

Ripon And Lower Dales Circuit Newsletter

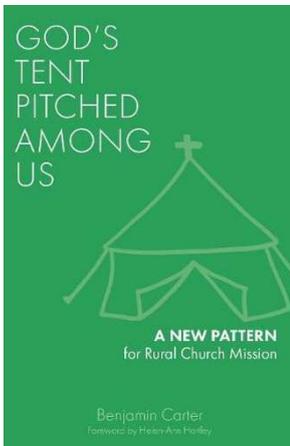
Welcome to this month's issue of the Herald. Our vision is to provide a helpful place for connecting with some of what God is doing across the Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit. To give voice to those experiencing the love of God in their daily walk of faith. To celebrate and share the good news of God's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

'Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'



Book review

"GOD'S TENT PITCHED AMONG US: A NEW PATTERN for Rural Church Mission" by Benjamin Carter



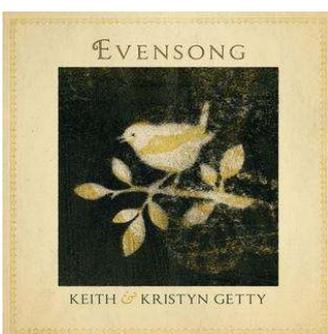
Alongside all the restrictions the pandemic brought over the last year we have also seen lots of new and creative ways to addressing challenges. Whilst different ways of doing things can be inspiring, I believe new and creative ways are most inspiring when God is at the heart of it all. It is no secret that the Mission of God we are invited to join in with is contextual and authentic to the people being reached. God's tent pitched among us is a genuine and inspirational testimony of God moving beyond the stone walls of a church building and meeting people in a field, by a river or on a hilltop in west Northumberland. This book offers a good example of God doing new things in a way that is real and relatable. Alongside telling the story of God pitching a tent, this book provides some helpful framework examples of creative ways of meeting God in worship, with prayers and reflections.



Being in season. In recent weeks it's felt like the time I spent on the Outer Hebrides having weather from all seasons in one day. The beautiful sunshine is certainly welcome, it lifts the spirits. In terms of the Church, unlike to the chocolate eggs which soon disappear following the first day of Easter having been around since Christmas we continue in the Easter Season. Continuing in celebration to the celebration of Pentecost. In a way the Church is like when we have all seasons in one day holding the significance of all that God Has done all the time. Yet it is good to be in season, for our praises of God to sound out across the earth. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!



Worship Album Highlight - Evensong (2020) album by Keith and Kristen Getty.



This album is based on the Church's ancient tradition of spending time before the Lord in prayers and songs at the end of the day. This Northern Irish Christian duo compiled these 13 tracks based around songs and prayers they have used with their own family. It features a collection of Celtic, folk, bluegrass, classical and Americana sounds and helps us to focus on God and his promises and to point us towards peace in Christ. "Is He Worthy" is a beautiful song of hope incorporating a children's choir. Other songs such as Abide With Me and Jesus Friend of Little Children will be very familiar. A beautiful album to relax to and help to declutter the heart and provide comfort.

Review by Janet Pentelow

Link to "Is He Worthy" <https://youtu.be/xrbykRFzgo>

'Peace – a testimony'

Peace. On Sunday 18th April Mr John Bailey preached on the peace that Jesus gives. I was privileged to hear that service twice as I was the one who recorded him for the You Tube Channel. It was recorded in Bedale & District Church and as I stood and listened to John, I felt the peace that Jesus gives.

I had a peace-full week that week and then was doubly blessed to feel it again as listened to it during the B&DMC zoom worship. I have been fortunate enough to feel this peace wash over me many times over the years. Sometimes in beautiful surroundings – the Isle of Mull in particular, but also in church and on Easter Day in my home office on the circuit zoom service. My prayer for you all is that you too feel blessed by the peace that can only come from Jesus. Pip Smith



Let us continue to be a people of prayer.

Loving God, we pray for the needs of a broken world.

We lift before you those who are unable to access medical care due to hospital's being overwhelmed.

May all who despair know Your peace spoken into their hearts.

May all providing care for others know Your peace spoken into their hearts.

We pray for all those who mourn the lost of loved ones. When people cannot hug, may Your embrace bring comfort and strength. May all who carry sadness know Your peace spoken into their hearts.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen



You have 1 new message!

'As long as people are cautious' is phrase that I have heard repeatedly said in recent weeks as some restrictions are lifted. I think this phrase and the sentiment which it carries is something which most people share, a deep longing not to go backwards into another lockdown. Being cautious is being caring and acting in ways which considers the wider needs of others. It can feel at times like trying to swim without disturbing the water but, it is being aware of those around us who we share being in community. Being caring might look like putting the needs of another community group before our own as the church, or it might mean walking those extra miles with people who are in a different physical or emotional place with regards to coming out of lockdown. I want to expand the phrase I began with, 'As long as people are caring as long as others need it. Furthermore, I would suggest this should be a default setting for the church and come much more naturally. – Revd. Gareth

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.

Note from the editor – Thank you for reading this month's issue of The Herald. 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 or **Could you write a Worship Album Highlight Review?** - Please email Graham at gpentelow@gmail.com

'Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.' [1 John 4:11-12]