

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.

'There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.' [1 Samuel 2:2]



Book review

Stay: Discovering Grace, Freedom and Wholeness where you never imagined looking by Anjali Paschall



I was really blessed and challenged by reading this book which addresses emotional issues and struggles that we can all experience in our lives at some point such as guilt, loneliness, anger, anxiety, depression, fear. As humans our natural instinct is to run from these things in whatever way we can by avoiding, withdrawing, numbing, and neurotically fixing and hiding our deep longings in our soul. In the book Anjali challenges the reader to do the opposite of what our natural reactions would be. She suggests that we stay a while in that place that aches inside of us and that it is by staying there that we can truly meet with God in those places that only He can bring real healing. 'It's here, in the staying, where we move from merely knowing in our heads that God loves us to believing it in our hearts. *Stay* is an invitation to sit with God at the table of your soul – and be free.'

Circuit Coffee Morning over Zoom – Friday's @ 11am "A place of friendship and welcome"

The first coffee morning took place last week and a lovely time was had by all. **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 margsmi@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.



Circuit Farewell service for Revd Helen Bell – Sunday 19th July at 3pm on Zoom

It is with mixed emotions that we approach the 19th of July. Farewells are never easy occasions and we often use hugs when words are not enough. The service on Zoom will look and feel different, but by no means will it have any less love and God certainly will be with each person as we gather in the digital room. We continue to hold Helen and Fred in our prayers. We want to celebrate Helen's ministry in the Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit, and we want to bless Helen and Fred in going forward with God. It will be lovely to see as many as are able to attend the service.

If you would like to attend Revd Helen's farewell service on zoom, please email Pip Smith at Riponlowerdalessup@outlook.com to book a place and receive the Zoom meeting details.

Lockdown Lookout! This week we hear from Diane Gaskill

Recently lockdown for us has been spent visiting hospital. A kind neighbour made us some home-made face masks, 2 pretty flowery ones for me and more masculine gingham/stipes for Martyn. It made us smile to see the different styles and patterns initially as they were almost fashion accessories for some folk, but often they reflected the personality of those wearing them. Now only surgical masks are allowed, everyone now looks the same. With no physical contact at present, eye contact is even more important, our eyes are said to be the windows of our soul.

Sitting in the waiting area I smiled at the lady opposite, then thought “you daft thing she can’t see your mouth”, but how wrong was I, because I knew instantly that she smiled back because I could see it in her eyes. I saw the hospital chaplain his eyes showed the strain of the past few months, he looked weary, had he been sitting with someone, offering comfort because their loved ones were not allowed to visit? I saw a man walking with crutches, every step wincing and screwing up his eyes with pain, I saw a young couple leaving, the proud Dad carrying their new baby into the outside world for the first time, there was no mistaking the joy in their eyes.

On the ward I saw the care, patience and kindness in the nurse’s eyes as she answered the bell for the chap who had rung it 4 or 5 times within an hour and who showed little patience himself if he had to wait a few minutes. On that occasion I had to wear a face visor as well as a mask and was so hot the visor steamed up and I could only see out by looking down through a small clear patch, my tremendous admiration for front line workers growing even more, thinking they had to cope with this every day.

My plea to you all, as we ease out of lockdown, is wear your mask to keep you and others safe, but “**lookout**” over the mask and let the world see the love of Jesus shine and radiate from your eyes as we look towards better times ahead.



Worship Album Highlight – Matt Redman “Let there be wonder”.

Matt Redman released his new album entitled ‘Let There Be Wonder’ at the earlier this year. Recorded live at Free Chapel – Orange County this album of has a sense of genuine Christ centred exhilarating worship. Matt Redman is well known among Christian songwriters and worship leaders for his profound sincerity in seeking to worship God, and to encourage others in that experience.

“Let there be wonder” is an album which is refreshing and inspirational, inviting the worshiper to become lost in the wonder, love. and praise of God

The link below will take you to the song ‘Mercies (New Every Morning), filmed in Trafalgar Square in 2019.

<https://youtu.be/TYyZCCs5bJc>

If you have a Worship album you would like to review and share with the Circuit, please send it to me at gpentelow@gmail.com



During recent months, various adverts have emerged showing a more human and compassionate nature. One advert shows a person talking to their future self, naming all the significant things they want to remember after the pandemic. I wonder, what might you want to speak to your future self, what will you remember and carry with you into the future?

Received into Full Connexion

Around 17 years ago, while sitting rather uncomfortably in a small church, I finally gave into God and said, "Ok Lord, "I will". This weekend, I found myself in the virtual Methodist Conference saying, "I do" The time before I candidated for ministry was filled with many different roads, one of those roads led me into the Methodist Church. I received a welcome, became a member and the rest is my testimony!

Over the past five years there has been a period of discernment and testing of my call to Diaconal Ministry. This journey has had many ups and downs, but throughout, I have felt God walk with me. Prior to this weekend I have taken time out to reflect and pray. Though I was unable to go away on a physical retreat I met with the Warden and my fellow Deacons online. We were given many resources that enabled us to take time out and reflect on what was about to happen. At the end of the week, I was asked by our Warden "*What are you saying yes to?*"

AS I prayed about this, I was reminded of our covenant prayer, and adapted it to my yes.

***YES**, Lord, I am no longer my own, but Yours. **YES**, Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will. **YES**, Let be employed by You or laid aside for You, **YES** exalted for You or **YES** brought low by You. **YES** Let me have all things, **YES** let me have nothing, **YES** I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. Amen.*

Something in my DNA leads me alongside those on the margins of our community and that DNA I know understand as the heart of a Deacon. I am here in Ripon and Lower Dales to be of service to all those I come into contact with. I am reminded of this by the beautiful gift I have received from the circuit. The Bowl, towel, and jug are reminders of the servanthood of Christ. I pray each morning these words, "*In humility he washed the feet of his disciples, calling us to follow his example as one who serves*"

I am now a full member of the Order that models this calling and I look forward to the time when I will be ordained into this Order of ministry. When this will take place is still to be decided. There are many in need at this time, so the need for ordination seems small compared to the needs of others. So until that time I wait for this in peace and in the knowledge that God is in the waiting.

At some point I will have a testimony service, where I will have the opportunity to share more about my journey into ministry with you all.

All that remains for me to say is a heartfelt thank you for all the kind words, gifts and prayer that I have received. I feel humbled to be here in the Ripon Lower Dales Circuit and very blessed to be able to serve here. I am really looking forward to see what God has in stall for us all here!

Every Blessing
Deacon Nigel

Let us continue in prayer and pray for each other

We pray for the world; our nation; our communities and our neighbours; our families and friends.

May the love and grace of God be known in all places, by all people as we see God's kingdom come.

We pray for those feeling anxious about tomorrow, may they know God's comfort holding them today and always.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.



You have 1 new message from the Superintendent

I would like to introduce the Circuit Support Group for re-opening buildings. The Support Group is a small group with the aim of providing support to local churches for when we begin to look at re-opening buildings. There is a great deal of things to consider both practically and pastorally in preparing to re-open buildings. Practically, each local church will be required to have met the standards set within the government and Methodist Church guidelines. Pastorally it is important to recognise that when we return to COVID-19 secure places of worship, the whole experience of attending church will be different. Furthermore, we must continue to be fully aware of those for whom entering a church building remains not possible because of shielding. Please also recognise that people who are shielding includes all ages and includes those with various roles within the life of the church.

Further details from the Circuit Support Group will be sent to all key contacts of local churches as we continue to monitor the situation and discern how God is leading forward. Please let us all always seek the Lord our God and pray too for the Circuit Support Group and those carrying out work across the circuit.

The Circuit Leadership has been meeting regularly throughout the pandemic to pray. We have been holding in view our present situation and looking to the near and far future. A key question which arose from CLT and I believe it is a question for all local churches seeking vision for the future is 'how do we make church fit for society today?'. I will expand, having learnt all we have learnt during this pandemic, having engaged beyond the walls of the buildings, how will be a church fit for sharing the good news within society today?

Notwithstanding all the struggles, concerns and sorrow experienced, we have also been journeying and connecting with God and each other in new ways. We are witnesses to the fact that God is with us, seeing growth in the life of the church through worship being more widely accessible, along with various gatherings of coffee mornings and bible studies. The flow of resources being shared is tremendous and people who have missed out for various reasons in the past, are now being included. I am keeping this brief, and it is but a glimpse of the bigger picture. Change has happened and continues to happen. We cannot go back, but God meets us in our present and is our future. Going forward into this new world with new ways of being church is full of opportunities of meeting and joining in with what God is already doing. Let us not be afraid but place ourselves and our trust in God to lead and equip His Church.

Finally, please visit The Methodist Conference Website for all the news items which have arisen from Conference 2020. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2020/>

Simply follow the link above and click on the daily paper and Notices of Motion to find out about all that took place.

Grace and Peace, Gareth.

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

'I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.'

[Psalm 40, verses 1-2]



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