

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 33

July 2023

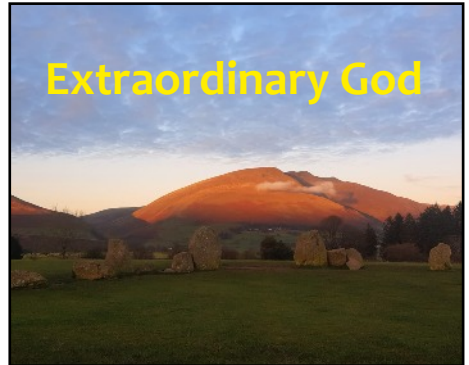
A message from The Revd Vicky Atkins

Dear Friends,

I hope that you have been enjoying this unusually warm start to summer. For Methodist people summer is generally a time to slow down (a little). A time for reflecting on the 'ordinary' away from the many seasons in our church life which seem to flow into one another leaving little time to catch our breath, let alone reflecting on the everyday and ordinary!

We begin late November / early December with four weeks of Advent, before diving headlong into Christmas. Then for many of us a week or two later we celebrate Covenant.

Depending on how the year falls we very soon find ourselves embracing 40 days of Lent, before the emotional journey through Holy week, culminating with the joy of Easter – which as a season in the church lasts six weeks and not one day as some seem to think. From there we jump to celebrating Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, before moving onto this seasonal hiatus we refer to as 'ordinary' time. A time to pause and pay attention to God in the present moment, prior to the busyness of



September and the new Methodist year!

We get so busy and so distracted that it is easy to overlook God in the 'ordinary' but Franciscan Friar Richard Rohr wisely concludes that God is always present we just get too busy to notice. He gently reminds us that "All that we are looking for in life—all the happiness, contentment, and peace of mind—is right here in the present moment, but we get so caught up in the ups and downs of life that we don't take the time to pause and notice what we already have."

This summer I hope that you find time to rest and relax and enjoy the many opportunities to experience our extraordinary God in the 'ordinary'.

Peace and love,

Revd Vicky

Heptonstall - The Final Service



Sunday 28th May was the final regular service to celebrate the mission and worship of Heptonstall Methodist Church 1764-2023.

Over 100 people came to witness and share in this special event.

Rev'd Kathie Heathcoat handed over the keys and contents of the Heptonstall Methodist Church to the Circuit, Superintendent, Rev'd Vicky Atkins.

The church is now closed for regular worship, however, the building will be open on Sundays and Bank Holidays for people to come in and look around. There will be six services a year, which will be advertised widely, including on social media. It is also still available for weddings and funerals.

To arrange any of these, please get in touch with the minister, Rev Kathie Heathcoat. kathie.heathcoat@calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk



**Heptonstall
Methodist Chapel
1764 - 2023**

Mount Tabor - The Final Service

On Sunday 18th June was the Final Congregational Service, commemorating 203 years of mission and worship at Mount Tabor Methodist Church.

Over 60 people attended the service!

Regular Sunday Worship will continue with the congregation at Highgate Methodist Church- click on the following link for the service timetable

<https://www.calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk/churches/highgate.html>.

Contact the Minister Revd Colin Sherwood at

colin.sherwood@calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk with any queries.



Stones Methodist Church, Rochdale Road, Ripponden

Mission and Development Project Update



There has been a church at Stones since 1804 and many readers of the Circuit Newsletter will know that the current building plays a big part in the life of our local community – both church life and wider community activities including Hilltops pre-School, Abigail Warburton Stage School, Stones Ripponden Playgroup, Keep Fit, Friday Get Togethers and Luncheon Clubs, Saturday Coffee Mornings, Children’s Parties and so much more.

New mission initiatives have taken place this year – Easter Eggstravaganza, Prayer Group, Ladies Bible Study and others.

The Stones building – exposed to weather coming over the Pennines, needs some major works to make it watertight and energy efficient. The building is used seven days a week and it is vital to secure its future Mission within Calderdale.

Our fundraising programme is on track, we are delighted to have received a

major grant from Benefact Trust and an encouraging Gift Weekend response, but funds are still required to enable the project to possibly begin in early 2024.

The building project and changes to the layout will also enable the building to be used more by the community, something which has been regularly highlighted as being really important during engagement with local people and organisations over the last 12 months.

Everyone is welcome at Stones and on completion of the works there will be more space for community groups and Stones groups to meet in an energy efficient building.

For more information and to see our progress please see our website – www.stonesmethodistchurch.org.uk, visit our Facebook pages – www.facebook.com/stonesmethodistchurch -

or ring the church number – 07534 517143.

Please make an enquiry by our website form or do ring if you’d like any further information or if you would like to make a donation towards the work at Stones.

Many thanks for your support - The Stones Church Mission & Development Project Team

St Paul's

BIG PLANT GIVEAWAY

If you have a garden, or even pots on the patio, you'll probably know how it feels to have spare plants that you can't do anything with and that end up on the compost heap or in the green bin! A few often appeared at St Paul's on a Sunday morning labelled 'Free to a good home.'

So it was suggested that the church had a plant day when anyone with surplus seedlings, vegetable plants, divided perennials etc. could bring them to the church for others to take home and enjoy, and, perhaps, take some different plants away to try in their own plots.

As the church is in the process of applying for Eco status, we also wanted to help the town to be more eco-friendly by growing more plants, thereby encouraging insects and reducing its carbon footprint.

Would it work? Would we have many plants? Would people come and, if they did, might they be greedy and take advantage of the free gesture?

We needn't have worried; the morning proved to be a success! A good number of people came, some carrying pots and carriers with plants, others with just empty bags hoping to fill them with something to grow in their space. Lots of herbs, vegetables, annuals and perennials found new gardens to grow in with even some of the less glamorous specimens being re-homed!

Very little was left over.

There was a lovely atmosphere as our visitors browsed the plants, asked about them and the care needed, engaged in conversation with us and enjoyed coffee and biscuits. One person commented that, with the cost of living being so high, there was no money left over to spend on plants but now she could go home with some.



The whole event was free of charge but a donation box was placed discreetly on the kitchen counter and that yielded £80 which was donated to the community's Sunday Get Together. One of the many, in praise of the event, asked if we did this every year, to which we had to honestly answer, 'no, it's the first time' but we rather think it will become an annual community event!

Easter

We had a great celebration of Easter with our Holy Week services.

On Maundy Thursday our communion service started at 7:30 pm. We celebrated communion remembering how Jesus shared his last meal with his disciples in the upper room. We then had a virtual visit to the garden of Gethsemane, the courtyard where Peter denied knowing Jesus and finally approach the cross.

On Good Friday the walk of witness left Christ Church for St Matthew's at 11:30 am. Soup was served at St Matthew's. There was a service at Christ Church at 2 pm.

King Charles' Coronation

Our church was open on the morning of the Coronation for our neighbours and church friends to enjoy watching this piece of history on our big screen. Hot drinks and cake were available. This was enjoyed by all who attended.

Brodstock 2023

We made our annual trip to Brodstock where we were thinking of people who care for us. This is an important part of our mission in the community. Visitors to our gazebo were able to take part in activities, and we had some lovely interesting conversations whilst enjoying the live music. *Please see photos opposite.*



Blackshaw Head



God bless you all, for all you do thank you.' 'Just home from cataract surgery and there you were in my special place. Thank you for your prayers, songs and reflections today.'

We also had a message which said 'On Easter Sunday the church I started going to when 4 years old had its last service. No young people

At Blackshaw Head we are continuing to produce 'As We Are Gathered', our weekly half-hour online worship video, and have now moved into our fourth year.

We began soon after the start of the first lock-down in spring 2020 and when we completed the three-year lectionary at Easter we considered whether to close it down. We received so many messages of encouragement around that time that we realised that the need for it was still there, so on we go.

Among the comments were these :
'Thank you for the service this morning.

coming to continue. So I will be looking forward to sharing your service for some time to come, God Bless you all and once again thank you.'

This prompted us wonder whether, in fact, AsWAG had in some way contributed to the decline in attendance when churches reopened after lock-down. On balance, however, we know we reach many people, far and wide, who are unable to get to church on Sundays, so for the time being we go on. You can find us each week on the circuit Facebook page (but please don't stop going to church!).



St Andrew's



How time flies and we find ourselves almost half-way through 2023 and in the midst of a heatwave but we at St Andrew's are hoping against hope that the threatened thunderstorms keep away as our very poorly church roof will not cope with heavy downpours!

During the last three months we celebrated along with the rest of the Country the Coronation of King Charles III and once again our Knit and Natter Group prepared this **CORONATION POST BOX TOPPER** – and doesn't it look great?



Unfortunately, someone in the surrounding area, or maybe just a passer-by decided that the King shouldn't be adorning the post box and

sadly he went walk-a-bout but, luckily for us, he was found, somewhat wet and dirty in a local garden. Not to be defeated after a wash and brush up the King was duly returned to his rightful throne on top of the post box. The knitters are working on a 'Summertime' topper at the moment and we await the outcome of that.



The Revd Paul and others continue to go into Salterhebble School to take an Assembly Service before



the end of each School term and following on from this two very successful 'Messy Church' afternoons have been held at the end of the Easter and Spring Bank Holiday School terms.

As a Church family we endeavour to encourage folks in our local community to come along to share in the many activities we have on offer. Through contacts with the School, our monthly Young Peoples Sunday Church Youth Group is going well and we look forward to this going on and flourishing in the future.

Some of our 'older' young people have preferred to meet and chat over a Pizza at the Pizza Hut which was a really fun time for them all. Our 'Community' Groups – i.e. The Monday Kitchen Luncheon Club, Knit & Natter Craft Group and Toddler & Parent Group all
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continue to grow and all enjoyed their own Celebrations for the King's Coronation.

It is wonderful to see and take part in the enjoyment of the fellowship and seeing the many friendships develop within these groups. On a Monday morning some of the helpers at the Toddler & Parent Group join in the Lunch Club meal, they arrive covered in paint and sparkle but with a smile on their faces that says a 'good time was



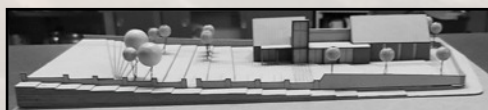
had by all' and that includes those very same helpers!

The Monthly Wednesday Afternoon Group continues to

enjoy listening to varied interesting talks and always welcomes the chance to 'party' especially if the party involves strawberry scones with jam and cream.

The Men's Supper Club is again a monthly event but now meets at 4.00 p.m. to listen to a speaker and in the last season have heard talks about – Tunnels under the Pennines; The Halifax Zoo; The Halifax slasher; and the latest one What have volcanoes done for us? All these talks have been followed by a meal and fellowship around the table.

As reported previously, our Building Scheme continues to play a very big part in the forefront of the minds of



the Church Family and our intrepid Church Development Team continue to work very hard behind the scenes as they seek to get the scheme moving but at the moment we are looking at making changes to the plans already in place as we now need to find well over a further £100,000 to cover the cost of building due to inflation and cost of building works.

PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE for an update on our Church Building plans as our Church family continues to look to the Lord for His blessing on this massive project. Fundraising continues to happen with our latest event of a Plant Stall raising over £600.00 for the building fund.

Our Church Christian Aid Secretary arranged a successful Quiz Evening during Christian Aid Week which raised



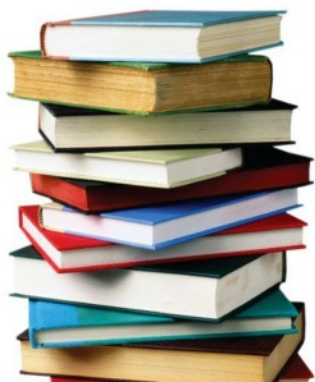
over £200.00 so when added to our other donations

from the Church family enabled us to send £435.00 plus Gift Aid to help the work done by Christian Aid. Thank you to all the Circuit Churches who supported the Quiz.

As a Church family we would like to thank all our Ministers and Preachers and those who have conducted our 'Local Arrangement' Services over the last Quarter as we have been led in some wonderful, uplifting and meaningful Services and we are very grateful to all concerned – May God Bless You All.

With love and God's Blessings from the St Andrew's Church Family.

There's a Library at Brighthouse Central



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.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.

Wesley & Methodism



The library at Brighthouse Central has a large collection of books about John and Charles Wesley and Methodism in general. Here are just a few examples:

Charles Wesley's Verse by F Baker

William Grimshaw of Howarth
by F Cook

William Clowes by T Guttery

A Progress of Pilgrims by R T
Hughes

The Journal of John Wesley –
A Selection by E Jay

John Wesley by D Marshall

Graham Smith

Mount Zion



There was a very special cream tea afternoon today at Mount Zion Heritage Chapel as they said thank you to two of their volunteers who have retired after many years of service to the chapel - Property Steward Anthony Greenwood who has taken care of the building and grounds for 25 years and Pamela Spring who has organised the volunteer groups and made so many scones for their cream tea fundraisers.

Thank you to everyone who came to wish them both a very happy retirement.



A good definition of GRACE

When a person works an eight-hour day and receives a fair day's pay for their time, that is a wage.

When a person competes with an opponent and receives a trophy for their performance, that is a prize.

When a person receives appropriate recognition for their long service or high achievements, that is an award.

But when a person is not capable of earning a wage, can win no prize, and deserves no award - yet receives such a gift anyway - that is a good picture of God's unmerited favour. This is what we mean when we talk about the grace of God.



“For by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

B I B L E

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

When in sorrow.....	John 14
When men fail you.....	Psalm 27
When you have sinned.....	Psalm 51
When you have worry.....	Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger.....	Psalm 91
When God seems far away.....	Psalm 139
When your faith needs stirring.....	Hebrews 11
When you are lonely and fearful.....	Psalm 23
When you grow bitter and critical.....	1 Cor. 13
When you feel down and out.....	Romans 8:31-39
When you want peace and rest.....	Matthew 11:25-30
When the world seems bigger than God	Psalm 90
When you want Christian assurance.....	Romans 8:1-30
When you leave home for labor or travel.....	Psalm 121
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish.....	Psalm 67
When you want courage for a task.....	Joshua 1
When you think of investments/returns.....	Mark 10
How to get along with fellowmen.....	Romans 12
For great invention/opportunity.....	Isaiah 55
For Paul's secret to happiness.....	Col. 3:12-17
If you want to be fruitful.....	John 15
If your pocketbook is empty.....	Psalm 37
If your losing confidence in people.....	1Cor. 13
If people seem unkind.....	John 15
If discouraged about your work.....	Psalm 126
If you find the world growing small, and you great.....	Psalm 19

AVAILABLE 24/7 | PHONE SERVICE NOT REQUIRED
DIRECT PETITIONS HEAVENWARD

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
- £5.67 PER BOTTLE

Job Vacancy

We're looking for someone who might take over from Graham Smith and put together this newsletter.

Graham's compiled 32 issues and would like to step down. He's quite *desperate* and willing to help anyone who may be interested. Graham can be contacted on 01484 718807 or by email - graham.smith@methodist.org.uk

DTP
DESKTOP-PUBLISHING

Calderdale 
Methodist Circuit

Circuit Website

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

It is hoped that Issue No. 34 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.

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of the Methodist Church