

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 34

October 2023

A message from The Revd Vicky Atkins

Dear Friends

It is approaching that time of year again which is really a mixed blessing for me. I am really looking forward to the autumnal colours once again. However, as a non-gardener and with a garden surrounded by huge trees, (most of which belong to next door) I will be spending a ridiculous amount of time clearing, front and back gardens and the large pond we also inherited.

I was sitting thinking about this over breakfast the other day when a message arrived on Whatsapp from a good friend of mine. It was a picture of someone holding several autumn leaves with this message written over the top of them:

“The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let things go!”

I began to think, how many things do we really hold on to that we really should let go of. I realised that rather than hold on to the resentment of having to clear up all these leaves I should rather focus on enjoying the trees, then enjoy the fact that I am able to go outside and clear them up.

As human beings, we are not always

very good at letting go of things, especially like resentments - whether that's resentment against things or people. We are also not always good at letting go of grudges or things people have said or done to us that have hurt us. But letting go of such things brings with it a real sense of release. When we talk of forgiveness, it is not so much for the sake of the person we forgive, though hopefully it will lead to a renewal of relationship, but more about freeing ourselves from the anger, resentment, pain, etc. that was eating away at us from the inside.

It is also important to be able to let go of the things we resent about ourselves too, and if we're honest most of us have them. Past regrets, failures... hanging on to them is unhealthy and unhelpful. Letting them go as the trees do their leaves makes room for new growth.

Finally, the same can be said for our church life. Sometimes we hang on to things that really we need to let go of if we want to see growth.

So, can I invite you to pause for a moment, and ask yourself what can I let go of, actually what do I need to let go of in order to see new growth?

Peace and love, *Revd Vicky*

Heptonstall - Remembrance Service



**Heptonstall
Methodist Chapel
1764 - 2023**

All are welcome to join our Remembrance Service on Sunday 12th November, at 10:30am. The service will be led by Mr Tom Ferguson.

Visitor Information

Northgate, Heptonstall, Hebden Bridge HX7 7ND
Limited parking spaces are available at Towngate (adjacent to the chapel); we encourage car sharing, public transport, walking or cycling wherever possible to minimise disruption.

There is no wheelchair access to the Chapel, and the paths can be steep and uneven.

For more information, send us a message, comment below or contact our Minister Rev'd Kathie Heathcoat via email kathie.heathcoat@calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk





Community Coffee Morning

STONES METHODIST CHURCH,
RIPPONDEN, HX6 4LA

Saturday 7th October
9.30 – 12.00

Everyone welcome!



**Come and
join us for a
Cuppa**

STONES METHODIST CHURCH - RIPONDEN

QUIZ NIGHT
ON WEDNESDAY
01ST NOVEMBER 2023
AT 7.30PM

CRISS CROSS QUIZ
AND
PIE & PEAS SUPPER

TICKETS £6

NON ALCOHOLIC DRINKS BAR

CRISS CROSS QUIZ
25 QUESTIONS TO ANSWER
PLACE YOUR ANSWERS IN YOUR OWN NUMBERED GRID
FIRST PERSON HAVING FIVE CORRECT ANSWERS IN ANY LINE TO WIN

PLUS TABLE TOP QUIZZES IN YOUR GROUPS OF 4

FIRST PRIZE - £20 M&S VOUCHER

PLUS TABLE TOP PRIZES

ALL PROCEEDS FOR THE STONES MISSION & BUILDING PROJECT

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH

OR FROM DAVID NORMANTON PHONE 01422 346371

Open the Book

EVENT:

Open the Book Core Training.



INFO:

Illingworth Moor Methodist Church, Keithley Road, Illingworth, HX2 9LL

Wednesday 1 November at 12.45pm (for 1pm start) until 4pm

Cost: Free

Trainer: Fiona Walton, Yorkshire Training & Development Officer

Booking: Email details of those attending to

training@openthebook.net



Open the Book

On November 1st Illingworth Moor are holding a training event for Open the Book. I thought I would share what Open the Book is about from the Bible Society website.

Open the Book (OtB) is an exciting storytelling project where Bible stories are shared with children in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable. As invited guests in school, storytelling teams use the Open the Book programme to prepare and present a 10–15-minute scripted Bible story to a school assembly, involving the children as much as possible.

How does Open the Book benefit schools?

- It gives the school a link with the community
- It provides opportunities to build cross-generational relationships
- It provides a time of quiet reflection that schools are required to build into their school day
- It makes an engaging school assembly
- It has been positively viewed in official school reports
- It is free to the school
- It requires no extra work or planning from school staff
- It is successful in multi-faith contexts Staff in schools value Open the Book because they know exactly what has been said and can answer with confidence any questions they may be asked about the content of the assembly.

We have a joint team of 10 members from Illingworth Moor Methodist Church and St Johns Church Bradshaw. We go into 3 primary schools once every half term and have a practice session too. We have gained good relationships with schools and have been invited in for other occasion. It's wonderful to see the children enjoying our 'performance' and also taking on board the message we bring. And we very much enjoy ourselves too!

If you would like more information about joining a team or starting a team you can either go to the Bible Society website or contact me for a conversation.

Email: immctracy@gmail.com Phone/Text/WhatsApp: 07748271570





Stones Methodist Church
Living Stones

The Mastersingers In Concert

Saturday 14th October 2023

AT 7.30PM

Admission

All Adults £10 & Under 18's £4

Tickets Available at the Church

Cash & Card Payments Accepted

Or For Ticket Enquiries Please

Phone 01422 346371 or 07534 517143

Email - stoneschurchmethodist@gmail.com

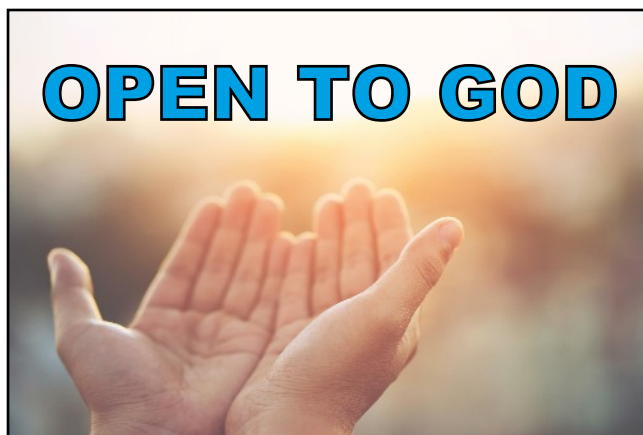
Open to God is a meeting first set up by Albert Gayle when he was Superintendent of the old Halifax Circuit. The idea was that circuit staff would lead the meeting and would consider the lectionary readings for a week the following Sunday, that is eleven days ahead. The theory being that staff would be basing their services on those readings, and this would give them a heads-up as to what was involved. For information, the lectionary readings are given at the top of the column for the relevant Sunday on the circuit plan.

Over time the meeting has evolved in the sense that it is now led by staff, local preachers, retired ministers and, occasionally, by people who are none of these. This is probably due to the reduction in the number of staff. What has remained the same is that the meeting takes place on a Wednesday at 10:00 and moves, on a monthly basis, around churches that were in the Halifax Circuit. Currently these are, Boothtown and Southwram, Highgate, Illingworth Moor and St. Andrew's. Meetings are, of course, open to people from throughout the Calderdale Circuit.

Meetings theoretically last half an hour, but in practice are pretty much open ended. They usually include prayers and, always, readings from the

Bible. Reading, studying and learning from The Bible is an important part of A Methodist Way of Life. The leader will speak about the readings, and there will be time for questions and discussion. Music and other types of reading may also be included. We always conclude with refreshments.

The time of meeting means that most attendees are of mature years, but all are welcome. The meeting provides an



opportunity to meet members of staff etc. in an informal setting, to make new friends, and, of course, to learn more of God's Word. Please don't think you need to be learned in theology to join in, or be deeply spiritual, we have a variety of backgrounds, and levels of knowledge, and can be lighthearted as well as serious.

If you are interested, then by all means just turn up on a Wednesday morning, details are on the plan, and you will receive a warm welcome.

Harvest

Our harvest service on Sunday, 24th September – this was a traditional service led by Revd Colin Sherwood.

For our harvest giving we supported two charities as usual– one near and one afar!! – our food bank and All We Can.

The congregation were asked to bring items that we can take to our local food bank which formed our display in church. Baskets and envelopes were there for collections of donations for All We Can.

This year All We Can are focusing on Putting Communities into the Driving Seat:

In the Chikawa region of Malawi, there is no shortage of aid and development charities seeking to make a difference in an area experiencing high rates of poverty and at the sharp end of the climate crisis. All We Can supports the work of **Eagles**, a local organisation that puts communities in the driving seat. Their founder, Victor, realised that while solutions brought in from outside the area might be helping a little, they were not tackling the root of the problem, they were not involving local people, and they were pitifully unsustainable.

ALL WE CAN



Eagles trains communities to identify the problems they are facing and develop their own solutions. As a result, local expertise is harnessed and community members have ownership of their development, making the solutions more effective and sustainable.

‘Before the process with Eagles I used to look down on myself... I now believe I have a brighter future and that I can improve’ Genti Thomas.



20th Anniversary

We celebrated 20 years as a Local Ecumenical Partnership on 10th September and our service was led by Rev Chris Hawke.

This was a lovely celebration of the joining together of the congregations of Hipperholme Methodist Church with Lightcliffe United Reformed Church back in 2003.



20 Years of Local Ecumenical Partnership

Tuesday Evening Talks

Our initial series of talks were very successful. We restarted in September and look forward to seeing you at 7.30 pm in the hall. We have an interesting group of speakers lined up. Below are just a few:-

10th October – “The last Lister of Shibden” with slides - speaker Christine Booth.

24th October – “Machu Picchu” with slides – speaker Debbie Story

14th November – “It shouldn’t happen to a vicar” – speaker Rev Colin Sherwood.

All are welcome – Listen to our speaker, followed by tea/coffee and biscuits - £3.00

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

Boothtown & Southowram

Methodist Church

Beverley Place, Akroydon, Halifax, HX3 6LS

QUIZ NIGHT *(with a meal)*

Saturday, 14th October 2023

Food: *served 5:00 pm*

Followed by the Quiz

Tickets: £10 *(must be bought in advance)*

Please state choice of food when purchasing ticket

- **MAIN:** *chicken breast, roast potatoes, peas, carrots, broccoli and Yorkshire pudding*
- **MAIN:** *vegetarian lasagne*
- **DESSERT:** *gateaux*

For tickets please email boothtownsouthowrammethodist@gmail.com

or call 07960605970 (or speak to church members).

St Andrew's



St Andrew's – as we find ourselves once again at the start of another New Methodist Year we celebrate the happenings of the past year and look forward with anticipation to what the New Year holds for us as a Church Family.



Our St Andrew's redevelopment project motors on! The current

amount raised/pledged is £912,000. That's an amazing amount (and thank you to all who have helped in any way) but it's not enough to let us get on with the work.

Like everything the estimated cost is rising. Our architect is currently working up a scheme to rearrange the layout of the new building – this will provide us with the possibility of selling a plot of land, probably for residential development, and so raise extra funds and help us on our way. We're keeping positive that we would find a willing

purchaser.

During the Summer months we have shared together in some good fund-raising events – Plant Stalls – Tabletop Sales - Afternoon Tea whilst listening to 'The Three Pitchers', a newly formed local ladies singing group, sing to us - a really lovely way to spend the



August Bank Holiday Saturday Afternoon – good food – good fellowship – good singing – what more could you ask for? Our sincere thanks go to all our Circuit friends who have supported these fund-raising events, it is very much appreciated – Thank You!

We are looking forward to hosting, welcoming and getting to know more friends from Highgate, Illingworth Moor and Boothtown & Southowram as we come together for the first of our 'Cluster Services' in November when the Revd Paul will be leading us in our Service of Holy Communion. During October we are holding a series of Planned Preaching Services for Bible Month, this year based on the Book of Revelation and again we look forward to hearing and learning new things from our local preachers during this series.

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On a weekly basis we continue to support the work of the Food Drop



In Centre at the Gathering Place, Halifax and again this year we will further support this work as we bring our Harvest Gifts which will be given to this very worthwhile and necessary cause to help others who are in need of help in Halifax and our Local Community at this time.

The Revd Paul and others continue to go into Salterhebble School to take an Assembly Service before the end of each School term and the Messy Church Team are preparing a Messy Harvest Themed Session at the end of October.

The Young Peoples Sunday Church Youth Group is going well and the



Our **COMMUNITY**

'Community' Groups we have mentioned before – i.e. The Monday Kitchen Luncheon Club, Knit & Natter Craft Group and Toddler &

Parent Group all continue to grow and thrive and are very much appreciated by all the folks who attend.

The Monthly Wednesday Afternoon Group continues to enjoy listening to varied interesting talks and always

enjoy good fellowship with plenty of laughter and fun. This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month.

As a Church family we would like to once again 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.

Sending love and God's Blessings from the St Andrew's Church Family to all our Circuit Friends.



The latest 'Harvest' local Post Box Topper knitted by the Ladies of the Knit & Natter Craft Group.

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

The Last Issue of the Circuit Newsletter

So far, no one has come forward to take over from Graham Smith in putting together 'Around the Dale'.

So, this looks like it's the last issue - unless someone is willing to take on the task. Graham is willing to help with a hand-over and he can be contacted on 01484 718807 or by email - graham.smith@methodist.org.uk



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

**From the 11th October
the Circuit Office
will be located at
St. Paul's, Sowerby Bridge**

Around the Dale

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Circuit
of the Methodist Church