

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 30

September 2022

A message from The Revd Vicky Atkins

Following a request from Janet and Lynne for a contribution for the Circuit Newsletter my initial thought was, do I write about the context I am leaving, or the context that I am moving onto. I found myself in a bit of 'liminal' space or 'threshold', on the precipice of something new, but not quite there yet. Staring about my office for inspiration I cast my eyes upon a poster, the text taken from Isaiah 43.

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“FORGET THE FORMER THINGS;
DO NOT DWELL ON THE PAST.

SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING!

“Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!” Sound advice, but difficult to appreciate when you are standing in a metaphorical corridor, having left one room, but having not yet entered the next one.

Then the light-bulb moment, the liminal space that I find myself in is a holding space, a space for ‘letting go’ rather than ‘forgetting’ and a space for picking up new things. A place of gratitude for what has been, whilst looking forward to what is to come.

From my metaphorical corridor I am discovering that the saying ‘when the door to one room closes, the door to another room opens’, is true in many ways. Some of the things I could dwell upon missing are to be found in new ways.

For example...

As an avid reader, one of the things that I have loved about living on the school site is access to the school library. So, when I am asked if I would like to live in a manse opposite a library, my response is yes please!! (Less enthusiastic about the ambulance station, but every cloud...)

I grew up by the Northeast Coast and since leaving there 25 years ago have not managed to live close to the sea. Moving to Woodhouse Grove my desire to live close to water was partially met in the shape of the Leeds & Liverpool canal, just a ten-minute walk away from school. Imagine my delight when I discovered that not only do I have a canal five minutes’ walk

from the Brighthouse manse, but it is also part-canal and part-river! Calder & Hebble Navigation, here I come.

Woodhouse Grove is not only close to water, but it is also a short drive away from Hobby Craft, which has helped to sustain my love for crafting (alongside the art department in school). I always have a craft on the go, sewing, painting, mosaic, weaving, I love all things creative. I was overjoyed to discover that the Piece Hall and Hebden Bridge have lots of independent art and craft shops.

Another thing that brings me as much joy as crafting is making joyful, if not tuneful, noise. Being part of the school choir has been a highlight of my time at school. Singing must be in the top ten of gifts God has given us. Science agrees with me. Apparently singing is very good for us as it produces feel good hormones that soothe our nerves and elevate our spirits. Luckily for my nerves and spirit there are an abundance of opportunities for singing in the Calderdale Circuit.

So rather than dwelling on the past I thank God for the wonderful things that I leave behind in the knowledge that there are wonderful new things that await me. In the words of Blaise Pascal ‘*Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known,*’ and I am looking forward to getting to know the people and the places of Calderdale.

Peace and Love

Rev Vicky



newebenezer
hope, help & love†

You are invited to join us...

to celebrate 200 years

of

Christian worship and outreach to the community

Sunday 23rd October 2022

Doors open 3.30pm

Past and Present Exhibition

Afternoon Tea

Celebration Service at 5pm

Bring Family and Friends

New Ebenezer St James Road Halifax HX1 1YS

For further information contact:

Angie Ross by Email newbenezer2019@gmail.com

Telephone: 07558329185



Eco Church



There is a growing movement within the national churches to look at the challenge of climate change and to bring about much needed change throughout the districts, circuits, and local churches.

In a recent report, 'Hope in God's Future: Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change', representatives from the Baptist Union, the Methodist Church, and the United Reformed Church grapple with the subject of climate change within the context of Christian theology. It is a challenging report which calls the church to repentance and action.

They challenge the church to 'discover the current level of our greenhouse gas emissions and identify a strategy to enable an audit of greenhouse gas emissions at all levels of the church, so that local churches, regional structures, and national church institutions become aware of the starting point for

action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions'.


When it comes down to it, we have a long way to go to make the necessary changes and yet, everything is possible. Throughout the UK many churches are turning to A Rocha, eco church programme. Eco Church is a free, online, reward scheme designed to equip your church to work towards environmentally friendly practices and it seeks to show that the Church is good news for God's earth. On signing up on their website you will be invited to complete an online questionnaire and on occasion you may even find that your church is already in line for a certificate.



As a circuit it is vital that we seek ways to challenge our Carbon Footprint. The Circuit Meeting has recently placed ECO church on its agenda, and we are seeking volunteers to form a circuit Eco Group to meet three times a year to work alongside churches and the wider circuit to address this vital work. If you see yourself as being a part of this group, please contact the Circuit office.

Rev Colin

Last Friday of the month at 1pm


Christ Church 

Bible Study

Discuss the Bible with friends and deepen your faith.

All welcome!

Come along to find out more or email us
Christchurchhalfax@gmail.com



Congratulations to Rev Colin and Diane on their marriage which took place on 30th July at 3 p.m at Southgate Methodist Church in Elland. After the



ceremony a reception took place in the Christian Centre adjoining the church where Church family from all Colin's churches were invited to join in a bring and share buffet.

Friday Friends



at
Christ Church
Hipperholme Crossroads
10.30am - 12 noon
on the last Friday of every month

Come and join us on the last Friday of the month for our Friday Friends – 10.30 am until 12 noon. Crafts, quizzes, games, music, activities, conversation – something different every month!
Suggested donation £4

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

Christ Church 

Tuesday Evening Talks

7.30pm



Interesting speakers
Varied subjects
Good company
and a cuppa.

All welcome!
Running September to April
with a Christmas / New Year break
£3

GOOD AS NEW

Wednesday
10.00am - 12.00noon - Coffee served



Brighthouse Central

Greetings from the lower end of the valley.

As we have said our goodbyes to one minister, who has served us for the past eight years, so we now welcome a new minister. As we usually say at the beginning of any new year, out with the old - in with the new.

It is not good to dwell on the past that has gone, but it does give us a chance to reflect. What have we done well? What can we improve on? We learn from mistakes so we now have chance to build on the positives. New leadership, new Teams, new zeal, a chance to make new friendships. I feel we are in the infancy of forging new ties with Stones Methodist church. Stones and Brighthouse Central are the two main churches that our new minister will work with and it makes sense to work together as closely as possible, encouraging and supporting one another.



Laura Braime has been appointed as Lay Pastor to support our new

Minister, Vicky, with her pastoral work at both these churches. Laura is already trying new initiatives and working hard in her new role to be productive, enthusiastic and supportive. We wish her well as she continues to build on these strengths.

Central's Farewell Service for Rev Mark and his family was at the morning service on July 31 st. An emotional service in many ways it was good to see a full church coming together to join in a worship of praise and thanksgiving. The buffet lunch that followed gave everyone a chance to say their own goodbyes and share stories and reflections that had been significant to them over the past eight years.



It was also a special occasion for Rebecca Snow, who runs our Food Bank, and has been a Ministries Intern at Central for the past 12 months. Having come to Faith during Lockdown Rebecca was baptised during this service and made a member of the Methodist Church. Supported by her family and friends, Rebecca beamed
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with joy and we are so delighted to welcome her into our church family.

As well as continuing her important work with Brighthouse Food Bank, Rebecca also feels called to start another initiative with families on the Whinney Hill Estate. This initiative, New Places for New People, will be held in their Community Centre and include a weekly crafting group with a faith element along with a shared lunch.

A prayer tree would be available and a closing prayer at the end of the group session. Although in its infancy this is an important piece of work which will benefit many. Our prayers continue to support her in the role she continues to carry out.

OPEN TO ALL

One of the initiatives Laura (Lay Pastor) has taken on is with the people who attend our Friday Lunches. She has been coming along and chatting to them to see what other needs they may have.

Many come to enjoy company as well as a hot meal so the hours open for people to attend will be extended.

'Open to All' will start with coffee at 10.30 am with an optional activity, e.g. craft, gardening, information from a charity or inspirational person, etc (each week something different).



Open Door Lunches will run from 12 noon and after lunch there will be an additional activity for people who want to stay (beetle drive, short quiz etc.) Finishing time will be 2 pm.

'Open to All' will start on Friday 9th September. I feel this will benefit many who look for positive things to fill their day and wish Laura every success with this new initiative.



We look forward to welcoming you all on Sunday 4th September at 4 pm for the Circuit Welcome Service for Revd Vicky Atkins and her family.

Our prayers are for Vicky, the circuit staff and ourselves as we embark on New Beginnings.



God Bless
Susan Yates
(Senior Church Steward)

St Andrew's



It is hard to believe that we are in the last few days of the 2021/2022 Methodist Church Year and looking back over the last year and remembering (or trying to remember) all the happenings of the last twelve months, many of them happy occasions, some of them not so happy as we have lost good and much loved friends of St Andrew's during that time.

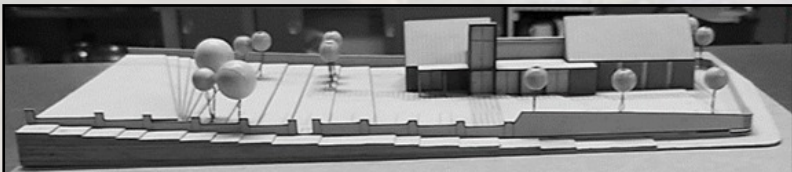
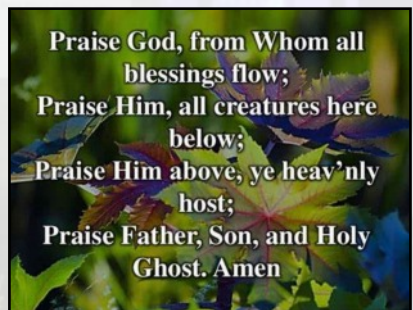
The Revd Paul has been with us for a year now which has been good for us as a Church Family and we thank him for the time that he has been able to share with us. Only last week at our Communion Service we listened to Paul talk about how we can 'Praise God' based on Psalm 103 'The Love of God' and sang the words of the Doxology – which made many of us think just how much we have to be thankful for, even in a world turned upside down due to greed and man's inhumanity to man – so sad!

During the year we, like all our Methodist church families, have held many Local Arrangement Services and it has been an amazing experience and a blessing to be part of these Services, all very different but no less meaningful, even if most folks taking part have shared how nervous they have been during the services.

Another recent venture we have been trialling is "First 15" where a member of the church family is 'in charge' of the first fifteen minutes of the service – again a very challenging situation for many, but a very worthwhile project and proves that many folks have been hiding their light under a bushel (or whatever the modern-day term for a bushel is)! – we await further progression of this trial.

All through lock-down our extremely hardworking Church Development

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Team have worked tirelessly to bring our building scheme to fruition and 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.

A decision was recently made by the Church Council that we put forward to all the necessary bodies that we split the build into two phases – the first phase being the main church building, followed by landscaping and car parking works etc forming the second phase of the works. Hopefully this will mean that we can start the work sooner rather than later.

We have recently been awarded a very generous grant from the Community Foundation for Calderdale for fossil fuel free heating equipment to help St. Andrew’s play its part in slowing climate change and for this we are very grateful.

All this of course means that we will need to raise as much money as possible, as quickly as possible, therefore our fundraising events will continue to follow on from those things that have taken place over the

summer months, i.e.

- Plant Stall and a Bric-a-Brac/Book Stall
- An Open Gardens event was held on Saturday 25th June in and around the Huddersfield Road and Skircoat Green area of Calderdale – and proved to be a very well attended and lovely afternoon.
- Summer Quiz
- Home Produce sale

Our next event is planned for Saturday 24th September at 7.00 p.m. when we have an evening of **Music & Laughter with Simeon Wood** – Simeon is a great entertainer – he plays a lot of different wind instruments – it will be a great evening of music, fun and laughter. Ever seen anyone playing an NHS walking stick!!!!? - **Get your ticket now! Ring 07886355206 – see poster below for more information about this event.**



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There's a Library at Brighthouse Central

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At the start of the 2022/2023 New Methodist Year our Church outreach groups i.e. those involving young people - Uniformed Organisations, Toddler Group and the new Young Peoples Group at St Andrew's will be starting to meet again following the School holiday break.

Also the Monday Kitchen Luncheon Club – Knit & Natter Group – Men's Supper Club – the Wednesday Afternoon Group will 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.



**PLEASE DO COME ALONG AND JOIN
US AT THIS EVENT TO BE HELD ON
SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2022
AT 7.00 P.M.**



Did you know that in the vestry at Central Methodist Church, Brighthouse, 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.calderdalemethodistcircuit.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.

Boothtown and Southowram

Boothtown and Southowram Methodist Church held a very successful Afternoon Tea on 23 July. The event was well attended and everyone helping was kept busy! Thank you to those who came along.



Boothtown & Southowram continued



Sponsored Sing

Sponsored hymn sing

October 14th to 16th

If your church wants to get involved with this event please get in touch.

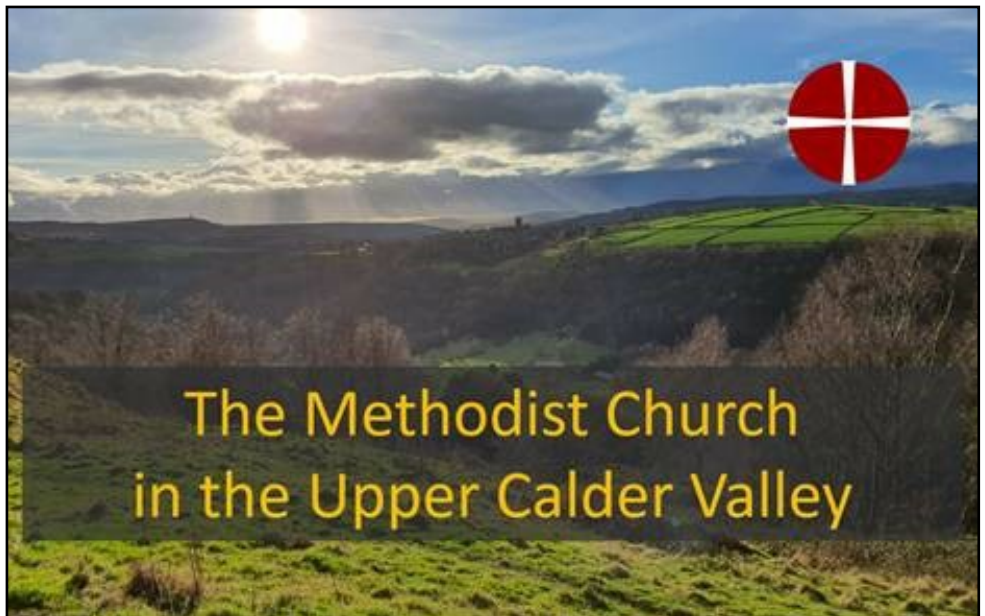


Christmas Fair & Tree Festival

26th November 11 - 2pm.

Please contact us
via our email address:

boothtownsouthowrammethodist@gmail.com



The Methodist Church
in the Upper Calder Valley

ST. PAUL'S

St Paul's is very fortunate to have a long tradition of Scouting and Girl Guiding groups as part of our youth and next month, they will celebrate 90 years at St Paul's!

90 YEARS

As well as weekly meetings, the 24th St Paul's Scout group also organise two annual fundraising events which are open to the general public:

The Calderdale Hike - an event attracting runners and walkers from all over the country coming to follow routes of 16, 26, and 36 miles in April each year.

The Calderdale Mountain Bike Marathon - an event attracting cyclists from all over the country coming to follow a set route of 26 miles in October each year.



This year they have, very generously, used some of their proceeds from these events to purchase a defibrillator for the church. After a professional demonstration, it quickly became apparent that keeping this life saving equipment within the building was not going to help if a medical emergency, nearby, required it when the church was locked up! Therefore, it was decided to buy a cabinet and site it outside.



The SPYS group (St Paul's Youth Support) a group set up after the 75th Anniversary to support the youth groups, took on the responsibility of ordering the cabinet, along with its installation and registration, and the defibrillator is now on the corner of our church building ready for use.

Whilst we hope the defibrillator will never be needed, its presence will bring some reassurance to those in our neighbourhood and further confirms us as a church which seeks to serve the wider community.

BRIGHOUSE

Central

Every Friday from 8.30 am

Time for God

with Vicky Atkins,
Carolyn Stafford
and Graham Smith

Find it 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. 31 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