



Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit



May 2022

Herald
Newsletter -
Issue No 29

All around us new life is emerging, though we may not see it yet.

All around us, God makes things new.

Let us open our eyes and see – see the new things God is doing, see God at work in and among us!



Welcome to Deacon David

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR – Those of you at the last Circuit Meeting will have heard that we as a Circuit are blessed that Supernumerary Minister Revd. David Smith (Deacon David) has come to live in Bedale to be closer to family. David will be taking preaching appointments on the next quarters plan so you will have chance to meet him in person, however, here is a little about David in the meantime.

Who are you?

Well, my journey to the Yorkshire Dales was a love affair that began in 1978 in the village of Grindleton in the Ribble Valley. I believe it had been in Yorkshire before a boundary change. Single at the time, my life was as a retail pharmacist managing a shop in a nearby town. One day, troubled with toothache, an extraction was called for. The day following the extraction I phoned the practice and asked the receptionist out. Three months later we were engaged, and the following February married in a small Methodist Chapel, honeymooning in Helmsley.

My wife Susan was a Dalesman reader, our interests' antique fairs, book fairs, country fairs and local artists. I'm sure you've guessed, Harrogate Show, Kilsey Show etc. PBFA book fairs in Harrogate, York and other places were visited annually. The Lakeland's Artists Exhibition in Grasmere was an annual preview visit. Skipton and Settle were frequented with trips out to Ribblehead, Dent, Kettlewell, Middleham and Leyburn. We were like Mole and Ratty, looking longingly at the cottage windows glowing warmly, as we headed home in the fading light. Eventually the firm asked if I would open a pharmacy in Keighley for them. The intensity of seeking our perfect home intensified. If my son James had been a little girl, she might have been called 'Betty'. As a small child, James came to the conclusion that Yorkshire was nothing but sheep and dry-stone walls.

Sadly, my wife who suffered from MS was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. This is going to sound very strange. During the last month of my wife's life, God called me to Ministry. My testimony is not for this article but may be shared later. In February 2001 Susan went home to the Lord. In September 2001 I began training for ministry at Luther King House in Manchester. In September 2004 I began probation in Newcastle and was Ordained in Edinburgh in 2006. The Dales were but a beautiful memory spent over 23 years of marriage and God had blessed us a wonderful son called James. Now James and I live not far from each other and I've a daughter in law, Steph and two grandchildren Thomas and Sophie.

Ministry has taken me from Newcastle to Leeds to Manchester to Liverpool to India and to Israel. Unexpectedly God is saying to me, "Smile, be filled with joy, you can now live in the Dales", Hallelujah!

Deacon David



A religious Order within
the Methodist Church

Note From the Editor

If you don't see anything in this issue of the Newsletter from your Church it probably means your Church doesn't have a "Roving Reporter", so if this is something you would be interested in, I would love to hear from you, my contact details can be found on the back page. The deadline for June's Edition is 20 May 2022.
Thank You – **Amanda Milner (Editor)**

Wesley Day, Swimming, and Pilgrimage for everyone

A short reflection by Revd Gareth Baron.

At a quarter before nine, on the 24th of May in 1738 in a Moravian church on Aldersgate Street in London one of the founders of Methodism John Wesley ‘felt his heart strangely warmed.’ A priest in the Church of England, a missionary to America that proved unfruitful putting it politely, and an Oxford scholar. John Wesley the most famed founder alongside his brother Charles whose hymns we still enjoy singing in praise to God today. John’s attendance of the service that day was with some reluctance, but he felt led and thus gave way to God.

Previously John had experienced the calm faith and witness of a group of Moravian Christians during his return journey from America, when the ship he was aboard was caught up in a storm. Whilst many would show fear in the face of such danger, the group of Moravian Christians took to prayer and song. Putting their faith over fear. I am not sure how I would have fared in that situation.

Back on land and during the service where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans John had a personal and life changing encounter which changed both his outlook and understanding. It’s not that John Wesley did not know God, nor that he did not have faith. What we can understand with our minds becomes transformed when we understand it with our hearts. Heart sense makes all the difference because whilst we can seek knowledge and understanding, experience is a great teacher and God is the greatest teacher of all. God Holy Spirit taught John through a lived experience. John wrote, “I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an

assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

We can learn about swimming but only learn to swim once we get in the water, and just like swimming is a something experienced by getting wet, knowing God Holy Spirit is a lived experience. We have the assurance of the free grace of God, by the grace of God that we experience. We can read in Ephesians. ‘For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. This not to say we neglect good works, just that we cannot earn salvation, it is the gift of God, just as faith into action is by the grace of God. In the epistle of James, we read that faith without works is dead. I would say, it doesn’t take faith to be a spectator, but faith is seen when we participate in response to the invitation from God to join in the good works. We don’t audience at church for worship, we come together in a communal action of a shared real-life experience. It is not entertainment arousing emotional response but is engagement with our living loving God.

If you would like to learn more about the history of Methodism and God inspired, shaped, and led Brothers John and Charles Wesley in their lives and ministries, checkout The Methodist Church in Britain website at www.methodist.org.uk

I was pleased to be joined via zoom by friends from around the circuit to share about my Sabbatical plans. Those present and others will know that I am going to be exploring Pilgrimage as well as looking at visual theology with fresh eyes. My ears pricked-up when I heard a tv programme mention pilgrimage in the background. I came through to the lounge and saw it was a group of celebrities embarking on a pilgrimage together for a BBC programme titled ‘The Road to the Scottish Isles.’ The celebrities had different faith backgrounds, with some practicing their faith and others drawing from their childhood upbringing.

Nick Hewer was part of this pilgrimage group and said he would not claim to have a faith which I thought took extra courage to embark on this pilgrimage. Nick quoted the Italian friar and priest, Thomas Aquinas, who said, 'To the one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith no explanation is possible' this quote is insightful and helps us to see that faith is so much more than words. For one without faith, they need faith, not explanation. For one who has faith, they have that want they need, faith. Of course, this depends on people being open to discovering faith. I think pilgrimage can provide space for this exploration. That embarking on a journey with an openness of heart and a willingness to discover without preconceived expectations can see lived experiences like a 'heart strangely warmed.' Were explanation being neither necessary nor capable of conveying what one feels when God creates the feeling and increases our faith.

May we all be open to receive from God and may we all know the assurance of salvation and God with us. Some might have a mustard seed of faith, and some might be struggling to find faith, yet by the free grace of God, we are all welcomed home. The Easter story speaks of this, the criminal who turned to Jesus and said remember me, when you come into your kingdom entered to paradise with our Lord Jesus Christ. He didn't earn it, nor did he anguish over what he believed, he asked to remember him.

I conclude with the first two verses from Romans, chapter five. 'Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.' You might feel led to dive in and read the whole chapter to swim in the amazing waters of the free grace of God which is for all people. Can you relate to the assurance John Wesley discovered? **Amen**

What next?

When you consider the word ‘healing’, what is your emotional reaction? If you’ve recently witnessed the apparently miraculous recovery of someone seriously injured in a road accident, you might feel very positive about the idea of healing. But if you and many others prayed earnestly for a young friend with cancer who then died, you may feel deep frustration and despair – or perhaps anger. We are all shaped by experiences such as these.

In John’s Gospel we read of the paralysed man who had been ill for 38 years. How would you feel in his position? When Jesus asks him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’, what do you imagine went through his head? We might read his response in various ways. When he says, ‘Sir, I have no one to [help me]’, does that reveal an enduring hope for healing? Or is it more of a ‘Yes, but...’, signalling an acceptance of the hopelessness of his situation? Or might we see it as a decision to remain dependent on those who have at least carried him and his mat to the pool, day after day, so that he might beg? Might the alternative – living an independent life and earning his money – have lost its appeal?

It might be that our situations – and the range of possible responses – are uncomfortably similar to those of the sick man. We might even be suffering from a chronic physical illness or disability, whether or not others are aware of it. More likely, we have unresolved emotional issues or unreconciled relationships, whether in our families or in our churches. And what about the brokenness we ignore in our communities, and the massive inequalities we tolerate in our nation? To what extent do we work for ‘the healing of the nations’, or act as if we genuinely want to ‘save our planet’?

These are deeply challenging questions. When Jesus asks us, ‘Do you want to be made well?’, he seems to be addressing us both individually and collectively. If we allow him to draw our attention

to one particular issue today, what might it be? And how might we respond?

In the story, Jesus understands the man's response – 'Sir, I have no one to [help me]' – as implying a 'Yes' to his question. So, he empowers him to totally change his life, as he responds to Jesus' direction: 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' If we are willing to change, Jesus is ready to empower us. And if we are willing to change our world, Jesus will walk with us every step of the way. Dare we pause for a moment and notice what Jesus would have us see – either in our own lives or beyond? And if we dare to say 'Yes' to his healing and enabling power, what might be our very first step? – **Every Blessing Amanda Milner**

A day in the life of a Superintendent Minister on a day off

Well, this isn't a typical day off, although I wouldn't complain if it were. I began the day woken by my dog Pippa at 5am. She wakes with the break of light and insists I see it too. Coffee kick starts the day ready to go out to throw the ball for half an hour and whilst Pippa is in her happy place, I am in mine, listening to the beautiful birdsong. The playing field is surrounded with a thick tree line on two sides, and hedgerows and random trees on the two opposite sides. It's like a theatre of sound filling the space. I sometimes hear a local donkey braying, but usually that is later in the morning. I use this time to pray, I often say I walk the dog whilst I pray as opposed to the other way round.

Once Pippa has done her workout, we venture for a walk. On occasion we walked to Bedale Park and strolled down the beautiful track which runs through the centre of the golf course. There are impressive trees which line the track, and one I find comical because someone has put bird house in the hollow of a

large old tree. I am not sure on the species of tree, but this sight made me smile and think about what Jesus said about worry using the example of birds. A birdwatcher once told me the reason he did this for a hobby was because it's ordained by Jesus, who said; "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" The resident birds of this tree house don't need to build a home either.

Once back home, its breakfast time which is wolfed down, by Pippa that is, I have my second cup of coffee which is always more enjoyable than the first. I do a little bit of writing, often I have open pages which I use to get ideas or inspiration jotted down.

Next, with the glorious sunshine I head into the garden to give the grass a haircut. Does anyone else find that when the neighbours cut their lawns it makes your lawn look ten feet tall. While I'm exaggerating a bit, but it certainly was lengthy. I cut the rear and side lawns but decided to leave the front because it is not as long and looks colourful with daffodils, violets and wildflowers, a mini meadow. With the green bin full to bursting and weighing a ton, it's time for a spot of lunch, before digging out my swimming gear. Isabella is wanting to introduce me to Northallerton swimming pool, which if you're interested involved very little swimming. It involved a wave machine, waterslide, and waterfall. It's easy to see why children like this and whilst I bobbed up and down in the waves and went down the slide, I do prefer a pool which for actual swimming. It was busy and the pool resembled a Seal colony.

Back on dry land it's time to prepare dinner or 'tea' for the Northerners. I grew up having tea, but I've been having dinner since I was a student at Cliff College. If you are interested and have been able to stay awake so far, I cooked a roast dinner, complete with tremendous Yorkshire puddings. They turned out

great. I always keep my ear to the ground trying to pick up tricks for the best methods. After dinner it was time for a walk with Pippa to see the lambs at the bottom of the lane. Isabella likes to ride her bike and Pippa tends to trot alongside her, it's lovely to see and is something they've always done. Heather and I walk behind, noticing the changes the seasons bring and the progress of the nearby building development.

Once Pippa has been walked, it's my time. I have been enjoying the beautiful evening skies and decided to go for bike ride. I only went around ten miles but that didn't matter, I saw two deer, an owl and nearly had a collision with what seemed like a giant rabbit. No, it wasn't a hare and thankfully it about turned so I didn't hit it or go flying. The wildlife in this part of the world is fantastic, and I always feel lucky when I'm fortunate to see the various creatures. It was the first time I had seen deer in the area since moving here. I stopped to try and get a photo but unfortunately, they ran away. I did manage to get them to stop by whistling and making a clicking noise, but they were still too far for my phone camera to capture clearly. If only I had the gift of St Frances, I could have taken a selfie with them.

I arrived home feeling thankful a such a beautiful evening and once freshened up popped to the shop with fifteen minutes to spare. I am still getting used to the early closing times of the shops in Bedale. The day is drawing to the end, but before sitting down to relax and watch random programmes, I stop to pray. We are told to pray without ceasing and the beneficial blessing of being a Christian Minister is that I have plenty of time and space for prayer. That doesn't stop me from praying throughout the day. Everyone is different and how we pray is different too, prayer is such a gift. I cannot imagine a world without it. So, that was my day off. Not hugely entertaining but relaxing and enjoyable. – **Gareth Baron**

News From Canada

Another month gone by in the farming calendar. I hope that you all enjoyed last month's article when Rhianna told us about the first night milking sheep. I am sure that their new project will be well under way by now and each new milking session will have become less fraught. Perhaps we can all remember occasions when we looked back and laughed at our own antics, while at the time we feel very uptight. Jayne has written May's instalment, which again should be interesting as she has just spent a couple of weeks over in England (first time for three and a half years).

Well. It's been quite the month one way or another. It started with a lovely hint of spring, lots of warm sunshine, which melted the snow and started to warm the soil. The birds arrived back and started to build their nests. I have eight bird boxes in the garden, all made by Marc from various off cuts of wood, saved over the years (as you never know when you might need them!) and they are all occupied. With it being "March Break", the school spring holiday, Posie and I decided to tidy the garden and clear all the dead leaves etc. which had been protecting the plants from winter's brutal temperatures. Posie and I gardening, involves me getting stuck in and doing the work, while Posie sits on the decking with a book reading! Come the end of the afternoon, she will invariably say "Wow, gardening is hard work!". We got very excited as there were tiny shoots of green everywhere, a real promise of things to come. You would think I would know better by now, and that March is far too early for spring. Winter was certainly not finished with us yet!

The week after our spring taster, Marc and I left for 10 days in Bedale, catching up with family, who we haven't seen for three years! We were incredibly excited but also very nervous, 3 years is a long time

and the threat of Covid was still very real. To cut a long story short, we had a lovely time despite the whole family catching Covid. Fortunately, no one was too poorly and for the most part we have all recovered.

Meanwhile back on the farm the weather took a nasty turn bringing numerous rounds of snow and temperatures of -16C. Instead of being able to look forwards towards planting, the work involved reverting back to the winter jobs of clearing snow and thawing out water troughs. I must admit, I wasn't sorry to have missed that!

Each month Chris sends a wagon load of Holstein steers, about 40 in total, to an abattoir on Prince Edward Island or P.E.I. for short. P.E. I. is one of the Atlantic provinces on the east coast, which is about a 22-hour drive from here. Over the last few years, the governments in their wisdom, have closed all the smaller, local abattoirs in favour of a larger, more centralized system. This thinking makes no sense. It just makes life difficult for everyone, including the cattle! Over the years we have tried to sell to various places, including the United States, but have now settled on a good relationship with Atlantic Meats in P.E.I.

In addition to the 40 steers each month, Chris also travels to two local markets, Aylmer and Kitchener, to sell fat heifers and also to buy more cattle to replenish the stocks. To be honest, I don't know how he does it. He has an incredible brain. He can look at an animal and in the few minutes it's in the ring he can work out what price it needs to be to make money. At the moment, we have about 800 cattle on the farm at any one time, but the plan is to expand to 1000.

One of our first building projects of the year, has been the roller mill. We have a nutritionist for the cattle and the sheep as it is cheaper and more efficient to make our own animal feeds than to buy them in. One of the staple rations is corn (maize). The cattle are able to digest it easier if it is rolled and the outer casing

broken. Up to now we have used a tractor driven roller mill (which was capable of rolling 15 tonnes/hour). We would roll sufficient corn for 10 days in one go, but unfortunately this needed someone in charge for a whole afternoon. Not very efficient and extremely dusty/dirty. Therefore, a new idea was born, a static roller mill. The idea is, that whoever is feeding will set the mill rolling working, while they mix the rest of the ration. It produces enough rolled corn for each batch of feed. Therefore, instead of rolling corn being a job on its own, it becomes part of the routine for the person feeding up, Genius idea!!

A second-hand roller mill was found on a local farm, a hopper was salvaged from an old gravity wagon and Marc was set on to build it!

More of the progress of this venture in May.

Well, that's the news for this month folks. I am sure we will hear more about Chris looking after the cattle in future letters from Ontario. I loved to hear that Marc saves scraps of wood (Just on the off chance that they may be needed in some future project). I am just the same. I have boxes full of offcuts.



Kathy's Corner

As you read this we are in the merry month of May and springtime is in full bloom. But as I prepare this piece, it's Easter Saturday, that quiet day between the trauma of what happened on Good Friday and the exultation of Easter Sunday when we once again declare "Christ is alive, He is risen indeed".

After a busy Holy Week of services, reflections, prayers and Witness Walk, Easter Saturday is a time for sitting in the garden, reflecting on those first followers and how they felt that day. Those of us who have experienced losing a dear loved one, know something about grief, but I think it must have been harder for them. They had committed themselves to Jesus, thought he was the Messiah, the Son of God – and quite a few had to contend with the fact they had betrayed him too.

They were also in hiding, behind a locked door, whereas I'm out in my garden. There are hyacinths, daffodils and marsh marigold in flower, the hedge is turning green, my apple tree has blossom, and the birds are singing loudly - trying to attract a mate, as are some frogs croaking in the pond. Creation knows it is time for a new beginning. That was denied the followers of Jesus until they ventured out on the third day, to find an empty tomb and a mystery – where was Jesus? Their mystery was soon solved as people began to see our Risen Lord.

But I've got my own mystery to solve – well a couple actually. On this very sunny Easter Saturday, as I toss food pellets on the water, there are an awful lot of fish. Malcolm has counted 12 baby ones in the weed (with 5 frogs and 2 newts), but I'm trying to work out how we have more adult fish from last year. Has someone put some in without me knowing? I'm sure we didn't have this many last autumn. Plus – how do fish get bigger when they are in the bottom of the pond supposedly in semi-hibernation and not eating!

After a bit of discussion, and observation, we decided some of the brown fish have completed their colour change to orange, and it is the fact we have more coloured fish that makes it seem we have several more than last year, and let's face it – they don't stay still long enough to count them! It's hard to believe we only put 6 fish in the pond some 7 years. Isn't nature wonderful? – **Every Blessing Kathy Lowrie**



News from our “Roving Reporters” from around the Circuit

High Ellington - This month has been a busy one for all at Ellington chapel. We have been busy lambing as well as preparing for and celebrating Easter. We have all been very lucky with the weather this Easter which has significantly improved lambing! The flowers are now growing, and the birds are singing. With the warmer weather that we have enjoyed we can begin to finally look forward to the summer that is almost here.

West Tanfield - I have recently been in hospital and it was a great comfort to me to know that the church family and friends would be remembering me in their prayers.

When I was told I could go home others in the ward couldn't understand how we would manage but I knew family, friends and neighbours would bring home-made soup and baking when needed.

In our village community we keep in touch with St Nicholas Church and try to personally welcome new people in the village, send cards to people who are ill and have a network of pastoral visitors.

Speaking to someone else on the ward she said she didn't know anyone in the village where she had retired to. So, although our congregation doesn't grow we are a presence in the wider community and take an interest in people who ever they are. I would also like to thank the people who did services with link to YouTube during 'lock down' and are now continuing every week. Amazing technology!

Snape - On Easter Sunday we started a new 7-week session called Resurrection People. The weekly preachers are kindly taking on the different themes of the sessions each week. At the outset of the service, we have a video clip explaining the days' theme. Several of the congregation have got a book of daily devotions for each day of the 7 weeks. We were grateful for Rev David Emison starting us off so well on Easter Sunday. During the service we also decorated a cross outside chapel with flowers and decorated the Easter Garden made by the Sunshine Corner children with paper flowers that they had also made.

We are getting plans underway for our display called 'Weddings, Work and Worship' which will be held over the days of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. We will have a display of Wedding and Bridesmaid dresses over the Queens decades, also a selection of a few work tools, and a celebration of Church life over the last 70 years. Refreshments will be served at various times for visitors. Please watch out for future notices as hopefully you'll enjoy wandering around the displays.

Baby Ada Clapham (the beautiful baby daughter of Stuart and Abi Clapham) joined us for her first time at chapel when she was only 8 days old. She is a lovely sister for Noah and Ned and a granddaughter for Gareth and Elaine Teasdale. We look forward to watching her grow up.

Masham - I wanted to share this, which was a free leaflet at St. Mary's Church, Holy Island. - **Seeking Direction**

Holy Spirit of God, show me your will.

Direct my will.

From all the questions and uncertainties in my head,

answer the prayer of my heart,

assure me of your will and your love for me,

that I may take the next step forward

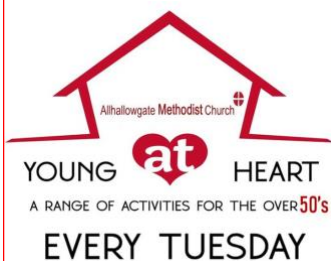
in faith - in your strength,

for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Allhallowgate - has been working hard to cover in the absence of Ian. We have had tremendous support from Deacon Nigel and Keith Phipps but are really looking forward to Ian's return.

Last month I told you about the Lent Liturgy that we were doing. Now I am telling you how we developed the theme from Matthew 25 - I was hungry and you fed me - etc. – and provided a meal to people experiencing hardship from the Ripon area. Today, April 21st we fed 24 people, including 12 children in our hall. It was a wonderful experience and one that we would like to repeat in the future.

Externally our Easter tomb and resurrection cross have been on display to show to the passers-by that Christ is alive in Ripon. That is our role, and we must work hard to fulfil it.



The Young at Heart group opened its doors in October, and has grown into a very successful meeting place for the over 50's. The doors open at 12.30pm and a light lunch of a soup and roll is served. Now that spring has sprung, we also offer a ploughman's lunch as well as the traditional soup.

Having spent many months being isolated, people have really valued meeting with old friends and making new ones. Each week we have various crafts on the go, and some just like to sit and chat.



We have had talks from the model railway people, armchair exercise, IT information and many more. The local Citizens Advice Bureau are now coming along once a month to offer support on a range of issues, and the Ripon Horn Hornblower is coming soon to give a talk. All in all its about having fun, getting out and meeting people. Creating safe spaces for people and being a listening ear is very much what we, as church, are about. If you would like to know more about the group, why not pop along on a Tuesday and see for yourself!

Finghall - “The Northwest outpost of the Yorkshire North and East District is still alive and well even pending the closure of our Church building in the near future.

We held our last service on 27th March and what a service it was! The few members of Finghall Church all had an input in the service that was led by Reverend Gareth, each having chosen a hymn and giving a reason for the choice or offering a reading that had particular meaning for them.

Whilst it might have been quite a sad occasion, it certainly was not.

There were many guests who had been invited and visitors who wanted to be with us at this service. Many of these had preached or led worship for us in the past. These included five members of the clergy (including Gareth), to whom we were grateful for their service to us over the years and to whom we feel very close, and for many of us consider them part of our family. Well Gods family really, as we all are. I remember each one of them preaching here for the first time. Ours, not theirs. We always looked forward to their return for their inspirational sermons and enthusiasm they engendered in us. And how they shared the joys of being together in worship.

I have seen both sorrow and much happiness in our Church at Finghall, losing good friends and the joy of making new ones with visitors from far away.

Our Communion services were always special for us as we approached the Communion rail to kneel, well those of us who could. On one of these occasions there was not a dry eye in the building, as those who were present will never forget, as the love of our Lord Jesus was so evidently present at that time.

We have had many different kinds of service with different leaders and have been quite adventurous in some of these. Using the Church In The Dale outside broadcast unit a few times in the village was quite exciting and joined us with our Anglican friends in the open air.

Do Methodists go to the pub? Well, we have done that on a few seasonal occasions in our Beer and Bible events that were a diverse way of bringing the Bible into the public place. Although I must admit that we just copied the idea from another worship group who helped us with it.

Over the years much joy has been shared in the Church with seasonal events like Harvest and Christmas when the place has been filled to overflowing with many different choirs from round the Dale.

All this happy fellowship will be remembered for a long time. Yes, the last service (in the building) was a stirring one and a happy one and as was usual, the following refreshment and fellowship time lasted long after the service ended. But then, that's Finghall!

I mention the last service, but at the beginning of this piece I said that our Church is alive and well. This is because we are now a class of Bedale and District Methodist Church.

We are to hold regular Home Group worship meetings in the village that will be open to all. We believe our mission is now to step forward and outward to all people and not keep to ourselves.

I have said in the past that the Church is not a building. The Church is the spirit of God brought to us by the corner stone of our Church, Jesus. Christ. The Church is wherever we are with Jesus and the love of God. As we know from Matthew Chapter 18 verse 20. "For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them".



Grewelthorpe - Our Lent Lunches were yet again very well attended and enjoyed by our community during the 6 weeks of Lent. The proceeds were divided between church funds and Christian Aid. People were very generous, and we were able to send £467.50 to Christian Aid, which will be used to provide aid for the Ukrainian appeal.

Our monthly G Club continues the next one is Wednesday 18th May. 6-7pm. The children were present in church alongside other Grewelthorpe school children at our family Harvest Festival. There was a procession from our village school down to church, following a donkey (not a real one unfortunately), but there was lots of Palm waving, singing, and chanting of Hosanna!

We are now moving forward to planning our Annual Parish Council Meeting which will be held on 24th May and, also to the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June, where we will join with the rest of village in celebrating this event. Grewelthorpe church are organising an exhibition to be held in church on the theme of 'Grewelthorpe through the Years'. This event will be launched on Thursday, 2nd June at 8pm with wine and canapes. At 9.15 we will leave church to walk down to the village green where fire pits will be lit for the start of this special weekend in celebration for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Please look out for further details in the village for the full programme.

Following storm damage to a gravestone in Grewelthorpe church, we are searching for any known relatives of the Reverend William Fernsides, Vicar of All Saints, Harley Wood Todmorden Born 21 May 1832 Died 21 August 1887. If you can help, then please contact one of the churchwardens.



Bedale & District – Wasn't it wonderful to celebrate Easter in Church after two years being in Lockdown!

We at Bedale spent that last week (Holy Week) journeying to the cross with Jesus, ecumenically meeting for meditation type services at our own church then Leeming and Burrill Church of England churches. Then on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday joining Snape and Masham Methodist Chapels.

On Good Friday we opened our church up for private prayer offering a Labyrinth in church. Which was a very effective use of a prayer rope and the maximising of the space available for the creation of a rectangular labyrinth. We know from the comments we received on the day that those who attended were very appreciative and we also offered Prayer Stations in the Hall.





In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's.

The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed her of the power to provide for her children.

And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe, and around the globe.

Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger.

But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food, and provide seeds that thrive in drought – giving her all she needs to turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

Join us this Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022, and help turn hunger into hope.

With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.

Prayer Page

God of our past, present and future,
help us to see you at work in your creation –
as flowers lift their heads to the sun,
or trees shake their leaves.

Help us to see you at work in our daily lives,
in our routines and choices,
in our growing and our changing.

Help us to see you at work in all things.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Come, let us praise the name of the Lord,
the one whose name is so great,
whose glory is above the earth and the heavens.
Come, let us praise the name of the Lord,
who was and is and is to come.

Amen.

Lord of the heavens and the earth,
Lord of all creatures above and below ground,
Lord of the oceans, the ebb and flow of tides:
Lord of everything, your glory and majesty is supreme.

Lord of all our yesterdays, written in the pages of history.
Lord of what is to come, the story that is yet to unfold.
Lord of our now, your presence among us:

Lord of everything, your glory and majesty is supreme.

Amen.

Lord, you gave a commandment to love one another.
You loved your disciples of old; you love us today.
You will continue to love into eternity.
Help us each day to give life to your words
by sharing and showing your love to one another.
It's not always easy and often we slip up.
Sometimes what we say can be hurtful.
Sometimes what we do can cause pain.

**We are sorry, Lord, for saying or doing what we shouldn't.
Forgive us, and help us to live out your words in our lives today.
Help us to speak and show your love to one another
and sow it forward into the future.
Amen.**

Jesus knows our flaws, yet loves us unconditionally.
Be assured of his forgiveness.
He has wiped our slate clean.
New beginnings beckon.
Praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

For being with us at our beginning,
for being with us at our journey's end,
for being with us today, here and now,
we say a heartfelt:
Thank you, Lord.

For relationships,
for family and friends,
for you making your home among us,
we say a heartfelt:
Thank you, Lord.

For your sharing our tears,
for your words trustworthy and true,
for your promises that give us hope,
we say a heartfelt:

Thank you, Lord.

For the journey we are on today;
like excited youngsters asking 'Are we there yet?'
our cry is, 'What next, Lord? What next?'
For your ever-loving presence
and the joyful expectation of what is to come,
we say a heartfelt:

Thank you, Lord.

Amen.

We pray, dear God,
for places where there is division and for countries in the grip
of civil war...may your Holy Spirit bring peace;
for countries where there is religious persecution...
may your Holy Spirit bring unity;
for towns and cities where gang warfare brings fear...
may your Holy Spirit bring hope;
for communities where there is inequality...
may your Holy Spirit bring dignity;
for workplaces where there is insecurity...
may your Holy Spirit bring confidence;
for homes where there is brokenness...
may your Holy Spirit bring healing;
for churches where there is dilemma...
may your holy Spirit bring life:
to your glory.

Amen.

God, who is Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and the end of all things,
you know our past – the burdens we carry.
We know that you will wipe away every tear
and make all things new –
though we cannot always see the work you
are doing,
help us to learn from the past,
live in the present,
and hope for the future.
In all of life's joys and sadness's,
may we love one another as you love us.



Amen.

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Prayer Commitment by the Circuit Meeting:

- Please pray for us, churches, and circuit as we, over the coming months, discern God's will for future mission in this area.
- Please pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia and for dialogue, justice, and peace.
- Please pray for the Revd. Gareth that his Sabbatical will give him time for reflection and for recharging and be good and fruitful. We continue to pray for Revd. Ian as he returns to us and look forward to him sharing stories with us of his time of reflection and renewal, we ask prayers for him as he also takes on the role within the circuit as Acting Superintendent for the next three months.



FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a **prayer**: 0808 281 2514

Listen to the **President and Vice-President**:

0808 281 2695

Listen to **news**: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly

Newsletter

If you know someone who would like to receive a postal copy of this newsletter please let Amanda Milner know on 01677 427909 or 07805 623464, email milnera68@gmail.com. OR the Circuit Office.

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Please Check out the Circuit Website for Prayer Space, plus poems and resources from The District: riponlowerdalesmethodists.org.uk – yorkshiremethodist.org