally, we are continuing to plan for, we will just have to patiently wait a little while longer before that happens and as the words:

*'We'll praise him for all that is past
and trust him for all that's to come'*

are still very much at the forefront of our minds, if our plans continue to be what God wants for us, it will happen when the time is right.

Until next time we send our love, thoughts and prayers to all friends of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit.

Continuing our calling in Clifton

There's a definite frisson of excitement among many of our church family as we take tentative steps to re-opening our doors for worship in October. Even with masks and distancing, even without singing and refreshments, the overwhelming majority of us long to be back worshipping together.

At the same time, we are taking stock of all the new means we've had to come up with to keep in touch with our church community across all its incarnations, from the worshipping body, to Open Door Lunchers and craft group creators. We've used the whole range of media from door-step chats, when allowed, the good old phone call to WhatsApp, Facebook and Zoom.

All of these have had a part to play but we've had a few surprises too. The weekly newsletter which we initially thought was for three months is now in its sixth month and our readership continues to grow! Although it's sent out on email, we always hand deliver to those not on-line and are delighted to have had new requests for it and to hear how our pages are passed on to neighbours and family members who are interested in reading Rev David's weekly reflection, recipes, church and family news and, if they're lucky, something interesting and inspirational from Douglas.

We are also delighted to see our weekly fellowship meeting hosted by Hilary and David on Zoom gradually

growing in numbers, as we discover collective prayer, praise and reflection is still possible on screen.

At the end of August, Joy, our Sunday school superintendent, successfully ran a virtual Activity Church (our own take on Messy Church), The Lord God made Everything, which included nature treasure hunts and pictures.

The lockdown and restrictions have also seen a surge in the popularity of our Incredible Edible scheme. Alongside the three boxes of vegetables outside the front of chapel, we've had some two hundred plants being passed from over twenty growers to grower.



Even now the main sowing/growing season is ending, we are sharing with our village a bounty of pears (over 200!) and apples from the church steps.

As we face the winter months, we look to blending in some new ways of being present in our community, including prayer stations and seasonal displays outside the front of chapel.

We continue to feel called to serve our village, trusting God will work with whatever resources we can offer him as we try to share his love.

Christ Church



Revd Colin Sherwood took his first service at Christ Church as our new minister on Sunday 20th September. It was a lovely service and

included communion. It was the first time we had celebrated communion since lockdown and it was conducted in a COVID safe way – serving bread in a glass!

Our reopening service!

We reopened the church Sunday 13th September which was a great achievement by all concerned. The Covid restrictions were carefully implemented and worked like clockwork.

As always, Caroline led a lovely service and delivered the sermon beautifully. She also read all the Bible lessons to prevent anyone having to move around the church. Rainbows featured in the sermon so it was symbolic to have the ribbons laid out as in the picture.

John and Alison were in charge of the technology and did a great job. Everyone worked together as a team doing their important jobs to keep everyone safe. All our services are now streamed live on Facebook.

The hardest bit was the absence of singing. We now have hymns by video

Learning to adapt to the “new normal” during the pandemic.



Christ Church continued . . .

which we can sing 'inside our heads'
instead of out loud. A new skill to perfect!



Looking around and seeing everyone dotted about the church wearing face masks was quite a surreal experience and made the presence of a smile very difficult to spot but I'm sure we still had a lot to smile about, despite the situation!

The service finished on a high, with the lovely UK Blessing featuring people from all over the country via Zoom singing the blessing together.

This is our new "normal" for now. A quick hello from beneath the mask, then it was home time. Baby steps for now but will surely improve as time moves on.

Well done everyone!



Our service on September 27th was our Harvest Worship at which we collected money for All We Can. We learned about the people of Butagayain, Uganda. "Change begins with a bicycle" was the theme and it was led by our Worship Group. Our Harvest food collection was for Ebenezer Food Bank in Halifax.

Jigsaws



Calling all you fellow jigsaw lovers!
Since March I have completed nearly all the pile of jigsaws I had accumulated in my garage. I have also been buying them from the local Post Office and online. This means that I have many to lend, swap or sell for donations to charity.

There is a mixture of 500 piece and 1000-piece jigsaws of all makes and types of pictures. Most are complete, but one or two, that came from charity shops, might have a piece or two missing. I am happy to drop off at your homes if you are interested.

The best one I have at the moment is a set of 4 1000-piece puzzles, in one box, set on a farm and showing each different season. Really great fun to do and a good quality make – Falcon De Luxe! The hardest is a National Trust 1000-piece of moorland and stags. The 500 piece ones include, 'Moorings at Sunset', 'National museum of Barcelona', and a 'Hebden Bridge collage'.

I know what you are thinking!!! But be honest, we have to get through Lockdown somehow!

Julie Taylor 07747114243

Roger Munday sent in this poem, and said :

"I wrote this poem for a Methodist Recorder poetry competition on a theme of 'darkness and light', at a time when I was being treated for cancer, which I am thankfully now clear of.

It came to me very quickly, and I have not completed another poem, either before or since.

I'm currently on holiday at a place where I first came just after my diagnosis - in fact I deferred the start of drug treatment for a week as we had this break booked - so I suppose I'm reminded of that whole time in my life.

I hope it might help someone else experiencing similar fears."

Roger

A DAYLIGHT EPIPHANY (on a theme of darkness and light)

I draw back the curtains that have kept out the day:
a blue cloudless morning. The sun's brilliant ray
transforms the four walls so they're whiter than white -
the bedroom is shining in response to the light.

So why does darkness devour me?
Is it my diagnosis?
That uncertain prognosis?
Side-effect of the doses?

I'd lain, eyes wide open, for so much of last night,
alone in the blackness, alone with my fright.
How to make sense of what seemed so unjust -
I felt badly let down. Had I misplaced my trust?

So why weren't you there with me?
Was it down to my sin?
My belief I could win
not letting you in?

I turn from the daylight, back into the room,
outside me all radiance, inside me all gloom.
Four panes of the window shadow onto the floor -
a cross. Dark on light. And it hits me once more:

so you've walked here before me.
You have felt this forsaken.
I've been so mistaken;
my faith, re-awaken!

Roger Munday's poem continued . . .

I recall you, alone, in the hour of your death;
how day turned to night as you drew your last breath.
“Today you'll be with me” you had promised a thief -
now I have that promise! Help my unbelief.

So what ever awaits me
you've banished the night.
The darkness is light;
eternity's bright!

[Now I find myself singing, in the lightness of day,
the same words returning in the darkness of night :

*Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.]*

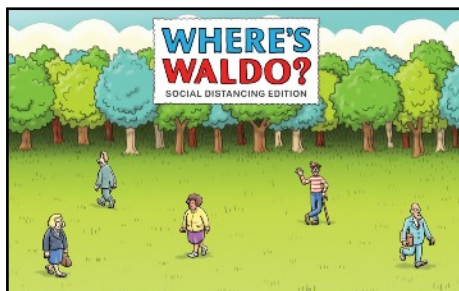
New Circuit Website

www.calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk

This was launched at the beginning of September. If you spot anything you think is incorrect please let us know in the office as we are the ones who will now be maintaining it. It is still a work in progress so please bear with us as we learn the ropes! 😊

We would like some photos of events relevant to your church that we can add to your church pages to replace the generic ones that are currently showing. Also any news stories that you would like to share with the rest of the Circuit and any others who might look at the website.

Janet and Lynne – Circuit Administrators



News from St Matthew's Rastrick

We have been having Sunday morning services for some weeks now, and these have been successful. No hymns to sing, but our organists have provided excellent music for us. They have played solos at times during the services, often playing hymn tunes which have been requested. Revd Kerry Tankard conducted a service and he sang a hymn as a solo. It's good to have music, it makes a great difference to our worship, and we are very grateful to our organists. Our Harvest Festival will shortly be celebrated with gifts of food for the Salvation Army.



We await the appointment of a new incumbent, hoping that the wait will not be a long one. At present, we are very thankful for the help of retired clergy, who are willing to lead our services. Pastoral visiting is not permitted in person, but our pastoral visitors keep closely in touch with everyone, and in general, our close-knit church community makes sure that everyone is all right.



Be safe

Follow the Methodist Church's guidelines, embrace your friends with a smile and welcome them with words of encouragement - in Jesus' name.

St Paul's

Scout Leaders of the 24th St Paul's unit, have used the opportunity of Lock-down to bring a much needed project to fruition.



After many years talking about replacing a 70-year-old Scout hut, given to the 24th Scout Group over forty years ago, the task has finally been accomplished. The hut is built on National Trust land at Elterwater, in the Lake District, but getting things passed by the trust is no mean feat and it's taken a couple of years just to get their approval to make any changes at all. An anonymous donation of £3,000 helped with the cost and the new hut arrived and was put up on Friday 25th Sept 2020.

Work is still required to fit out the interior i.e. insulation of walls, lighting, fixtures and fittings but will not include running water, sanitation or electricity. Here's hoping the boys and girls of the Scout Group can get to enjoy it in the way it is intended in the not too distant future. The wood carved Fleur de Lys (above) was carved by Colin Scott of St Paul's.

Angela Hellowell

Be assured the
Methodist people
are praying for the
world at this time



The **Methodist** Church 
www.methodist.org.uk



It is hoped that Issue No. 22 of this News-letter will come out soon.
The Circuit Office is currently closed but material can still be sent to office@calderdalemethodists.org.uk
Please send items as soon as you have them available

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