

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 29

June 2022

A message from The Revd Dr Mark Cheetham



Dear friends,

As I write, Mariet, Nathanael and I prepare to leave the circuit for an appointment in Southern England. I have had the privilege of serving the people of the Calderdale Circuit for eight years, with responsibility for Brighouse, Clifton, Stones and St Matthews at different points during this time. It has also been a real honour to serve this last year as co-superintendent with Rev Colin, I suspect some of you will have seen me in a different light during this last year.

I am profoundly grateful to the collegueship of you all as we have journeyed through, survived, and sometimes flourished in our work together.

Walking along the canal last week I noticed the trees rising through a carpet of violet, and I am reminded of when I opened myself to the beauty and love of this place, which leads to a passion for the work of the Kingdom across the circuit and beyond.

That is what love does to us. It brings us joy, energy, and fulfilment, and through this it transforms us so that we become available for the transformation of the world beyond ourselves.

Sometimes the life of Christian Discipleship seems like a set of obligations, endless meetings, a list of demands which we often feel inadequate to meet. But the walk along the canal has reminded me that to see it in this way is to start at the wrong end.

Christian Discipleship is a matter of love. We need to start with what we love, what is life-giving and to give it our full attention and commitment. Love growing within us will do the rest.

So, what or whom do you love with a devotion that transforms your whole way of life? Perhaps it is your children or grandchildren, which leads you to want all children to be as safe and as

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happy as yours. Perhaps you have cared for somebody you love, which has made you long for all who are ill or elderly to be cared for with dignity and devotion.

Maybe you yourself have had an experience so healing and life-changing, that you want everybody in your situation to be able to have that experience.

The challenges of the next few months are, of course, significant; and I recognise that each of our ideas about what church could/should look like will be different just as the path of Christian Discipleship is different for each of us. Yours may not lie within church activities at all, or it may be at the very heart of them. But both we and others know when we are on the authentic path of Discipleship by these two signs: that it is life-giving for us and life-giving for others.

So, find what you love: spend time delighting in it and devote yourself to it. And love will do the rest. Love will show you the way. Love will transform you and the world around you.

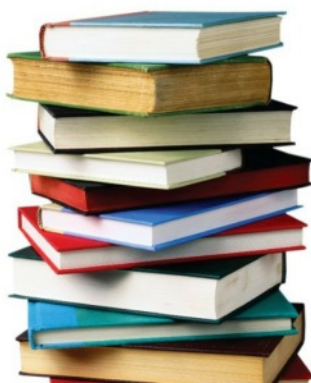
As I let go of this stage of our relationship together, and you build a new relationship with Rev Vicky and grow in your understanding of one another, I invite you to remember to love and strive to serve the God who first loves us.

With every good wish,

Mark Cheetham.



There's a Library at Brighouse Central



Did you know that in the vestry at Central Methodist Church, Brighouse, there's a theological library? Anyone can visit - access is available on Saturday mornings between 10 am and 12 noon when a coffee morning is held. Just ask someone how to get to the vestry where the library is housed. Otherwise phone Graham Smith on 01484 718807 for other times.

The catalogue of books, CDs, and other media is available on the Circuit website. Visit <http://www.calderdale.methodistcircuit.org> (*no spaces*). Look under the "About Us" tab and open up the pdf.

Books can be borrowed for up to a month. Just fill in your name, what book(s) you have borrowed and the date you took them, on a clipboard.

When you bring them back, don't forget to sign them off to show they've been returned.

Halifax Food Bank

**We are really low on food stocks at the moment, can you, your church or business help us please?
This is a list of food that we give out on a weekly basis, every Saturday to individual people and families who are struggling in Calderdale
Even just one item will make a difference**

We are open on a Thursday 9-3, Friday 9-2 for deliveries at the Gathering Place, 1 St James Road, Halifax HX1 1YS

List of foods for Food bank (weekly)

Corned beef - 120 tins

Tuna - 120 tins

Sardines - 120 tins

Sandwich Pate - 120 jars

Fresh veg - 120 Pieces

Pasta-120 bags

Tinned veg - 120 tins

Pasta Sauce - 120 jars/packets

UHT Milk - 120 cartons

Cereal - 120 boxes

Rice pudding - 120 tins

Biscuits - 120 packets

Bread - 120 loaves

Toiletries - 120 (Body wash, Shampoo, Razors, Sanitary products, Soap)

Tea Bags - 120 boxes

Fruit - 120 pieces

Cheese - 120 packets

Eggs-120x6 boxes

Long grain rice - 50 bags

Jam - 50 jars

Washing tablets-50 boxes



ILLINGWORTH MOORMETHODIST CHURCH CHILDREN & SCHOOLSWORKER

TRACY BRENNAN

Introduction

My name is Tracy Brennan and I am the 'newish' Children and Schools Worker at Illingworth Moor Methodist Church. I thought I would share with you some of the things I do in my role.

Open the Book

It's my great privilege to join with others from IMMC and St Johns Bradshaw to bring Open the Book into our 3 local schools.

We are looking forward to doing 'It's Your Move' lessons as Year 6 children move up to Secondary Education.



Open the Book Team

Messy Church

I am leading Messy Church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

I believe Messy Church can be a great introduction to having faith based conversations as well as food, crafts and a story.

Uniform Shop

As part of my links with schools I have introduced a free school uniform shop that can be accessed during our Good as New Shop opening hours or Monday & Wednesday evenings.



Girls Brigade & Boys Brigade

I go along to both Girls and Boys Brigade which meets at our church. It's wonderful to be part of their learning about Jesus.

I also lead the Parade All Age Worship when it happens throughout the year.

I enjoy getting to know the children and their families. Being a presence every week enables a link between school and church. It's lovely to see children in school and especially when they say, "I know you from church."

A little bit about me.

I started to think about God when I moved house and noticed a Methodist church next door. I began attending regularly with my two sons. The church had a Sunday evening service where I heard songs that made sense in my search for God. Over the years I have taken many roles within the church but my passion has always been about bringing the Christian message to children and families in a relevant way.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, reading and walking.

Contact details: Email: immctracy@gmail.com

Phone/text/WhatsApp: 07748271570

Caroline and Eilidh's Lent challenge for Ukraine

Over the course of Lent, Caroline and I decided to raise some funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal by taking to our sewing machines. We wanted to use sunflower fabric as the sunflower is the national flower for Ukraine and we were fortunate to find a local source for this.

We set our needles to 'go', eased our feet onto pedals and off we went! We made gift and bottle bags of various sizes (sustainable alternatives to gift wrap and sellotape), jar lid grippers and a number of bespoke projects. Our aim was to raise £1000 for the DEC funds.



30 metres of fabric, 8 large reels of

cotton, 4 metres rubber grip and over 300 metres of yellow twine later, our challenge is complete!

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of all those who bought bags from us and we were heartened by the



positive comments. We do still have a little fabric left, so please do get in touch with us if you still want a bag or gripper.

Our total has now reached an amazing £1,920 with a little more still to come in. As we see the increasingly distressing images from Ukraine, we feel sure this money will be much needed and well used.

Caroline and I would like to thank all of you who have supported our venture in various ways and ask that you will continue to hold all those affected by the conflict in your hearts and prayers. May there be a swift end to the fighting and a stable peace deal between the countries involved.

Thank you and God bless. Eilidh x

Blackshaw Head



“As We Are Gathered”

In last October’s Circuit Newsletter we reported on a dilemma we were facing at Blackshaw Head. Having produced a weekly online video act of worship since the beginning of lockdown, when we were unable to meet face to face, we wrote that we were wrestling with the problem of how to return to full ‘live’ worship in our chapel and at the same time not abandon our new online congregation.

We said then that “we know that some who regularly worship on-line with us are not ‘church-goers’ and never will be. . . . so we are reluctant to abandon this part of our ministry, and those who have depended on us for so long. We have also built up quite a resource - our little worship group has recorded over 150 hymn and song videos, - and it would be a shame to simply delete those.

On the other hand we cannot sustain both recorded and live worship each week . . . So we are prayerfully trying to discern where God is leading us in all of this, and we would be grateful for your prayers also as we move forward in ministry to both old and new members of our church family.”

Well, guess what. We were wrong. Wrong to say that we could not sustain both recorded and live worship each week. But right that we needed to prayerfully discern where God was leading us. And God led us to a very simple conclusion - that, despite our doubts, we could sustain both, if we went about it the right way and were open to a wider vision.



So, what throughout lockdown was a full video version of morning worship going out at 10.30 on Sundays, sometimes with the planned preacher pre-recording their sermon segments, and followed by a ‘zoom coffee lounge’

online get-together for conversation, has evolved, since we returned to full life worship, into 'As We Are Gathered' ('AsWAG) a simpler, more informal and magazine-type half-hour worship video each week, which we describe as '*an online spiritual gathering place for scattered souls*'.



We use the skills ('gifts') we developed ('God gave us') during lockdown to record the variable parts each week - one or two of the set lectionary readings, a short reflective chat, and relevant and topical prayers, add in appropriate hymns and songs from our library of video music recordings, or maybe record a new one, and mix it together into that week's AsWAG video, which we post online on the Saturday, so that it is available from then on whenever people want to tune into it.

We can't of course, have a zoom chat afterwards over coffee, but we are pleased to hear from our online congregation as their message in to us.

We emphasize that this online meeting place is their church fellowship, alongside all those who join them, wherever and whenever, and that the place where they are watching it is

their sacred space. A different kind of church, with different potential.

We've broadened the reach - we now upload each week's video to the circuit's facebook page and post links to local community facebook sites. Although we never know how many join us each week the range of people responding confirms that our online congregation appears to be at least as big as our live congregation. For some AsWAG is their unmissable weekly time of devotion, for others it is a useful alternative if for any reason they are unable to attend Sunday worship, and yet others find it a helpful time of reflection, maybe at some point during the week, in addition to their Sunday worship.

If you would like to receive a link to As We Are Gathered (you don't need to be on facebook)



please let the circuit office know, and we'll add you to our emailing list. Or you can find us (and all our back-catalogue of videos!) Here :

www.facebook.com/BlackshawHeadChapel/





We decorated our cross with beautiful spring flowers during our Easter Sunday

Service and displayed it outside for everyone to see. When the flowers had withered, we replaced them with blue and yellow ribbons to remember the people of Ukraine .



Collection for the Ukraine appeal

Our retiring collection on Sunday 6th March was a wonderful £583.50 with £260 of that money Gift Aided.

We had a very successful first Friday Friends morning on 29th April. Everyone enjoyed the event and we are looking forward to the next one on Friday 27th May. Book the date in your diary! 10.30 until 12 noon. All are welcome! Please remember our Staying Well Activities times have changed slightly. Art is 1-3 p.m every Tuesday and Kurling is at the slightly earlier time of 3.15 to 4.15 p.m. All are welcome to come to any of these activities or all of them!

Friday Friends



at

Christ Church

Hipperholme Crossroads

10.30am - 12 noon

on the last Friday of every month
starting 29th April 2022

You are welcome to a morning of:

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| Crafts | Music |
| Quizzes | Activities |
| Games | Conversation |

and Refreshments.

Something for everyone, different every month!

Suggested donation £4

Brighthouse

Friday Lunches

I would like to draw your attention to our Friday lunches where we provide a two course hot meal for anyone looking for a good meal and pleasant company. There is no charge for this meal, only a small donation from those who can afford it. We are open every Friday and lunch is served at 12 noon. Coffee/tea is also available from 11 am. Everyone is welcome, so if you fancy a shopping trip to Brighthouse come along to explore our town and call in at Central for a coffee and some lunch. We shall be really pleased to see you.

Saturday Coffee

Likewise on a Saturday our coffee mornings are up and running again. It is advertised as 'coffee and chat' and every week there is a 'Team of volunteers' ready to serve you with speciality teas and coffees, hot chocolate and home made cakes. After the Pandemic we felt it important to give people the chance to socialise in a safe and comfortable environment. Once again we will be delighted to greet anyone who would like to call in and see us. You will be made most welcome.

Pensioner's Fair

On Friday 10th June we are holding a 'Pensioner's Fair'. This is being run by our MP Craig Whittaker and will be held in the Worship Centre. Our church has been invited to have one of the stands so we will be able to let everyone know what activities we provide for pensioners in our area. We shall be giving out flyers

that provide all the relevant information as well as times of our Sunday services and will also inform them of how to follow the service online through our Facebook page. It is really good that we are seen to be a central part of our local community.

Platinum Jubilee

It is hoped that we can continue the community feeling as we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The church is being decorated with floral arrangements and our Children & Families worker has events planned. That same weekend is the town's 1940's weekend so once again we want to be part of our local community and work alongside them.

Farewell to Rev Mark

As the summer months are fast approaching I am sure we are all looking forward to some nice summer weather, lighter evenings and maybe much needed holidays. For our own minister, Rev Dr Mark Cheetham and his family it will be a time of change. As we thank him for the tireless work he has undertaken in many areas of our church and community life we wish him well and every blessing in his new appointment.

To you all we wish you a happy summer and pray for God's blessing on our circuit as we move towards the end of our current Methodist Church year and on towards new beginnings and new challenges.

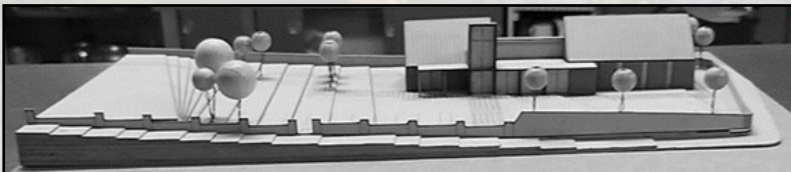
Susan Yates
Senior Church Steward

St Andrew's



Our 'Church Tree' is in blossom and is beautifully decorated in knitted flowers to show our love and concern for our brothers and sisters of the Ukraine. Even in the midst of all that is going on in the wonderful world that God provided for us to share with each other our lives and the life of the church family at St Andrew's continues as we move forward together in faith and the hope that before long all will be well and we can feel some sense of 'normality' whatever that may mean for each of us.

As a church family we continue to look to a future with a new Church Building that is warm, dry and welcoming to all. Sadly because of increasing costs in almost all walks of life we now know that the build will cost more than was originally hoped – but with God's help, lots of prayers and the continued generosity of the church family we are sure that we will eventually reach our goal of this lovely new building.



Obviously, this means that we have lots of plans in place to raise funds and enjoy ourselves at the same time –

- We were entertained recently by the wonderful 'Melody Belles' Ladies Singing Group as we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea in the presence of the Mayor & Mayoress of Calderdale in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A great time was had by all and thanks to a cash donation from Calderdale Council we were able to add £500.00 to the Church Development Fund
- We have a Plant Stall and a Bric-a-Brac/Book Stall on 21st May from 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon – if you are passing St Andrew's on that morning please do call in for a coffee and perhaps pick up some plants for your gardens.
- An Open Gardens event is being held on Saturday 25th June from 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. in and around the Huddersfield Road and Skircoat Green area of Calderdale – more details will be posted about this event on the Circuit Website nearer to the

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date – we will be happy to welcome you to any or all of these events.

- **Early Notice** – On Saturday 24th September at 7.00 p.m. we have an evening of Music & Laughter with Simeon Wood – Tickets will cost £10.00 with refreshments included – Book the date now and come along to this event.

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee all our Church Community Groups are holding events to mark this wonderful achievement and we are very grateful to the Yorkshire West District of the Methodist Church Queen's Jubilee Grant Funding team for their support.



Please join us for a QUIZ NIGHT on Friday 10th June 2022 -

Commencing 7.15 - £5 per ticket – Supper Included. All Proceeds to Christian Aid - Tickets available from Lesley - Tel 01422 250502 - Why not get a team together (max 6 people) OR come along and join a team on the night – again all are very welcome to come along as we raise some much-needed cash for CHRISTIAN AID.

On reflection looking back on what I have written it appears that all we are doing at St Andrew's is trying to raise money for our new Church Building but this is not the case as we have recently



shared together a wonderful Church week-end away at Thornleigh Hotel, Grange-over-Sands which was led by the Revd Paul and meant such a lot to all who spent this time of fun and fellowship together.

We also shared some brilliant, uplifting Lent & Easter Services together with our local Churches Together friends and our Church outreach groups i.e. Toddler Group – Monday Kitchen Luncheon Club – Knit & Natter Group – Men's Supper Club – the Wednesday Afternoon Group – the new Young Peoples Group at St Andrew's and a recently started New Mum's Drop in & Chat Group.

All continue to extend a loving and welcoming place to meet and offer the love of God through their own love, care and commitment of our church family folks who are part of these groups.



Sending Good Wishes and God's Blessings to all our Circuit friends from all at St Andrew's.

Boothtown and Southowram



Beetle Drive

with pie & peas, £4
25th June at 5pm.



Posh Afternoon Tea

and craft stalls
23rd July, 3 - 5pm , £5

Special Collections

Boothtown and Southowram had two special collections and two special coffee mornings to raise funds to be sent to the Halifax Ukraine Club so that they could buy what they needed to send to the people of Ukraine , we raised £650.



Table Top Sale

13th August, 11 - 2pm
if your church would like
to book a stall to raise
funds for your church
please get in touch.



ARE YOU A CIRPLANOLOGIST?

Rev Kathie Heathcoat
and The Zoomers of the Upper Calder Valley (and beyond)

Did you know that there is a society dedicated to the history, preservation and study of Circuit Preaching Plans? No, it's not April 1st, I'm not pulling your leg. They are called Cirplanologists. If you don't believe me, you can do an Internet search and find out all about them!

Dedicated Cirplanologists pore over plans to look for trends in preaching styles or quirks of names. I first came across them in a previous circuit where I worked with colleagues who had the surnames Beer and Free. We gave in to temptation and planned Mrs Free in the morning and Mr Beer in the evening, with the inevitable consequence of a large sign outside the church announcing that there would be Free Beer on Sunday. And that's why the Cirplanologists were interested. They wanted to add to their collection a plan with such a wonderful conjunction of names.

No, I am not a Cirplanologist, nor am I on a membership drive, but I wonder how carefully we pore over the preaching plan when we receive it or whether our attention is focused only on our own church or section. A dedicated Cirplanologist will have noticed that for the last couple of years a mysterious service called "Upper Valley Zoom" has appeared at 6 pm on the Hebden Royd line every Sunday.

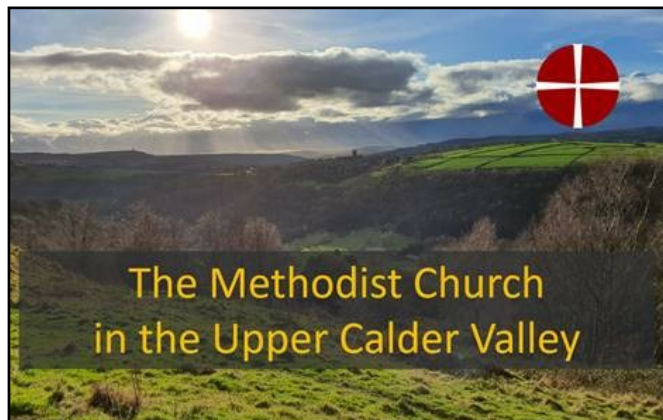
It started during the first lockdown, and is still going strong. In the beginning, many church members were enjoying being able to worship online with family in other parts of the country or the world in the morning, and we didn't want to interrupt that, so we came together in the evening. It took a little bit of getting used to, particularly for those leading worship, as they were talking to an unresponsive camera rather than a live congregation, but we persevered.



Whilst the services started as a way of offering fellowship during the lockdown and weren't expected to continue when churches reopened, they have developed into a valued time of worship and have enabled the Upper
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Valley section to get to know one another. They have also given us an opportunity to explore different styles of worship. We have had Celtic style



worship, Taize style, Healing Services, discussions on art works, reflections on pieces of music, and ordinary preaching services. We've even managed to light candles for prayer, although it can be something of a challenge!

So we'd like to invite everyone to share in the services. Upper Valley Zoom sounds as though it is limited only to those churches, it isn't, and never has been. The Upper Valley is where it originated and are the hosts, but we welcome everyone to worship. We

don't even mind if you leave your camera off because you're in pyjamas with your cocoa. We regularly have people joining us from Hull, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Cheshire and Hertfordshire.

For a while the Upper Valley stretched all the way to the Yukon, where for them it was a morning service and they delighted in updating us on the depth of the snow. Such was their commitment that they got up at 3 am their time to join in Morning Worship on the Sunday after Christmas!

If you'd like to join us, the link is the same every week:

<https://zoom.us/j/5018315978>
Meeting ID: 501 831 5978.

It can also be obtained from the Circuit Office or Rev Kathie Heathcoat. If you want to be kept up to date with who is leading worship on Zoom and the style of worship offered, Kathie would be happy to add you to her weekly email list.

We look forward to seeing you.



Brighthouse Central Methodist Church

The Second Wednesday of the
month, from 4.30pm

Reflections with Jodie

Every Friday from 8.30 am

Time for God

with Mark Cheetham,
Carolyn Stafford
and Graham Smith

Find them at
www.facebook.com/brighthousecmc/

COMMUNION WINE

WE HAVE A SUPPLY OF
NON-ALCOHOLIC
COMMUNION WINE IN THE
CIRCUIT OFFICE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A
BOTTLE(S) PLEASE LET US
KNOW AND COLLECT FROM
THE OFFICE ON A
WEDNESDAY

WE WILL SEND AN INVOICE
TO YOUR CHURCH
TREASURER FOR THE COST
- £5.08 PER BOTTLE

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



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

Calderdale 
Methodist Circuit

Circuit Website
[www.calderdale
methodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk)

It is hoped that Issue No. 30 of this
News-letter will come out soon.
Material for the next issue can be sent to
office@calderdalemethodistcircuit.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