

Herald

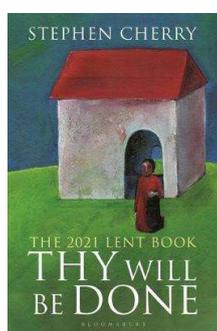
Ripon And Lower Dales Circuit Newsletter

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.

'for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.' [Psalm 63:7]



Book review in 100 words



If you are looking for a good book to journey through Lent with, 'THY WILL BE DONE' The 2021 Lent Book written by Stephen Cherry. As the title illudes, Stephen invites the reader to immerse oneself in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, and we pray.

The book is written in six parts, with six chapters in each so expect to get fully immersed in the pool of this theological and reflective exploration of the Lord's Prayer. Although it as depth and is an engaging read, it is also accessible. It is a book which you can pick up and read each day through Lent or engage with anytime. Stephen suggests beginning on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (14th February if you're interested). With six daily readings a week journeying through to the Sunday after Easter Day.

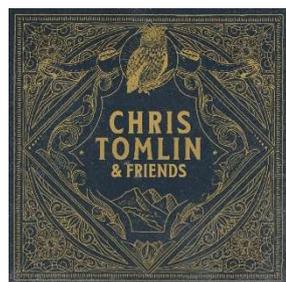


Running on the spot – I wonder, do you remember ever running on the spot. Maybe this is something you recall from school days or perhaps from those games like 'Simon says...' not sure who Simon was but a good fun game. During these lockdown days it is important to keep moving. My wife took to walking around the house, it was tiring just watching. Think back to those times you ran on the spot. I wonder if you remember enthusiasm, real effort and sweat. And yet, after all the running you have gone nowhere. Or have you? Certainly, running on the spot is not going to win any gold medals at the Olympics but it may well raise fitness levels to help the runner achieve the best race. I wonder how we might draw upon some of that same enthusiasm of a child running on the spot and apply it to our situation of being in lockdown. I am mindful of the words found in the books of Hebrews. *'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith'* (Hebrews 12:1-2)

How might we take inspiration, take up our cross and run with perseverance the race that is set before us? No matter how it may look and feel like right now, may we run the race whilst looking to Jesus. Amen.



Worship Album Highlight



Chris Tomlin & Friends by Chris Tomlin was released last year and is this month's Worship Album Highlight. In these trying times this album offers a helpful reminder and example of what it means to come to God in thanksgiving and praise. The worship style is contemporary with a familiar warmth, perhaps it's because I recall listening to Chris Tomlin's worship CD whilst driving in my car. Whether you are wanting to sit awhile with God or want to be up dancing and singing adoration out loud, this album provides for both those spaces. As the Album title says, it features many gifted Christian artists. It helped me to retreat into the sanctuary of the presence of our loving God. An uplifting, Spirit filled worship album. Praise God!



Let us continue to be a people of prayer.

Pray for the NHS; Our emergency services; Carers and residents; Schools; Parents home-schooling; Delivery drivers; For Farmers; Businesses and the self-employed devastated; For those unemployed; Those who are lonely; For those Struggling with mental health issues; For those without food; For those without shelter; For the bereaved; For our Community and Neighbours.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

LOOKOUT FOR:

A Methodist Way of Life is a way of living. It is how we try to live our lives in response to God's love, made known to us in Jesus. You may have received or be receiving shortly a double-sided card about A Methodist Way of Life. Further information is available on the Methodist Church website. This is short message in which I want to encourage everyone to prayerfully consider this resource. It is offered to give life to our Christian pilgrimage as a people of faith called Methodists.

Lent groups & Reflections. Please lookout for information that will be circulated about lent groups, reflections, and quiet day. The Lent groups will be held via zoom which is accessible by computer, tablet, or telephone, including joining by a voice call. Details will follow shortly but expect to find some options for being able to connect with these Lent groups and reflections.



You have 1 new message from Revd. Gareth Baron

Dear Friends, we find ourselves in another lockdown situation and I am only too aware that this time it is feeling a great deal harder for everyone. During the past year we have seen many new resources emerge to aid worship at home, including the Circuit prayer and reflection phone line (See below). I have seen local churches watching over each other in providing pastoral care over the phone. What I am witnessing is the church responding with love and acts of kindness, that is reaching beyond into the local community. I want to show my appreciation for all that so many are doing to contribute to all the above in different ways and to say thank you.

In addition to the above, I want everyone to know that if you are struggling, for whatever reason, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or another Minister or your pastoral visitor. We have a faithful God and I feel privileged to serve in a Circuit of churches who have continued to live and give so faithfully. Everybody can struggle at times and it does not diminish one's faithfulness to acknowledge that and ask for help or a listening ear. Please do continue to take care and stay safe. I conclude with some words from a Traditional Irish blessing, 'And until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of His hand.'

Note from the editor – Thank you to all who have contributed to this month's issue of The Herald and thank you for reading. I would love to hear from you if you have an article, a book worth a 100-word review or a newsworthy story to share, please do get in contact on email: Gareth.baron@methodist.org.uk

Could you write a Worship Album Highlight Review? - Please email Graham at gpentelow@gmail.com

"(Jesus) would withdraw to deserted places and pray." [Luke 5:16]

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.