

# AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 31

December 2022

## A message from The Revd Vicky Atkins

Over the centuries there have been many traditions to mark the beginning of Advent from fasting, and lighting candles to hanging wreaths and opening the first door of the Advent calendars to begin the count down to the special day.

I wonder when historians look back to 2022 what traditions will be associated with marking the beginning of Advent. I asked this question to a group of teenagers and this is what they said...

“Advent begins when the John Lewis Christmas advert is screened.”

“Advent begins with Black Friday”.

“Advent begins when my *Beauty Advent Calendar* arrives in the post”.

For those of you who don't know what a Beauty Advent Calendar is, it's an Advent calendar filled with luxury beauty products.



There are 100's of different Advent calendars being marketed now, some filled with socks, toys, candle even beers! They are a far cry from the simple cardboard calendar of the 1970's that I grew up with. I remember opening each door with eager anticipation to see what simple but vivid coloured new picture was behind each door. No chocolate or gifts just a picture related to the Nativity story.

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Advent will go down in twenty first century history as being a time of consuming. Spending our hard earned money on buying things we believe our loved ones might want, but probably don't need. Meanwhile we spend January trying to dispose of the excess things we receive at Christmas.

Our children are being taught that Advent is a time of shopping and presents. One of the most recent marketing ploys to make parents SPEND more and children WANT more is the 'The Elf on the Shelf' tradition.



This is how it works - The families purchase a toy elf who sits quietly on a shelf all day, observing, and then flies back to the North Pole every night to report to Santa on who has been naughty and who has been nice. The next morning, the children are sent to find the elf, who will resume his surveillance from a new spot. If the child has been good a treat will be left as a reward by the elf. Those of you

who are good at maths will have worked it out 24 potential treats before Christmas day even arrives.

Our children are growing up as consumerists before they are even in school. They are trained at very early ages to believe that only when they acquire certain things, they will be happy. Of course we can be counter cultural (after all Jesus was) and banish spying elves and luxury goody filled Advent calendars from our lives and use the period of Advent to reflect with our families about preparing our hearts for the most wonderful gift we will receive at Christmas.

The gift of God's love which is the most precious of gifts to be shared with those you love. We can't change how twenty first century Advent traditions will be reported on in the future but we have the power to create own family traditions which our children will pass on. Instead of them being built upon materialism let them be built on God's love, peace, hope and family.

Wishing you a peace filled Christmas.

**Rev Vicky**



OVERGATE  
HOSPICE

*Choir*

# CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

WITH

HAMMONDS BAND    ORGAN - ALAN HORSEY  
CONDUCTOR - MORGAN GRIFFITHS  
GUEST CONDUCTOR - DR GORDON STEWART

Saturday 17th December 2022 at 7.00pm

**AT HALIFAX MINSTER, HX1 1QL**

by kind permission of Canon Hilary Barber, Vicar of Halifax

TICKETS  
£12

**Ticket availability:** Choir secretary Phone 01422 373252, Harveys Dept Store, Halifax, Online at [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com), Overgate Hospice, 30 Hullen Edge Road, Elland, HX5 0QY. Phone 01422 387121 or on the door on the night.

This concert has been generously sponsored by the trustees of the Bearder Charity.

[www.overgatehospicechoir.co.uk](http://www.overgatehospicechoir.co.uk)

Supporting Overgate Hospice | Registered Charity Number 511619



On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October we were privileged to have Revd Ashley Evan lead our worship as we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Reformed Church.



**Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972**

Ashley has been to Christ Church before to lead us in an evening when we thought about how to grow our church and this was the theme he took in worship. His service was inspiring and challenging. He commended us on all the activities that are laid out in our brochure but challenged us asking “Where is God in these activities?” and “How are you introducing the people who come into this building to God?”

As a result of this we have started a short time of prayer in the middle of the coffee morning on Wednesdays and the response has been overwhelming with many people calling out the names of those for whom they want us to pray. The words of the prayer are printed in the next column:



## Wednesday Prayer

Loving God

Thank you for this time when we can come somewhere warm,  
that we can meet with friends  
old and new  
and we can chat over a hot drink  
and biscuit.

Thank you that whether or not we know Jesus,  
you know us, you care about us  
and you care about those  
we are concerned about.  
So in a moment of quiet  
we name those who are in  
particular need at the moment.

*First names only, no details –  
God knows.*

We place all those named out loud,  
and in the silence of our hearts,  
and all of us here,  
into God’s loving care. Amen.

## Quiz: Capital Cities

(answers on the next page).

1. A different delivery of mail?
2. Is one lost on the settee?
3. You can wonder aimlessly here!
4. Would you put the boot in here?
5. What a place to get plastered!
6. Circles around small and large!
7. Hasten a change?
8. Wellington’s horse?
9. Cat woman doesn’t but ...
10. Noodles loses a point but gains another...

Debbie went trekking the Inca trail and climbing Machu Picchu in Peru with a group of friends recently. It was a gruelling trek over 4 days and 3 nights, 26 miles reaching heights of 4,200m.

At Dead Woman's Pass on Day 2 the altitude made climbing conditions difficult, due to low oxygen levels. All this was done to help raise funds for Overgate Hospice!

A great time was had by all and the sun was shining for most of the trek! The final total raised for Overgate Hospice was £1040.00 – Well done ladies!

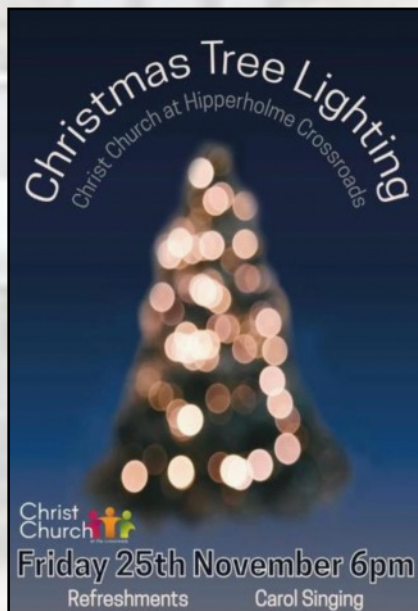


### Quiz answers:

1. Lima
2. Sofia
3. Rome
4. Wellington
5. Paris
6. Oslo
7. Athens
8. Copenhagen
9. Katmandu
10. London



Beautiful poppies were made by some of our church family. How lovely they looked adorning the railings. Thanks to all who made them. A lot of hard work has gone into creating these.



# CAROL SERVICE

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

**Boothtown & Southowram Methodist Church**

*Beverley Place, Akroydon, Halifax, HX3 6LR*



**ALL WELCOME**





# Christmas Tree Festival

## Mount Tabor Church

10am – 4pm Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> December


& 10am – 3.30pm Sun 4<sup>th</sup> December

(Including a Service of Celebration at 2.30pm on Sunday)

Light refreshments will be available during these times

If you would like to sponsor a tree please email –

[hopscoatcheggs3@gmail.com](mailto:hopscoatcheggs3@gmail.com)



## Mount Zion Heritage Chapel


## Christmas Carol Service 2022

Sunday 11th December 2:30pm

Led by Rev. Paul Welch

ALL WELCOME!

Refreshments Tea & Coffee,  
Mince Pies & Christmas Cake,  
will be served in the cottage  
after the service.



## St Andrew's



Christmas 2022 is fast approaching. The Christmas Trees inside and outside the Church are up and shining out into our neighbourhood. The Church is beautifully decorated with greenery and Christmas Stations dotted around the Church which tell the Christmas story. It all looks so welcoming to any who may wish to share with us during the Advent and Christmas period, as we wait with anticipation to welcome the baby Jesus once again as The Light in our lives and in the darkened world we seem to be living in at the moment.



St Andrew's are offering a 'Warm Welcome Space for All' this winter to anyone who may need it using the Moore Hall on Tuesday afternoons from 1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. So far, this has not got off the ground visitor wise, but our helpers are there each Tuesday ready and waiting to offer a friendly welcome to any who may take up this

offer of a warm space and warming drink . If you have family/friends in our neighbourhood it would be good if you can pass this information on to them.



The Revd Paul has been going into Salterhebble School right next door to St Andrew's to take assemblies. At the beginning of December a small team are taking the 'Open the Book' scheme into the School and we have a Messy Church Christmas Event planned for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December with the Salterhebble School children in mind. So watch this space for further news about these events.

Our recently started Young Peoples Group which meets monthly on a Sunday afternoon is going well, the last meeting saw 12 lively youngsters enjoying a great time together, especially eating the Eton mess they had made!

The Monthly Wednesday Afternoon Group have enjoyed listening to various interesting talks, with their next event being the Christmas Meal out at the beginning of December. As you can imagine, everyone is looking forward to that.

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Our 'Community' Groups, the Monday Kitchen Luncheon Club, Knit & Natter Craft Group and Toddler & Parent Group, are all thriving and again looking forward to sharing their Christmas Festivities with friends from these groups. It is a great thrill to see the folks who live alone interacting and sharing meals and fellowship together and the Toddlers are really looking forward to their Christmas Nativity Service and making things for the Christmas Stations. What an exciting time for all concerned!



St Andrew's very much needed Church Development plans remain in the forefront of our minds, particularly as the cost of the building work has gone up by around a quarter of a million pounds over the last few years. This is a major set-back for us but with God's help, not insurmountable.

We pray that our wonderful supporters will continue to carry on so generously supporting the fund-raising events.

Sadly inflation is biting into the money already given or pledged. The sooner we can start on the ground the better.

The buckets and drips during the heavy rain continually remind us of that, even after a recent temporary repair to the roof – the buckets are still in use – we must pray harder! We are certain

though, with God's help, lots of prayers and the hard work of the church family we will eventually reach our goal of this lovely new building.

St Andrew's is still progressing with raising funds to help achieve this new completely dry drip-free and efficient building – for the first time in years! The current volatile state of the economy has hit the construction sector very hard, so we will have to raise more than we had expected. But we're ploughing on – and hope to remain positive. We're looking forward to a big sale of unnecessary buckets in the not-too-distant future.



### **Melody Belles Concert on Saturday 3 Dec at 2pm**

Just come along and get a ticket at the door. Christmas Quiz now available – fun for your friends and family over Christmas. More fundraisers in the New Year!

The Simeon Wood Concert – 'Music & Laughter' held in September was a huge success and a great evening of fun and laughter as promised – 'Thank You' to our Circuit friends who supported us . It was lovely to see so many of you at the Concert, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Sending love and God's Blessings for Christmas 2022 and for the New Year 2023 from the St Andrew's Church Family to all our Circuit Friends.



**St Andrew's Methodist Church.**  
Huddersfield Road, Halifax, HX3 0AT  
(opposite the Hospital)

Join us for tea/coffee and cake whilst  
listening to these lovely ladies  
Singing Christmas songs

# *The Melody Belles*

on Saturday  
3rd December 2022  
commencing at 2.00 pm

£7.00 per person  
Children £3.50

Tickets available from  
Margaret 07903 329149

In aid of St Andrew's Church Development Fund

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



# St. Paul's Methodist Church

Tower Hill, Sowerby Bridge

## Live Nativity

Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> December

11am to 4pm

See the live animals in the stable

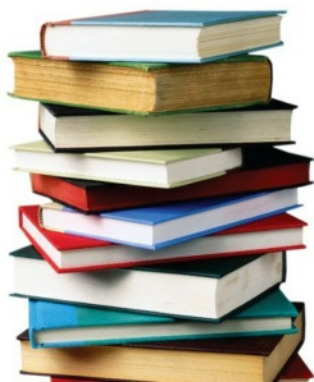
Free admission & refreshments

Everyone Welcome

Crafts and free  
handouts for all  
youngsters



## 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.uk> (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.

# Grove Books

We've recently added some new titles to the library and these include a number of **Grove Books**.

These publications are intended to be introductions to various topics covering **The Bible, Ethics, Evangelism, Liturgy, Ministry and Worship, Pastoral Care and Spirituality**.

A full list of what's in our library is in the latest edition of the catalogue (see opposite).

**Grove Books** are usually around 25 to 30 pages long, so they don't take too much digesting. If, after a taster, you want to know more, there are usually suggestions for further reading.



If you're interested in Methodist Church history, there are a number of titles in the catalogue. Brighouse Central also has quite a large number of Methodist related books that I'm in the process of cataloguing. More news about those soon. However, they are available to peruse at your leisure.

Graham Smith



**BRIGHOUSE  
CENTRAL  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**



**CHRISTMAS  
CRAFT FAIR  
AND COFFEE MORNING**

**SATURDAYS  
10AM-12PM  
5TH NOV - 17TH DEC 2022**

TABLES WILL BE AVAILABLE EACH  
SATURDAY BETWEEN THE 5TH NOV AND  
17TH DEC,  
£5 A TABLE PER WEEK

TO BOOK A TABLE CONTACT:  
[ADMIN@BRIGHOUSECMC.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@BRIGHOUSECMC.ORG)



A RANGE OF CRAFT STALLS, COFFEE AND  
CAKE WILL BE ON OFFER EACH SATURDAY  
MORNING IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS.

POP ALONG TO FIND YOUR PERFECT  
FESTIVE TREAT

**FREE ENTRY**

BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL METHODIST  
CHURCH,  
COMMERCIAL STREET, BRIGHOUSE

## Boothtown & Southowram

Boothtown and Southowram Church held a quiz and pie and peas supper on Saturday 15 October to raise funds for the Christmas grotto.



We sold over 30 tickets, including to a good number of people who were unconnected to church.

After deducting expenses we raised a magnificent £132.



Boothtown & Southowram  
Methodist Church

Beverley Place, Akroydon, Halifax, HX3 6LS

**Friendly Brass Band  
Christmas Concert**



**Friday 16th December  
2022**

**7.30pm – 9.30pm**

**Tickets £10**

**including light refreshments**

For tickets please email

[boothtownsouthowrammethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:boothtownsouthowrammethodistchurch@gmail.com)

or call 07960 605970

Highgate Methodist Church, Stretchgate Lane, Halifax, HX2 0EN

presents:

# 'Music for a Winter Afternoon'

Saturday, 3rd December 2022 at 2.00pm

Featuring:

Hal Clarkson and the Forever Young Band

The Highgate High Fiver Singers

and guest soloist: Emily Taylor-Smith (Leeds Conservatoire)

Tickets available from Highgate, the Band and Singers; suggested donation £3. Refreshments available.

All proceeds to Calderdale Smartmove — supporting the homeless and vulnerable across Calderdale

## Cross Hills METHODIST CHURCH

From the 5th December 2022 we're delighted to offer you a warm space upstairs in the Bridge Cafe on the following days

Warm  
& Welcome  
Space

Whether you bring a book, your knitting, your lunch or just meet with others for a chat, you will be most welcome.

Find out more at [cross-hill.org.uk](http://cross-hill.org.uk) and facebook  
Phone: 01422 740102 or email [hello@cross-hills.org.uk](mailto:hello@cross-hills.org.uk)

### Mondays

9.30—12.30

(The café will be open)

12.30—2.30pm

(Tea / Coffee making facilities available)

### Wednesdays

10.00am—2.30pm

(Tea / Coffee making facilities available)

### Fridays

9.30—12.30

(The café will be open)

12.30—2.30pm

(Tea / Coffee making facilities available)

### Saturdays

3.00pm—5.00pm

(The café will be open)

### Tuesdays

The Lunch Fellowship meets downstairs between 11am and 1pm for coffee, soup and sandwich lunch. All are welcome.



As part of the New Ebenezer 200 years celebrations a brochure has been produced describing the 200 year history of Ebenezer Methodist church. These are now for sale and the cost is £5 per copy with all proceeds being donated to the Halifax Food and Support Drop In. Copies of the brochure can be obtained from the Circuit Office (details on the website home page) or by calling the mobile number below.

# From Old to New

**£5 PER COPY:  
ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO  
TO FOOD SUPPORT DROP IN**

To obtain a brochure contact:  
office@calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk  
Tel: 07588329185

Clifton Methodist Church  
is holding a

# Christmas Fayre

3 December

10:30 am - 1 pm

Christmas Crafts

Buy gifts for Christmas

Christmas Food  
and festive beverages

Enjoy some Christmas cake, mince pies and much more

An art exhibition

Showing work of the Art Club

Proceeds divided between Rob Burrows MND appeal  
and church funds



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/](http://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  
- £5.25 PER BOTTLE

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



The **Methodist Church**  
[www.methodist.org.uk](http://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. 32 of this  
News-letter will come out soon.  
Material for the next issue can be sent to  
[office@calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk](mailto: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