

Herald

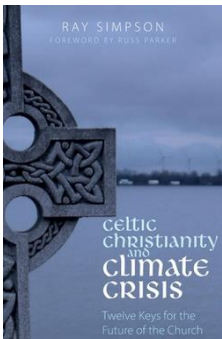
Ripon And Lower Dales Circuit Newsletter

Welcome to this month's issue of the Herald. Our vision is to provide a helpful place for connecting with some of what God is doing across the Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit. To give voice to those experiencing the love of God in their daily walk of faith. To celebrate and share the good news of God's kingdom.

'Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.' [Mark 9:50]



Book review in 100 words



***Celtic Christianity and Climate Crisis* by Ray Simpson**

Ray Simpson has written many excellent books in the field of Celtic Christianity and this is another one yet this one reaches beyond speaking into the Climate crisis. Ray helpfully connects the voices and practices from the history Celtic Christianity with the place we find ourselves today. It is written with great sincerity which is reflected throughout. It is a real page turner and inspirational read that gives great encouragement to the Church to look again at how we engage with this urgent contemporary issue. It provokes much thinking about the Church and ventures into challenging places of how we inhabit God's creation.



Worship Album Highlight this month is 'Downhere' - Ending is Beginning

Canadian alt-rockers Downhere provide us with upbeat, fun, creative Christ centred worship. This, their 4th album is arguably their best. Co-lead vocalists, Marc Martel and Jason Germain bring superb harmonies and real depth and passion to some stunning songs full of hope.

One standout track is My Last Amen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOLN6pCI7oE> which I've always thought would be fun to have played at my funeral...! Cathedral Made of People is a timely reminder of who we are as the Church - without the buildings and trappings. Where would we be if we no longer had the buildings?

Their sound has been compared to The Killers, Maroon 5, even to Queen. Marc Martel certainly has a sound of Freddy Mercury - he performed vocals in the film Bohemian Rhapsody and his YouTube video of "Somebody to Love", which led to him touring with Queen as part of the Queen Extravaganza, has had more than 21 million views to date.

Clare Nelson

NEW Circuit Phone Prayer & Reflection

Call: 01765 530700 Calls are charged at a local rate.

The Prayer & Reflection will be updated weekly with a new prayer & reflection recorded by local preachers, worship leaders and Methodist Ministers from within the Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit.



Love your neighbour as you love yourself. Within society is a view that people are self-

interested and focussed primarily on their own needs and desires. This might hold some truth, yet over recent months the pandemic has shown the opposite. People do love their neighbours. The commandment Jesus gave was to love God with your all, and to love your neighbour as you love yourself. I wonder then, do you take loving yourself seriously? I sometimes invite people that struggle to love themselves to imagine themselves as a child. How would you speak, care and love yourself? I wonder if imagining yourself as a child makes a difference. Let us remember that we are all called to be Children of God. Perhaps we ought to remember that, so when loving God and loving your neighbour, love yourself matters too.



You have 2 new messages

Mission & Ministries Gathering had a successful launch when representatives from local churches gathered on the 30th September over Zoom. The enthusiasm of the gathering to share, learn and grow together in ways of joining in with God in Mission was wonderful. The atmosphere of the gathering nurtured encouragement and each person spoke from their local context of how God active in the lives of church and community. Do find out who is representing your local church to discover more about the Mission and Ministries Gathering. One thing is for sure, the church is still being led by the Spirit to share the Love of God.

Circuit Meeting – Circuit Meeting was all a Zoom when it met on Thursday the 8th of October. A tremendous effort was made by all who attended the meeting, with one member even joining via the telephone. It was a Spirit led time, with prayerful and thoughtful discerning as the meeting conferred together. The Circuit meeting welcomed the proposal for churches around the circuit to support one another through these difficult times. This might include financial support as well as sharing of gifts and skills. There was a real sense of togetherness, alongside a sense of gathering well, not least the much lighter carbon footprint which not travelling by cars meant for the environment. Everyone played a part in being eco-warriors, of sorts.

The meeting committed to pray for three specific things until it convenes again. These included praying for our local schools and the Ministry of Open the Book; also, praying for carers who are supporting others, often without support themselves. Finally, praying for the staff and stewards serving around the circuit. If you too feel led to commit to pray for these things, please do. The meeting concluded with sharing Good news stories from around the circuit and giving thanks to God for all the new and create ways we are being shaped as we travel during this pandemic. The stories included, the developments around online video production for worship resources; serving schools through ‘Open the Book’ and recorded collective worships, a greater connection with all members and friends of the local churches through increased printed materials. These are but a few of the good things people are engaging in with God leading. I am personally encouraged by the great amount of love and care which is so evident across the circuit through all the local churches. In these trying times and with such a huge wave of struggles ahead, we need good news stories to encourage and inspire, but more than that, we need to hold out the hope of the good news which is found in Jesus Christ.

Note from the editor – Thank you to all who have contributed to this month’s issue of The Herald and thank you for reading. If you have an article, a book worth a 100-word review or good news to share, please contact Revd. Gareth Baron on email: Gareth.baron@methodist.org.uk

*‘Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,
so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.’ [Colossians 4:6]*