

Herald

Ripon And Lower Dales Circuit Newsletter

Welcome to the Herald! It is envisioned that the Herald will provide a helpful space for connecting with each other and God during these challenging days as we continue to live out our faith. Its purpose is to proclaim the Gospel and the love of God discovered in daily lives and communities across the Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit.

'O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples' [Psalm 105:1]



Book review in 100 words

Nestled in your library at home, or if not available online is a wonderful little book consisting of only four chapters yet bursting full of drama, life and speaks of God's amazing faithfulness. The book is entitled RUTH and can be found nestled between the book of Judges and 1 Samuel in your library (the Bible). I highly recommend reading this book, if reading aloud, some of the names can take a bit of getting your teeth around. Worth taking your time with this short read. It is also the focus of Bible Month that starts in June.



2020 Ruth

Okay, not quite the usual book review which features in this Newsletter. But I do hope the above introduction to the book of Ruth has raised some interest within you. It might be that you will be reading this book for the first time or perhaps re-reading this book again. With Bible Month we will be joining in (metaphorically speaking) with thousands of others journeying through the month of June with Ruth. Bible Month is all about encouraging a greater depth of Biblical understanding and is for everyone. The HUGE plus with getting involved with Bible Month is the great resources available from **www.preachweb.org/biblemonth** The digital download is free to order.

BUT MORE THAN that, the book of Ruth is The Word of God and what a privilege we enjoy receiving such nurture when we open our Bibles, whether paper or digitally. It might be that you decide to share reading through Ruth with a friend over the phone. It is suggested to read one chapter each week through the Month. However you might choose to engage with this, I would encourage you to read with a pencil, jotting down the verses that stand out to you, or even questions that might arrive. For me, I like to think that we don't read the bible, but the bible reads us, hence be open to God who speaks today.

There are several free Bible apps available to download. I find Bible Gateway app to be a good choice with audio available for some translations of the Bible. It is also accessible online and is equally easy to navigate. Find which best suits you.



BibleGateway

Also, if you would like to share together in a Zoom Bible study looking Ruth please email Pip Smith on ripnlowerdalessup@outlook.com to book a place and receive your Zoom invitation. The Zoom Bible study will run over four weeks on a Monday evening at 7.30pm beginning on Monday 8th of June.

Here are few reflections from **CLIFF COLLEGE FESTIVAL at HOME 'Global Vision'**. It was too big to cover the whole weekend. All the videos from Festival at Home are available on YouTube if you want to see what took place. A tremendous time was had by so many and God's faithfulness shone throughout.

"On the Friday evening at the fringe event with Josh Gillam the phrase 'even though we don't know what tomorrow holds, we truly know who holds tomorrow,' really stood out for me. To be held by God and be in God's presence through the worship being offered was a great way to conclude the first evening of Festival at home. May we all truly know God who holds tomorrow."

"Over the weekend ALL WE CAN led fire pit prayers. It was great to share in devotions with the team and to be inspired by learning more about the life saving work ALL WE CAN is engaged in across the globe."

"Being able to attend Festival at home was a real blessing and felt God moving through all the times of worship, seminars and Bible studies. Really enjoyed being able to join in live, to catch up and to watch things again."

Lockdown Lookout! This week we hear from Geoff Lobley at CARLESMOOR FARM.

Lockdown came very suddenly, and I feel was rather a shock. When freedom is taken away it makes you value the freedom we have had. Unable to visit people who needed support in time of crises. I am grateful for modern technology as public buildings, shops and churches had to close to help get rid of a hidden enemy. But we have still been able to worship even at a distance, NOT THE SAME but with faith we will be back together one day. It makes you realise that going to church is not just something we have always done. I want to go to church for worship.

Agricultural merchants restricted your order to what you need, then you have to go and collect it, but it is put in your car, so you never have to get out. Farm work has had to carry on with difficulty.

Some Positives – Sunday worship is back on TV and long may it last. People not at work now know their neighbours even if it is at a distance.

Pause for thought – Is it OK to pray if you're not religious?

Last week I received an email from Alan at Finghall who had been left speechless whilst watching the television programme 'Loose Women.' The feature on Loose Women asked the question 'Is it OK to pray if you're not religious?' Intrigued by this feature, I did hop onto the catch-up hub to view it for myself. The discussion was varied with the panel of presenters sharing their personal views and experiences. It would appear the rise in people searching for prayers and engaging with online church activities is why this feature made primetime television. My prayer is for all those searching, that they come to faith in Jesus. What struck me most and I think made Alan speechless, was the framing of the question.

It could be a closed question, with the simple yes or no answer, but that makes for a short programme. The question hints towards a need for approval or even permission to pray and seems to invite judgement towards those who might choose to pray without being religious.

I believe prayer is a gift from God to everyone. It is not for anyone else to determine if another person is OK to pray, nor is for anyone to judge another for praying. Speaking with God in prayer is a means of Grace, and yes, it is amazing, I mean it is talking with Our loving Creator. Jesus taught that whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. So, when we pray, it is in faith with God who loves us and knows us better than we know ourselves. Pray from your heart, that secret place and welcome your loving Father in. Amen.

Let us continue in prayer and pray for each other – Let us pray for all those feeling unable to come to God in prayer. Praying for each person to discover how precious they are to God.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’ [John 3:16-17]

We pray for the Salvation of the world. We love, because God first loved us.



Worship Album Highlight

I hope you do not feel short-changed with this week’s issue of the Herald, but our Worship Album Highlight is not quite an Album. Martin Smith has released a new EP called ‘Exalt’ which the entitled song includes the lyrics ‘We are Your People, the story of grace, Saved by the miracle God’. It is wonderful worship song to sing the praises of God. On the EP you will find three more worship songs and as we celebrate Pentecost this week, one song in-particular stands out. It is entitled ‘Come Holy Spirit’ featuring Steffany Gretzinger. I found this EP to contain worship songs that are inspiring, moving and very much draw your gaze to God.

THY KINGDOM COME Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension Day 21st May and Pentecost 31st of May 2020.

I trust you have been finding the resources for Thy Kingdom Come helpful. I have certainly appreciated engaging with the daily reflections which have been encouraging. Perhaps you have discovered something new with God during this time and will continue in a new rhythm beyond Sunday.



Let us pray for the Mission and Ministry of the local churches across the circuit.

Let us pray for those seeking God during this pandemic, perhaps for the first time in their lives.

Let us pray for those turning back to God, reconnecting with Jesus and the friendship of the church.

‘So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.’ [2 Corinthians 4:16-18]

Note from the editor – Thank you to all who have contributed to this week’s issue of the Herald and thank you for reading. I would love to hear from you if you have a lockdown lookout story or news item to share. Perhaps you have read an inspiring book and would like to write a review in 100 words. Is there an Album highlight which you think others would be encouraged by listening too and want to introduce to others? If any of these ring true with you then please can I encourage you to get in touch. You can contact Revd Gareth Baron on Tel: 01677 989169 or email: Gareth.baron@methodist.org.uk



Dial-a-Prayer

FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

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Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon