

Herald

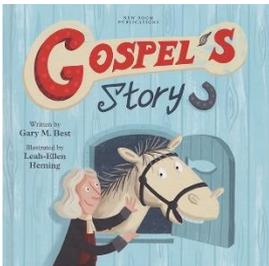
Ripon And Lower Dales Circuit Newsletter

Welcome to this week'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.

'Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.' [Hebrews 11:1]



Book review in 100 words



A NEW ROOMS PUBLICATION: *GOSPEL'S Story* – Written by Gary M. Best and Illustrated by Leah-Ellen Heming. This week's book review is one for our younger readers and would make a great gift. Follow Gospel's story and learn of the adventures had by the founder of Methodism John Wesley who travelling on horseback, went about the country preaching and holding prayer meetings. It is wonderfully illustrated and brings to life some of the history of early Methodism by leading Methodist historian Gary M. Best. Gospel is a delightful character with a remarkable story told joyfully.

Lockdown Lookout! This week we hear from Angie Archbold

When Gareth phoned to ask me to write something for the Herald, I was not sure how I felt about it. I am struggling with my faith at the moment so felt I was not the right person for the job! But then I thought, perhaps there are others that feel the same. So here goes.....

All those who know me will know how much I love people and the separation from everyone during the Pandemic has really been tough for me. Not going to our Church on a Sunday and sharing Gods word and singing to the heavens I miss with all my heart. I also miss the love that others generate, the hugs, smiles and just holding someone's hand during the peace. I have always had God in my life and along the way I have had plenty of ups and downs, but I am beginning to feel that I have lived with God in a safe and secure bubble, and this is the first time my faith has been truly tested.

My work environment is also hard. We have to wear Face Visors and there are screens between us and our customers. I am very anxious that we will have another wave of the virus and am feeling angry that some people are not abiding by the rules. Sometimes I feel like exploding with pent up emotions.

I feel selfish for feeling this way, so many people are much worse off. Some have been shielding for months and others have lost loved ones. I do have lovely friends and I have been able to talk through my insecurities and worries. Perhaps I need to stop worrying about things out of my control and trust that God is always there and will see me through these difficult times.

I pray daily for the world and the many difficulties it is facing. Surely the united power of our prayers will make a difference. I know God loves me and will never leave my side. Sending you all love and virtual hugs until we meet again.

God bless you all,

Angie

Circuit Coffee Morning over Zoom – Friday’s @ 11am “A place of friendship and welcome”

The circuit coffee morning over zoom is a great place to catch up and connect with familiar faces and make new friends.

Everyone is welcome, so why not make a cup of tea or coffee just the way you like it and pop along to the **zoom coffee lounge**. If you would like attend, please contact Margaret Smith at margsmit@yorks21.plus.com for details.

If you are new to zoom and would like some help navigating the process, simply provide Margaret with a contact telephone number for ‘how to help’ beforehand.



Worship Album Highlight Philippa Hanna “Stained Glass Stories”

Philippa (a Yorkshire lass) is a well known name in Christian music circles, so it may come as a surprise that “Stained Glass Stories” is her first dedicated Worship Album. Two years in the making, the collection of songs saw it’s conception during difficult and testing times for Hanna and her family. The songs are a personal response to her situation as she finds comfort, strength and purpose in the faithfulness of God. Songs such as “My hope is in the blood” and “You’re still God” have already become favourites and the Country style “Everything is possible” is the latest single taken from the album which is due for release on July 30th.

Philippa tells the story of the album and how it came by it’s title in this YouTube video <https://youtu.be/QBl-gA5g2X8> Pre-release purchases can be had by visiting Philippa’s website.

Could you write a review?

Free offer. I have one copy of the album to **give away** to the first person who sends me a Worship Album review for printing in The Herald. It might be contemporary worship, traditional or classical, anything in fact that has blessed you and you think may bless others. (I also have one spare copy to sell at £10).

Please email me at gpentelow@gmail.com

Graham

4 ☁ Spending Time with God beyond all measure and being generous to others.

You may have heard it said that time is the most precious commodity we possess and yet it something which cannot be saved up like money. No time is precious because it is not something which can be contained or increased with interest by placing in a bank. We have various references to time in the Bible. In the book of Ecclesiastes we read ‘There is a time for everything’ and Jesus’ says to his mother ‘My hour has not yet come.’ when responding to the request to help provide more wine at the wedding. So time and what happens at a certain time would appear to matter. So what of the phrase, ‘spending time’, it’s not like money in terms of being able to add to it, but perhaps it could be likened to money in terms of spending it, hence being a most precious commodity. I wonder, do we ever stop and look with God at how we can best spend our time? Do we give this most precious commodity the consideration it deserves? In terms of giving, I would suggest it is hugely important and is fundamental to building/maintaining good relationships. This is true of our relationship with God. We can spend time with God all the time day or night. But do we give our time to God in our spending time with God. It is so amazing to consider how God wants to spend time with us, you, and me. Here now, tomorrow, and forever in eternity. And I wonder, who else might we be prompted to spend some of our time with in being generous to others.



You have 2 new message from the Superintendent Minister

THE LISTENING POST

- A time of Reflecting Together; Listening to God and Looking to how God is Shaping the church.

‘What is the Holy Spirit saying to our churches?’

You are warmly invited to ‘The Listening Post’ when we will seek to glean together from hearing what experiences people have had during the pandemic. We are looking to reopen the buildings but let us not miss the opportunity of surveying what building God has been doing of His Kingdom during this time. Furthermore, let us be sure we are moving forward with God, seeking to be a God led people now and always. A paper format as been circulated to all churches for distribution for those unable to access zoom and I would like to thank everyone who have completed and returned these so far. All contributions are valued and appreciated.

If possible, it will be great see you at **THE LISTENING POST** event on Zoom on the 22nd July 2020 at 7.15pm

If you are interested in attending The Listening Post event, please contact Pip Smith at riponandlowerdalessup@outlook.com to book a place and to receive the Zoom invitation.

Saying Farewell to Revd Helen and Fred Bell

It is with much love and deep appreciation that we say farewell to Revd Helen and Fred. We are thankful for the opportunity to be able to hold a small farewell service on Zoom but appreciate that many who would ordinarily have been in attendance do not have access to Zoom. I know that we will all be holding Helen and Fred in our prayers, especially on Helen’s final day in the circuit here on Sunday and for taking up a new appointment in the Leicester West Circuit.

On behalf of the circuit I thank both Helen and Fred for their much-valued contribution to the life of the circuit over the last five years. We have been greatly blessed through the way in which you have both faithfully carried out your ministries. Being new to the circuit, I have learnt of how much people have felt loved and it does not take long before you see that comes from a sincere pastoral heart. Such love comes from God and it is evident to me how much God has shaped your ministries.

May you continue to go forward with God and may you both be blessed as much as you will be a blessing.

Note from the editor – Thank you to all who have contributed to this week’s issue of the Herald and thank you for reading. The Herald is a Newsletter which seeks to hear different voices and perspectives from across the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit. It welcomes first time writers and published authors alike. Please contact Revd Gareth Baron on Tel: 01677 989169 or email: Gareth.baron@methodist.org.uk

‘Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should’ [Colossians 4:2-4]



Dial-a-Prayer

FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon