

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

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In this issue:

Christ Church

Using new technology

Page 2

Brighouse Central

My Resurrected Lord

Page 4

Clifton

All hands on deck

Page 6

St Andrew's

Easter reopening

Page 9

Northowram

Easter surprise

Page 10

Busoasis

With you on your journey

Page 12

Wendy Tolson

Diving into the past

Page 15



Christ Church re-opened on 1st April for our Maundy Thursday service, which was led by Rev Graham Smith and included Holy Communion with both bread and wine served from 2 separate communion glasses! It was lovely to see everyone again and the service signified one step closer to a new normal. Anyone who is unable to join us in person on a Sunday can still join us via Zoom as this will be a regular feature going forward, and all our services will be recorded to Youtube for people who want to watch on catch-up.

Quiz time!

Missing Vowels and the letter Y and spaces

Present TV Programmes

1. STRCTLCMDNCNG
2. QSTNFSPRT
3. SNGSFPRS
4. SCPTTHCNTR
5. STNDRS

6. NTQSRDSHW
7. MTCHFTHD
8. CSLT
9. MSTRMND
10. WHWNTSTBMLLNR

(Answers on next page)

Easter Planter



Thanks to Cathy our gardens are looking great. Our outside planter has an Easter theme and is looking fantastic. It is in a great position for passers by at the Hipperholme Crossroads.

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Technology News!

The technology team met up last Saturday morning in church, (socially distanced) to share their knowledge - as we are all still learning! This was a useful exercise. We found ourselves checking wires and testing sounds and generally bouncing information off each other.



Thanks to Angela we now have a new camera with multiple position settings situated under the balcony! This allows us to zoom in more seamlessly when required, or zoom out depending on where we are focusing on. The four set positions should allow more creativity and stability with the digital streaming and cover all possibilities!

The Technology Team have now been moved more discretely to the back of the church with the two people (Zoom Director and PowerPoint Director) involved on a Sunday sitting at each end of the table, allowing them to help each other out if any 'crisis' should happen! Hopefully if this is the case nobody else will notice!

Zoom services will be the norm going forward, in order for us to accommodate the small but regular number of people who are unable to join us in person, but have started to follow our services by this method. This is a definite sign of the changing times.

Pat Sleigh

A Prayer

My talents, gifts and graces Lord
into thy blessed hands receive;
and let me live to preach thy word,
and let me to thy glory live;
my every sacred moment spend
in publishing the sinners' friend.
Amen

Charles Wesley

Singing the Faith 661 v3



Answers to the Quiz on Page 4

1. Strictly Come Dancing
2. Question of Sport
3. Songs of Praise
4. Escape to the Country
5. Eastenders
6. Antiques Roadshow
7. Match of the Day
8. Casualty
9. Mastermind
10. Who wants to be a millionaire.

Brighouse Central

Easter services at Brighouse Central were live streamed through Facebook, as are all our services for the time being. We are planning on opening for 'in person' worship again on Sunday 23rd May which is Pentecost Sunday. What a joyous occasion that will be.

Maunday Thursday is usually a time for us to share in Holy Communion, a reminder of the last time Jesus broke bread with his disciples before his death. We have celebrated this in many different ways over the years but this year was just as special even though it was simple. The Communion Table was set with symbols of what Christ would have used for the Last Supper, a visual reminder for us all to share. Rev. Mark led us through a time of quiet contemplation and meditation.

Good Friday has for many years been a United Service organised by the Churches Together Group in Brighouse. A walk of witness through the town and meeting together at Brighouse Central for a shared service has always been a meaningful part of Good Friday. Unfortunately that was not possible this year but Rev Mark once again led us through a time of reflective worship.

Easter Sunday, a time for joyous celebration as we rejoice in the true meaning of Easter. Jesus is alive, death could not hold him. We dressed the front of church, draping the cross with white cloth which flowed onto the communion table. This again held symbols of what would have been used on Easter Day.

Throughout all these services our Worship Band led the music, from quiet contemplative songs to the more rousing and joyous ones.

Although we missed being together and sharing this very special season in the Christian calendar we hope that we touched someone's life by bringing Hope into what has been a very difficult year.

My Resurrected Lord

**So special he is my Saviour, my King
Ruler, creator, his praises I sing.**

**The wondrous amazement
of all that he's done,
My Heavenly Father
sent down his own son.**

**How blessed we are
to have such a chance,
No longer condemned
to one circumstance.**

**But Jesus came down
his life he did give,
That all whom believed
through Him now may live.**

**Though his death there alone
did not pay our way,
For he is alive
and the stone rolled away.**

**Thank you dear Jesus
for saving my soul,
Through your birth, death
and resurrection I am made whole!**

Written by: Angela Cicero

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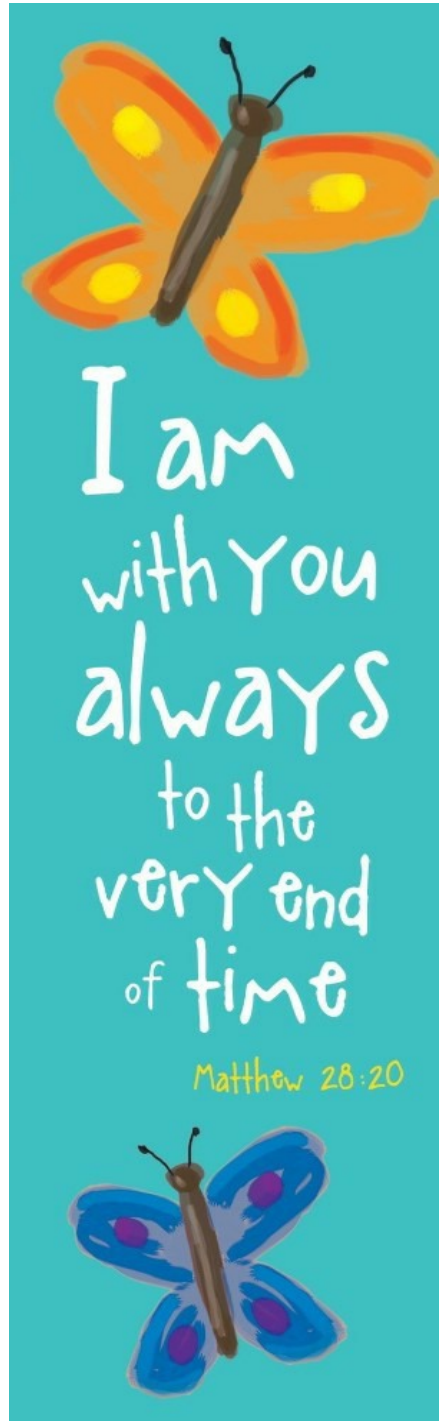


Our Children and Families Worker, Jodi, joined forces with Upper Edge Baptist Church to run a virtual Easter Club for children. This was for three days during Easter Week and many children in the Brighthouse area enjoyed taking part in this, participating in craft activities, baking and making an Easter garden. They were ably led and directed by adult volunteers.

*With love and blessings to you all
from all at
Brighthouse Central Methodist Church*



"DOG is GOD spelled backwards.
That's pretty much all the religion
I know, but it works for me."



All hands on deck at Clifton!

It's been a particularly busy forty days up at Clifton, book-ended by the delivery of 80 + bread rolls at the start of Lent and the same number of hot cross scones on Good Friday. These were delivered to our extended church community, resulting in many meaningful doorstep conversations.

Throughout the weeks, our dedicated craft group has also been collaborating to create no less than 65 chicks, requiring knitting, sewing, bagging, tagging with a message of love and several swappings around between the various ladies!

The Wednesday fellowship group has also been exploring some key questions during our Lenten studies, led by Rev David, Jonathan and Rev John Jenkinson



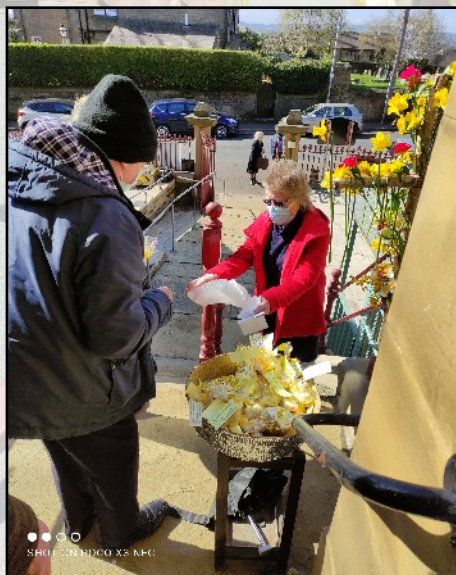
on Where is God when we're happy, in pain, facing decisions or death.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday was a particularly bright and joyful morning for us, as we re-opened for the first time this year, welcoming back eighteen 'live' worshippers as well as several more on Zoom and Facebook, and, later, by DVD.

We decorated the empty cross as we came into church; were inspired by Rev David's sermon and hymns brimming over with celebration of God's love shown to us through the resurrection; and collected chicks to distribute to friends and neighbours as we left.

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Anyone for Coffee

In and amongst all of this, we've also been beavering away at our major new initiative, a take-away coffee kiosk which opens on 19 April. This has involved a large team of volunteers, aged 19 – 87, who have dismantled a summer house



(kindly donated by the Lupton family); moved it in a horse box from



Lynne's garden (thanks to Tina); repaired, re-painted it; re-assembled and re-roofed it; nominated an excellent chief barista in Lesley decked it out inside; arranged professional barista training, gathered a rota of sixteen volunteers, started our Food Hygiene training and to stock the almost-finished kiosk.

Phew! Now we need a coffee!

So far, we've rediscovered the fun and pleasure of working as a team and are delighted to find that even just working on the kiosk produces exactly the result



we wanted – multiple conversations with passers-by, two of whom have already come to a Sunday service.

Our *Revival Coffee Kiosk* will be open 2.30 to 4pm every

weekday afternoon from 19 April and we would love to see you there, for a delicious takeaway drink and cake/ biccie or at (outdoor) table service.



Opens April 19th!

Be revived at



2:30-4pm
Monday-Friday

Serving quality coffees, using triple-certified, locally-blended beans
Plus teas, hot chocolate, water and fruit drinks
And grab a snack with Lottie Shaw biscuits & flapjacks + home baked goodies

Northowram

Easter Surprise

We decided to mark Easter by taking the good news of the season to our neighbours in Northowram. With the help of a generous grant from the North and East Ward Forum, we bought three hundred pots of cheerful little daffodil bulbs. Each pot was placed into a bag with an Easter message and these were delivered at random to households in the village. This was a real team effort; one of our members allowed us to turn her garage into “Daffodil HQ” while others, along with members of the Ward Forum and Shibden WI, delivered the bulbs.



These gifts were very well received and we have had many messages of appreciation. How lovely that such a small gesture can give so much joy,

not only to those who received a gift but also to those who took them out. Because the church has not yet reopened for worship, the Easter cross decorated with flowers was also shared with the community as it stood in the church garden for all to see.



St Andrew's

'ALLELUIA CHRIST IS ALIVE' and on Easter Day St Andrew's re-opened the doors of the Church building once again to share this wonderful news with those of our number who were able to attend and also with those who continued to share via Zoom from their homes.

It is hard to believe sometimes that it is almost fourteen months now since some of us have seen each other and we thank God and trust Him that if all goes to plan this will be rectified soon when we are ALL able to be together again.

This beautifully decorated floral Cross has been displayed outside our Church during the last week and we do hope that it will have brought a sense of peace to those who have seen it as they have passed by either on foot or by car or public transport.



During the past year we have really tried hard to bring to the notice of our local community and others that even though our church building may have been temporarily closed the Church of God has been very much alive.

Over the Lent and Easter period we have shared in a Bible Study led by Revd Terry called 'Meeting the Real Jesus: A Servant King' and also with friends in the South Halifax Churches Together Lent Meetings which were based on excerpts



from Les Miserables and also held joint Services with All Saint's Anglican Church on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and shared with a South Halifax Churches Together Good Friday Service – 'Stations of the Cross' via YouTube which have all been thought provoking and meaningful times of learning and worship – all these have been held via Zoom which has given us all a chance to most probably share together in many more events than we usually do and we are indebted to all who have been involved with these new ways of worshipping, working and sharing together.

Our ladies and their 'knitting needles' have been working very, very hard over the last couple of months churning out hearts which have been given to members of bereaved families and Easter Chicks (with delicious cream egg tummies) which were given out to members of our Junior Church; to



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children at the Little Monkey's Pre School who meet at St Andrew's; to Children from the Reception Class at Salterhebble School; to members of Messy Church (who also received a Messy Church Lent and Easter Gift Bag); and to folks in our local Nursing Homes – over 80 in all. All were 'bagged' and went with messages of love and Easter Blessings from the Church Family at St Andrew's. Other Groups within the Church family shared Easter with their members by sending messages, giving cards and small gifts which were all gratefully and thankfully received.



Our Zoom meetings and WhatsApp groups have continued to play a big part in

many of our church family's hearts during this time as we still continue with our Zoom Church Services, Church



meetings, etc and the Whats App messages keep on coming as we keep in touch with our friends via daily 'Good News Messages from Sue; listen to and/or join in the singing of hymns played by David our organist on Tuesdays and Fridays each week.

Sue(ng) has also been sharing her daily Bible reading notes with us during Lent and she is going to continue to do this for us in the days that lie ahead. The

prayer support and words of comfort from friends have been wonderful.



During this time as all the usual things that 'life thows at us' have all continued to happen through this long time of lockdown and self- isolation but when anyone/anything is shared on the Group the love and support of friends just flies back and folks have certainly felt enveloped in hope and kindness and many have been able to take comfort from the lovely words received at the time of sadness and worry – we have so much to be thankful for and we thank God for these many kindnesses.

The time is coming nearer when 'the rules' in place at the moment are to be relaxed a little and we all hope that folk will be mindful of each other so that things will be able to get back to normal, whatever that may mean, very soon and in the mean-time we at St Andrew's continue to 'Lift High the Cross' and send love to all in the Circuit from the St Andrew's Church Family.

BUSOASIS

With you on your Journey

Sharon Longman writes:

Due to the continued restrictions on being able to be out in the community and local churches choosing to close to worship and all activities, I voluntarily offered to go on 50% furlough as of middle of January meaning I am currently working 15 hours a week. This is being reviewed monthly.

Throughout the 40 days of Lent, a short bite sized video was produced via the CMET team on the themes of Love, Joy, Hope and Peace. They were released via social media and YouTube and had good feedback via comments on the pages.



Many thanks to all the team who provided their 'bite' and to Jeremy for producing all 40 videos.

This is being followed up in June with the Bible Month project where the Gospel of Mark will be brought to life each day on social media and followed by a weekly reflection.

Following on from the Christmas blessing bags given out to each of the 30 residents of Blackburn House, a sheltered housing complex, and as we have still not been able to go back in yet, I also delivered 30 Easter blessing bags which were taken out in Holy Week.



Many thanks to Ros and Candida for their craft work on these and the Messy Advent /Easter bags. I look forward to going back down to Blackburn House to work with them as soon as possible and start the Daisy Chain Dementia café back up with our project partners.

30 Messy Easter bags were delivered to year 3 pupils at Abbey Park Primary school and in recognition and their thanks the children made 30 'Bee Happy' posters for the residents of Blackburn House which I will deliver shortly to them.

We also continue to record short puppet assembly videos for the 3 schools where

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we are yet unable to carry out normal work.

Following on again from the Christmas yarn bomb of Angels the Easter chickens were placed out across Calderdale, many people from outside circuit have helped by knitting or providing the chocolate eggs. As usual, West Yorkshire Police have helped in their distribution. I had many photos and messages sent via social media, one stood out - 'Thank you for the lovely chicken, its so nice to know that God is with us all the time!'



Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions it will be no surprise to hear that, other than taking the Busoasis van out for regular maintenance runs and prayer drives, we are not able to be out and about in the community yet. We will be out working alongside our partners as soon as we can. My initial thoughts are to work with local agencies as well as local Methodist Churches to listen to the needs of the community coming out of Covid. There are/will be many people who will need to see, feel, and hear the gospel in practical ways as we all work together to establish a new norm.



My chaplaincy work with West Yorkshire Police is going well and busy supporting officers, despite restrictions, in many ways and I have been asked to jointly lead one of a series of 5 faith-based discussion sessions entitled Christianity in Policing, which came about after officers asked faith questions. Please pray for our emergency services and frontline workers.

I have done online presentations for International Women's Day, Yorkshire North and East District, and have been invited to talk at the Calderdale Women's Interfaith group in May, the zoom interviews I undertook can be found on Busoasis social media and YouTube.

There are now approximately 140 videos available to watch on The Methodist Church in Calderdale's YouTube Channel which cover all Busoasis ones, CMET, Open to God, Lent and Advent etc.

I am part of North Halifax Safer Cleaner Greener, North Halifax Covid engagement and North Halifax Staying well groups, all give a voice and listen to the 'church' and are keen to work alongside Busoasis and myself to improve the lives of those communities.

I have also just been asked about being
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on a steering group for a local park, where I have requested that a space be allocated within the park for a faith-based theme such as a garden, reflection space, faith trail, or bulb planting. I have asked Paul Welch if he would be interested in being involved in this too.

As part of the Covid engagement group, the Busoasis team were eligible to have their jobs early, which 4 took them up including myself. I have recently been invited to serve on a new District Evangelism and Discipleship group by the District Chair.

I have been part of the 5 streams mission group and have attended some of the moving forward meetings, am a Circuit Mission Enabler and alongside Paul we are writing a Circuit Mission Development plan to be presented at either May or June Circuit Meeting.

I have initiated, a suggested District project, of knitting hearts as part of the Real Love campaign for Pentecost this year. The pattern has gone out across



circuit and I held a zoom knit and natter where we knitted . . . and nattered . . .! Members who joined were keen to have another one, we meet in May and that invite will be sent out again across circuit. All are welcome to join, knitters or not!

On Easter Sunday myself and Jeremy were in Shibden Park and gave away Busoasis favour bags as an Easter Gift to people we met. The bags which are now a trademark of Busoasis when we are out

contain a tea bag, a biscuit, some chocolate and a message 'have a brew on us . . . given with love' with contact details on. We gave out over a 100 bags and freebies and had some good

conversations with people, some who were struggling with the effects of Covid on their business and mental health.

I would like to say a great big THANK YOU to 'tech support' aka Jeremy Longman who I would not be able to do most of the above without his technical know-how etc. Thanks for

saying yes when I ask . . . 'I've had an idea, can you just . . .?'

Working together as the body of Christ is the only way forward to address the needs of the community, 'Church' and ourselves.

Sharon Longman April 2021



Diving into the Past - Wendy Tolson

It was one of those tasks that I knew I would tackle eventually. 'Eventually' arrived and I set to work. What fun! What revelations! I will probably become quite boring on the subject if I haven't already. Memories have come flooding back of my paternal grandfather, the only grandfather I can remember. He died when I was six, so the memories are brief but none the less real. His wife, my grandmother lived to be 82 so I knew her as a real person.

My grandfather's parents were Ezekiel Corley (somewhere along the way it changed to Coley) an agricultural labourer from Norfolk and Mary Annie Vingo from Cornwall, who worked at the Exchange Hotel in Huddersfield in the 1880's. My grandfather, Arthur, was born in Halifax workhouse in 1887. His parents married later that year and moved to Brighouse, living at several addresses, most having disappeared as a result of slum clearance.

How did this family move from that situation, just two generations ago to the somewhat different circumstances that we enjoy now? I realise the change in fortunes was the work of my Grandmother – Elizabeth Wood. She made it her challenge to lift this family from the one up and one down in Mitchell Street eventually reaching 9 Halifax Road – no longer in existence to allow for the roundabout at the bottom of Halifax Road. This was a

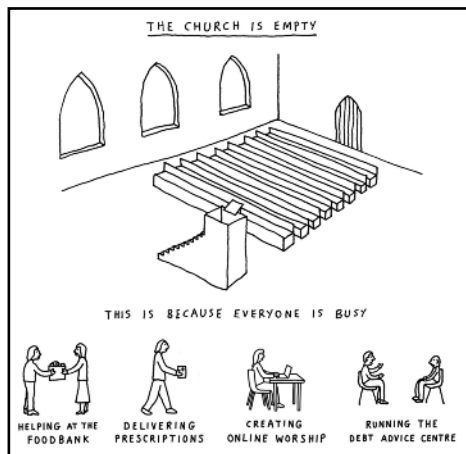
great improvement – two up and two down, fairly large rooms, an inside toilet, cellar and a porch to house the boiler for washing clothes. There was an outside coal house, which I loved to climb on, incurring grandma's wrath in the process. Climbing over the coal house roof was a short cut from Prospect place where we lived to grandma's back door which was in Carlton terrace.

How did this rather formidable lady accomplish the change in fortunes? She took in washing – hence the need for a boiler. She went out cleaning, she worked in the evenings at a fish and chip shop and even when the goal of 9 Halifax Road had been reached, she continued to earn extra money so that all three children could go into apprenticeships and my father could have singing lessons. In her youth grandma was destined to be a pupil teacher but her family needed her to take up better paid employment to help support several siblings.

My grandfather, not someone we think of as grandfatherly today, was a short, stocky taciturn man of few words with what I think of as short wiry grizzled hair– there was definitely no cuddling or sitting on knees with him. When I knew him, he worked as a 'coalman', having previously been a silk dresser but the work disappeared. He arrived home covered in coal dust, his steel capped clogs echoing on the *Continued on next page . . .*

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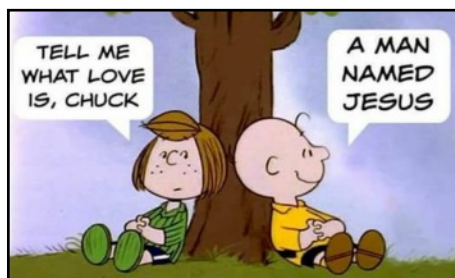
path as he approached the back door to find grandma, busy as usual at the stove producing yet another fried concoction – no wonder he died of a heart attack at 65. His first requirement on reaching home was a pint mug of tea (a blue and white striped mug as I recall), into which he would stir several spoonfuls of sugar. He would pour some tea into the saucer and drink the tea from there – I assume it was to help the tea cool down. I was fascinated. Is it healthy to examine the past – does it help to understand who we are. As Christians, have we been influenced by those who went before and to what extent? Will future generations look at our contributions – what conclusions will they draw?



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. 25 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

Around the Dale

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Circuit of the Methodist Church