

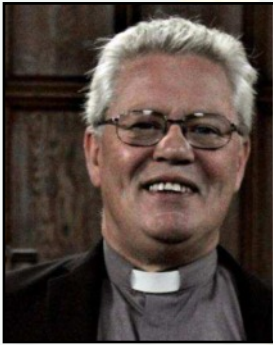
AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 28

March 2022

A message from the Revd Colin Sherwood



Dear Friends

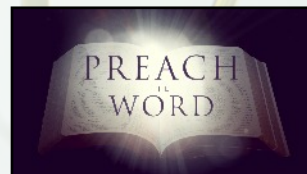
This past week in my musings to one of my churches, I recounted a very busy week's schedule and on reflection it was all rather encouraging.

At the beginning of March my colleague Mark and I enjoyed a morning at the West Bretton Anglican and Methodist LEP church alongside the chairman of the district and fellow Superintendent Ministers.

Reverend Kerry Tankard led us in a bible study on the raising of Lazarus, a story I know so well, and yet, in the reflective manner that it was read, our group discovered several hidden gems. As we travel the journey of Lent, I pray we might have opportunity to rediscover the story of that journey to

Jerusalem made by Jesus that we might truly discover the hidden gems that will enable and equip us for the tasks before us.

Another joy came on Ash Wednesday, sharing the 'Ashing Service' at Highgate and going on to be a part of the Local Preachers meeting in which we heard a final report for Pamela Hales who had led a service at Southgate. After a positive report and after Pamela had correctly answered the appropriate question that I put to her from CPD (constitutional practises and disciplines of the Methodist church) you will be delighted to hear that the meeting will be putting Pamela's name forward to the Circuit Meeting to become a fully accredited Preacher. Congratulations Pamela!

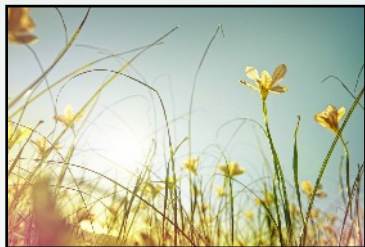


Towards the end of the week, I was a part of a circuit property group meeting and listened in as a church shared their vision and sought the next steps for their property as they seek to serve God.

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As I write this introduction to our newsletter, I am gazing out my window on a strangely sunny day, a wander around my garden earlier alerted me to a variety of green shoots preparing to burst forth with colour.



Despite the ongoing challenges I sense an awakening in the Churches, Circuit, and District, a reemerging if you like, from a place of sadness, loss, and fear into a new space which, in some ways, is yet to be defined.

The one thing that we can be assured of is that God never leaves himself without a witness. I sense God moving and his call is ever before us, the call to take up the cross, to follow the example of Jesus in the power of the Spirit, to bless, heal and to discard division, to make a real difference in our churches, community, and in God's world.

Every blessing,

Colin



Praying for Ukraine

These past days have been traumatic as we have gazed in disbelief and horror at the terrible things happening in the Ukraine and Russian Conflict. We know there to be suffering on both sides of the conflict.

I offer you this prayer to use which has come out of the Joint Public Issues Team of the United Reformed Church, Methodist Church and Baptist Union and which may be freely shared.

**God of all,
with alarm and concern
we bring before you
the military intervention in Ukraine.
In a world you made for peace
and flourishing,
we lament the use of armed force.
We mourn every casualty
of this conflict,
every precious life
extinguished by war.
We pray comfort
for those who grieve
and those who are fearful.
Hear our longing
that leaders and nations
will honour the worth of all people
by having the courage
to resolve conflict through dialogue.
May all our human failings
be transformed
by your wonderful grace
and goodness.
We ask this in the name of Christ,
the author of peace
and sustainer of Creation.
Amen.**

St Paul's



Like many other churches, St Paul's is responding to the situation in Ukraine with cash donations and by collecting goods for those displaced. As during the pandemic lock-downs, we have placed a battery candle in a window to let our community know that we are praying for peace and encourage everyone to join with us at a time when we feel helpless but can all share in the positive action of prayer.

In memory of Reverend Christine Perry (Drummond)

The funeral for our friend Christine was held amidst the rules and regulations of lockdown on Friday 12th March 2021 at Burnley Crematorium and as previously requested (and instructed) was led by her friend Colin Sherwood.

The funeral had been written by Christine herself and she had given strict rules on what could be said and by whom.

In recent conversation with various individuals in the circuit it was felt that we ought to print the obituary that made its way into the Minutes of Conference, although, being a professional historical document, it is presented in a certain style and not freehand as the author would have preferred. Please see below for the next chapter.

Christine Perry (Drummond): born at Darfield in Yorkshire on the 16 September 1952. As her father was serving in the RAF, Christine grew up in such places as Germany, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Christine completed a Bachelor of Education degree and graduated from Furzedown in South West London in 1974. It was during her time in Hong Kong in 1969 that she met her first husband Andrew.

Later in life she married David Perry, and her sons Timothy and Daniel were born. They provided her with three grandchildren, on whom she doted. Christine's husband David died

suddenly in 2013, which was a huge shock to the family. Through a chance encounter her first husband Andrew came back into her life and they married shortly afterwards.

In her working life Christine had once worked as a personnel manager for national carriers, followed by her time of being a mother and housewife. Having felt the call of God on her life, Christine trained as a Methodist minister at Queen's College, Birmingham.

She went on to serve in the Coventry Circuit, where she was instrumental in setting up the local refugee centre. This was followed by the Grantham & Vale of Belvoir Circuit, and Calderdale Circuit, where, amongst other things, she served as a police chaplain. For a time, Christine became an active supernumerary in the Rossendale Circuit.

Christine applied for, and was given, permission to reside abroad in Canada with her husband Andrew Drummond. Following her diagnosis, she and Andrew returned to the UK, and Christine spent her final months in Cambridge being supported by the Arthur Rank Hospice.

Whilst enjoying leading traditional Methodist services, Christine also wrote her own liturgies, which proved to be popular, especially when it came to personalised rites of passage.

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Christine was a passionate preacher who found it easy to get alongside people in her congregations and the communities she served.

Christine died on 24 February 2021 in the sixty-ninth year of her age and in the twenty-fifth year of her presbyteral ministry.



Christine's instructions were clear, her 'swan song' was to be in three parts. The first was the funeral, the second and third were about eating and celebrating.

There is to be a thanksgiving service with family and friends with a finger buffet on Saturday May 7th at Todmorden Central commencing at 3pm.

To give the family some idea of attendance numbers we will be issuing free tickets via Eventbrite, or you may prefer to let the circuit office know of your wish to attend by the 1st May. The Eventbrite code is below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reverend-christine-memorial-service-tickets-293090440397>

'How to Share Your Faith' morning

Saturday 14th May - 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

One of the difficulties with sharing faith with those around us is that we struggle to find the words. Christ Church will be holding an event that may help. The morning will be led by Alison and Trevor Wheatley and Reverend Colin.

The idea of the morning is to share good practice and to encourage participants to have a go themselves in a safe environment.

Lunch will be provided for those who would like to stay.

Please sign up on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/11898197> or email ChristChurchHalifax@gmail.com to book a place on the course.

If you would like to stay for lunch afterwards, please email us at ChristChurchHalifax@gmail.com and also let us know of any dietary requirements.

BUSOASIS

With you on your Journey

Nights before Christmas

For some years now the Circuit has had a mission resource called BusOasis. It used to be a double decker bus, but now it is a long wheelbase van which has been fitted out and is able to

provide shelter and refreshments when it is 'out in the field'.

On the last two Saturday evenings before Christmas, it was in Halifax,

by the old post office, providing a 'safe space' for the pre-Christmas revellers.

There are always police officers in attendance, and it is good just speaking to people, and the members of the police always show a positive approach in their community engagement.

It is not without incident and on the second night our first aid kit came in useful in helping the police patch up a reveler. What remains in the memory though are two who came to us on the

first Saturday. One carrying his sleeping bag, but clearly suffering alcohol issues and mental illness.

Then later there was a lady with similar problems. In talking later we were speculating how these people came to their current situation.

Had there always been mental illness, or did alcohol come first? Or was it triggered by family exclusion, or even marital problems? Who can tell? I understood that these people were known to

local support agencies. We must thank God for that.

But if anything reinforces our prayers for others, it is the fact that there are people out there, needing love, care and support, and we must pray that they are able to receive support whenever and wherever it is needed.

If BusOasis was able to bring comfort to the lives of any of those we spoke to, it was certainly worth doing.





District Youth Weekend

Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th April 2022

Carlton Lodge, Thirsk



Come and join us over the weekend for a chance to meet new people and catch up with old friends.

With a variety of games, challenges, workshops and worship activities to take part in, we will have an action-packed weekend!

To book your ticket go to <http://ow.ly/meQS50H3j5A>

Booking deadline: Friday 18th February 2022

Option 1 - Residential

For Year 6 upwards

Friday 22nd @ 7.30pm -
Sunday 24th @ 1pm

Cost: £45*

Option 2 - Day Visitor

For ages 8+

Saturday 23rd April
8.30am - 7pm

Cost: £17*

*This represents 1/3 of the cost per person. The rest of the cost will be paid by the local Circuit and the District Youth Fund.

Payment can be made by cheque made payable to [Yorkshire West Methodist District](#) and sent to [Yorkshire West Youth, c/o Yorkshire West District Office, Touchstone Centre, 4 Easby Road, Bradford, BD7 1QX](#) or by BACS transfer (details available by request from Laura - youth@ywmethodist.org.uk)



Cross Hills Methodist Church
Presents the Pantomime

Jack and the Beanstalk



At Southgate Methodist Church, Elland

Thursday 17th & Friday 18th March at 7pm

Saturday 19th March at 1pm and 5.30pm

Tickets: £7 per person can be purchased through our website
www.cross-hills.org.uk or call 01422740102 for further info

CAR WASH

RUN BY THE
YOUTH
GROUP

CROSS HILLS CHURCH
PROCEEDS TOWARDS
YOUTH WEEKEND
AWAY!

£5



DATE: 26.03.22
TIME: 10AM-1PM

COFFEE
+
CAKE



Lent & Easter Services

13th March - Revd Patrick Taylor - Lent planned preaching Wk 1

20th March - Caroline Stead - Lent planned preaching Wk 2

27th March – Andrew Jacobs - Lent planned preaching Wk3

3rd April - Jonathan Whitaker - Lent planned preaching Wk 4

10th April - Debbie Story - Lent planned preaching Wk 5

**Maundy Thursday 14th April - 7.30pm Communion Service
- Revd Colin Sherwood**

Good Friday 15th April - 2.30pm Revd Colin Sherwood

Easter Sunday 17th April

- **8:30am Communion Service - Revd Dr Mark Cheetham**
- **10:30am Worship Service - Andrew Jacobs**

Note – Lent planned preaching is on 'Caring for Creation'

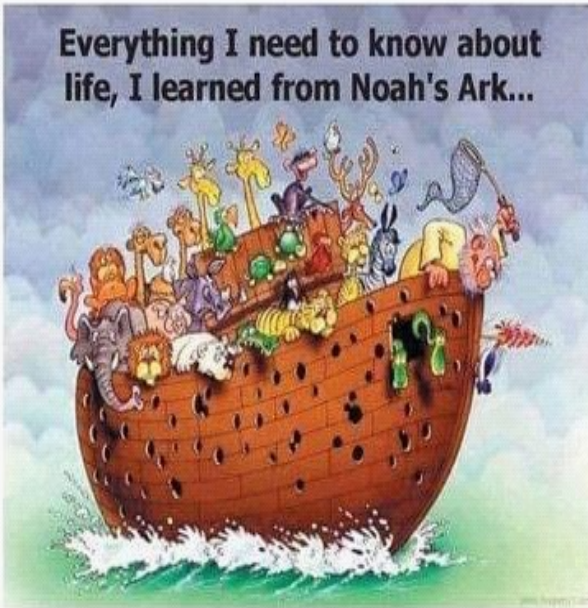
Our hearts went out to the children and teachers at Ash Green School at Mixenden when their school was destroyed in an arson attack on 1st February. Following a retiring collection, a cheque for £138.00 was sent to Community Foundation for Calderdale, which coordinated the fundraising appeal.

Let Wisdom Speak

There's an opportunity for you to do something different during Lent this year –

You are invited to listen to the voices of Joanna Adeyinka-Burford, Dr Selina Stone, Revds Sonia Hicks, Helen Cameron and Chan Kaur-Mann, the stories of All We Can's partners and the reflections of several Methodist Women in Britain, in a devotional resource designed for you to journey with throughout the Lenten season.

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...



- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- 5 Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 When you're stressed, float a while.
- 10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting..

- If you are 'internet-savvy' you can subscribe on Facebook, Youtube or Twitter, with a live broadcast community at 1.17pm every Wednesday and Friday, with guests, games, prayer and fellowship. Look up Colossians 1:17 to discover why that time has been chosen.

- You can sign up to receive a weekly e-mail.
- You can register your place to mark International Women's Day on 8th March at 7pm with a special celebration, and continue, on the following Tuesdays, with an Online Study Group.

- Go to allwecan.org.uk/lent



OVERGATE
HOSPICE

Choir

30th ANNIVERSARY

1991 - 2021

PRESENTS

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

MESSIAH

OVERGATE HOSPICE CHOIR PRINCIPALS OF THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

CLAIRE STRAFFORD - LUCY APPEYARD - JOHN DUNFORD - QUENTIN BROWN

GUEST CONDUCTOR: SARAH OGDEN ACCOMPANIST: ALAN HORSEY

SATURDAY 9 APRIL 2022 AT 7.00PM
CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH, COMMERCIAL STREET, BRIGHOUSE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

OVERGATE HOSPICE, ELLAND | HARVEY'S, RAWSON STREET, HALIFAX

SHOESMITHS, COMMERCIAL STREET, HALIFAX | CHOIR MEMBERS

01422 373 252 | WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM

www.OvergateHospiceChoir.co.uk

Supporting Overgate Hospice | Registered Charity Number 511619

TICKETS
£10

WeGot
Tickets

Brighthouse

Ukraine

As I write this news from Brighthouse Central a team from our church are busy organising a Prayer Wall and Prayer Vigil for Sunday afternoon 13th March.



Schools in the area have been contacted inviting children to prepare prayer messages to display on the Prayer Wall and already one of the local schools has offered their school choir to sing. Starting at 5.30 pm we will share a message of hope, for all those both in Ukraine and Russia, for peace, before sharing a time of silence.

People will be invited to read the prayers that are displayed and the worship space will be offered to anyone who would like to use it, staying open until 7.30 pm thus giving people the opportunity to experience the stillness and quietness as they reach out to God in private prayer.

The people of Ukraine are very much in all our thoughts and constantly in our prayers and Sunday will give us that chance to come together and unite our prayers in solidarity.

Through the Foodbank we have

become one of the drop off points for donations of clothing and supplies. A team of volunteers are sorting through the donations and putting boxes together which will then go to Focus4Hope who have the means of getting it to the people of Ukraine.

Church news

At the end of January our Church Family Weekend was spent at the Red Lea Hotel in Scarborough. 40 plus people enjoyed a time of fellowship and friendship and the children were treated to kite flying on the beach as well as looking for 'sheep' that had been hidden around the Hotel.

It is a worry, as we adjust to living with Covid, organising events again but as we have taken a cautious approach in returning to some sort of normality I am pleased to report that confidence is growing.

Numbers of people back to Sunday morning services are increasing and the Junior Church special services on the 3rd Sunday afternoon of the month are remaining popular.

Friday 'Open Door' Lunches have resumed and numbers are gradually increasing again. These lunches are open to anyone wishing to engage in company over a meal as well as to those who find it difficult to feed themselves. All are welcome - no cost, just donations.

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Three of our teenagers are half way through their Projects they embarked on last September when they started the One Programme.

LEAH is fundraising for the Build Team, helping to raise money for necessary building repairs and building projects. She has already held one successful event with a Murder Mystery evening and is now planning a Quiz Night for Friday 18th March at 5.30 pm. All proceeds for this event will go to ALL WE CAN Methodist Ukraine Appeal.

LUCY wanted to know more about Methodism and has been researching the roots of her faith. She has been looking into the the life of John Wesley and the influence he had on many people.

She put her own booklet together and invited people to attend an evening where they were able to share her findings and look at Wesleyan memorabilia and books as well as photographs of past events held at our church. This was interspersed with a light meal of soup and crusty bread, cakes and tea/coffee. She too managed to raise money for church funds. She is now busy planning her next project.

If anyone would like a pdf copy of the booklet Lucy produced please email Chris Yates cklyates@blueyonder.co.uk who will forward on a copy.

ADAM has been helping to build community links - being involved in the 'rocks for kindness' project and helping out at other organised events. His help and support with the Foodbank is also much appreciated and ongoing as is his support for other community links. His self-confidence continues to grow.

We are very proud of all our young people who continue to take an active part in church life.

Looking Forward

We look forward to holding our Easter services once again this year. The last two years did not give us the chance to have our usual Easter gatherings, although we did still try to keep Easter memorable and share the Easter message.



We look forward to the joy that Spring brings. New life, new hope, new beginnings - and for the people of Ukraine who are dealing with massive uncertainty we hold them steadfastly in Love and give thanks to those who are hearing God's call of mercy and responding to that call.

With Love and Blessings to you all.

Susan Yates - Senior Steward

St Andrew's



Two months have already gone of the year 2022 but the St Andrew's Church Family sends its love and God's Blessings to all our Circuit friends as we say 'good-bye' to the last two difficult years and look forward to celebrating a much better year in 2022.

Sunday the 6th of March saw most of our Covid 19 restrictions lifted with the exception of hand sanitisation and wearing of masks for singing still in place – this is in the hope that this will encourage those friends who have not ventured back into Church yet to perhaps feel safer when they do.

St Andrew's is showing to its neighbourhood and those passing by that **'we are back'** and mean business as we display our intentions for the future of our church on



Huddersfield Road - as we continue to work hard to raise funds to make sure this happens sooner rather than later.

Our Church Week-end away to Grange-over-Sands is finally going to take place at the end of this month, we have waited almost three years for this to happen as the last two years plans were thwarted by Covid 19 restrictions



and those who are taking part in this week-end are looking forward very much to what is a wonderful time of

fellowship and fun that can be shared with friends over this week-end. We have very much missed this time of sharing together in this way.

Thankfully most of our church groups are back meeting again and are all feeling the benefit of being together again – a real blessing and one that was very much missed during our time of isolation – Coffee after Church on Sunday morning was just great! As usual, knitting needles are working hard again, the project this season is knitted lambs to hold Easter eggs to be given to our Toddler Group, Young Peoples Organisations, Play Group and the reception class at Salterhebble School right next door to our Church - (yes we know that lambs do not lay *Continued on next page . . .*

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eggs but they do symbolise Spring and 'New Life') which we celebrate at Easter. We are also knitting Sunflowers to show



our love and thoughts for the our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. The Church Family and Friends generously responded to a recent appeal for gifts of clothes and toiletries, etc for those in need in the Ukraine.



Our monthly 'Wednesday Get Together' new venture is proving to be a great asset and shows that sometimes it is good to bring to an end two different groups and form something new which is open to everyone for an afternoon of fun and fellowship once a month. We have already heard some great talks from our speakers and now look forward to a Cookery Demonstration by Christine Hodgson called 'A Taste of Summer' which is open to all who would like to attend.

There will be a chance to try out Christine's recipes with a cup of tea/coffee after the demo! See the Circuit Website for more information

about this event if you would like to come along and join us – Wednesday 6th April 2022 at 1.30 p.m.

We are still focused on achieving our aim of a New Church Building on Huddersfield Road, we certainly need a new building – there was as much rain inside St Andrew's as there was outside after the recent storms! We would certainly welcome your prayers for this to happen before very long.



During this Season of Lent we relive again all that our Lord Jesus Christ suffered on our behalf and we in turn must do what we can to help others in any way we can not only in the run up to Easter but always as we try to live up to His expectations as Christians living through a very worrying and heartbreaking time for us all.



We now look forward in anticipation of what the Lord has planned for us as a Church family at St Andrew's in the days and months to come. Sending love to all our Circuit friends.



**ST ANDREW'S METHODIST CHURCH
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON CLUB
INVITE YOU TO A
'TASTE OF SUMMER'
COOKERY DEMONSTRATION
BY CHRISTINE HODGSON**



on Wednesday 6th April 2022 at 1.30 p.m.

Ticket £7.00 including

Tea/coffee, food tasting, free recipes

Tel: Velma 07747503564 or Kathleen 07990512020

for tickets or more information.

All proceeds for

"THE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FUND"

JOB VACANCY

Circuit Meeting Secretary

Philip Lee is to step down as the Circuit Meeting Secretary after the Circuit Meeting in June 2022. He has held this role since September 2016. Despite having indicated some time ago that he wished to relinquish the role he has been carrying on because no-one has offered to replace him.

The job entails taking the minutes at the Circuit Meeting and producing a written copy of them. The minutes are then passed to the Superintendent to be checked before then being circulated to the Circuit Meeting members. (Note – whilst meetings have been held via Zoom they have been recorded and so it has been possible to ensure that everything has been noted correctly. This might not be the case if zoom/hybrid meetings stop happening)

The completed minutes are circulated by the Circuit Administrators.

The Circuit Administrators prepare and send out the calling letter, agenda and all associated reports. They also collate apologies sent in before the meeting and ensure that the attendance sheet is signed at the meeting and forward copies of these sheets to the Secretary for the records. If the Secretary

receives anything directly which relates to the meeting, it is forwarded to the Circuit Office for the Administrators to deal with.

We ask you to please consider seriously whether you could do the job. **Please let the Circuit Office or Rev. Colin Sherwood know if you are interested or would like further details.**



Brighouse 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/brighousecmc/



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. 29 of this
News-let-ter 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