



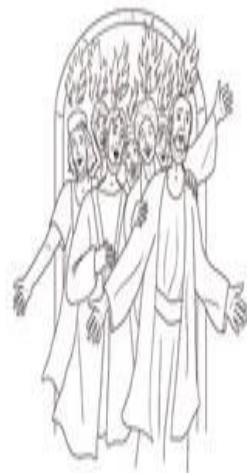
Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit



June 2022

Herald
Newsletter -
Issue No 30

Generous God, as we gather in
this place,
give us open hearts and minds
to receive all you have for us.
Renew us with your life and
warm us with your love,
fill us with the power and
presence of your Spirit. Amen.



A PSALM FOR THE LESS-LOVED

Praise God, You Wasps!

you spoilers of picnics,
you stingers of children,

Praise your Creator

for He made you pollinators of fruit and
flowers; architects of durable, protective
nests, made from almost nothing.

Praise God, You Dandelions!

you deep-digging besmirch-er of lawns:
you bully of frailer species;
wrenched from your living place.

Praise your Creator

for He made your glorious golden coat;
(dandy indeed!) and flimsy parachutes,
floating on a puff of air, with the clouds.
He gave you nectar as rewards for cold
March visitors.

Praise God, You Rats!

you are hated everywhere, poisoned and
trampled on; you disease-spreaders;
you gnaw relentlessly!

Praise your Creator

for He made you quick to learn, an ardent
survivor a gobble-upper of garbage.

Praise God, You Brambles!

you scratchers of arms and legs
you invader of spaces, wanted by others
you smother dainty, shy flowers with your
leather-like leaves

Praise your Creator

for He made of you as a dense hiding place
for mammals, song-birds nest among your
thorns you produce luscious blackberries
and rose-like flowers.

Praise God you Slugs!

you unprepossessing molluscs; grotesque!
you are hated and hunted by gardeners,
you muncher of fresh, new seedlings

Praise your Creator

for He made you to browse on rotting
vegetation and you are loved by hedgehogs,
badgers and birds!

Praise God, you Leyland-i i !

you arrant stealers of light arrogant and ugly

Praise your Creator

for you make dense, tall barriers and are
fast growers your wood is durable, even
outside musicians like you for stringed
instruments

Praise God you Magpies!,

you stealer of eggs; you raider of bird-tables;
you bird of myth and superstition.

Praise your Creator

for you are omnivorous, you enjoy pests and
detritus and He made your jacket a lustrous
blue-green sheen; such an immaculate outfit

Praise God you Humans!

You are aggressive, destructive, selfish
you are haughty and profane

Praise your Creator

for you are magnificently loved by Him
He has made you to be compassionate
and heroic

resourceful and intelligent, persevering
He has made you a designer of vaccines!
ALL THINGS LIVING, PRAISE YOUR CREATOR GOD: HE LOVES YOU

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 July's Edition is 24 June 2022.
Thank You – **Amanda Milner (Editor)**

Message from Revd. Ian Pruden

Dear Friends,

It's a privilege while Gareth is on his sabbatical to hold the fort for him. I had a wonderful three month sabbatical exploring sacred spaces.

Someone asked me the other day what were the highlights of my time away.

To have time to discover the beauty of a part of the world we now live in but haven't had chance to get out and see.

Standing in the shadows of the saints like Aidan and Cuthbert and Hilda and Oswald and Wilfrid, reminding me I'm part of a very long story.

Some awesome encounters and God moments in especially Ushaw College and Rievaulx Abbey.

Two acts of worship in which the Spirit really moved for me - an honest and relevant preacher at Elvet in Durham on the Ukraine

situation, and the beginning of Holy Week under a rood of Christ crucified in Newport Cathedral, moved almost to tears about my call again as the choir sang a beautiful setting of There is a green hill far away.

And, of course, doing Holy Week and Easter again on our beloved Holy Island, the most moving part being stations of the cross for Ukraine on Good Friday which just left us stunned in silence that the suffering Christ meets 2022 so powerfully. The words “help us not to look away” will stay with me for a long time.

Over the next few weeks I’ll be doing some talks on my sabbatical study with lots of pictures of churches, cathedrals and ancient pilgrimage sites and ideas how we can create space for God in our churches.

These will be at

Allhallowgate on Thursday 23 June at 7.30pm

Bedale and District on Tuesday 28 June at 7.30pm

Harrogate Road on Tuesday 5 July at 2.30pm

If any other church or group would like me to come to them, please let me know.

Can I please mention two other Circuit occasions we’d like you to put in your diary.

I have now managed to sort a date for Nigel and Jane’s farewell in the Circuit. This will be on Saturday 23 July at Harrogate Road at 4pm followed by tea. Rev, Leslie Newton, our District Chair, will be coming to preach. Please publicise this occasion widely so we can gather in a large number to thank Nigel and Jane for their four years of ministry with us and to pray for them as they move to the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit in August.

In July, we shall be focussing on the book of Isaiah in all our

services for Bible Month. To prepare for this, I'll be doing a study day on my four favourite Isaiah passages and who Isaiah was, on Saturday 18 June at Dallowgill Chapel from 10.30am to 3pm. Please come. Bring some lunch and a Bible with you. All are welcome. I am writing some material congregations can use during July as we are encouraging everyone to read Isaiah themselves through the month.

Canon Cathy Zappa is Canon for Spirituality and Mission at St. Philip's Cathedral in Atlanta in the United States. She wrote this in a Lent sermon which is exactly where I found myself on sabbatical minus a dog...

“ I had a busy week last week, running from one thing to the other, and almost always running behind. I woke up on my day off scattered and exhausted, with a dozen to-dos hanging over my head. I knew I should get straight to work. But I didn't. Instead, I decided to go on a walk with my dog. Now, usually when I walk, I'm focused on covering a respectable distance in a respectable amount of time. My dog, however, is not; so usually, I set the pace and pull her along. But this time, I let her lead.

She turned out to be a good guide for this particular walk, which was also a prayer. Not at all concerned about keeping a schedule or qualifying our excursion as exercise, she kept turning aside, to smell the roses—and every bush, tree, mailbox, trashcan, pile of poop, and other dogs on the way.

And as I slowed down with her, I noticed that the ground she was sniffing, the ground we were walking on, was sacred ground, indeed; and I was blown away by divine epiphanies all around us: the warm blue sky, deep pink buds outlining the arms of redbud trees, a hawk sailing above me, peace in my own soul.

I saw how much I'd been missing by rushing through my tasks,

pursuing some imaginary state called “being caught up” and trying to earn my right to rest—instead of allowing myself to rest and trust in God’s love and care, here and now. I saw how this simple walk—this slow and unproductive and mindful walk— was a statement of faith, too: faith that I’m more than what I get done; faith that the fate of the world doesn’t rest on my shoulders, after all; faith that God’s got me and the whole world in God’s hands.

What about you? How is God trying to get your attention? And will you turn aside—to see the holy ground under your feet, and to hear the God who is calling to you?”

I thank you for all you are doing in your church and in the Circuit. I pray in all our work we might seek God and then help others make room to see him at work too.

**With best wishes,
Ian**

Taking it in

If you’ve seen the film *Love Actually*, you’ll probably remember the scene where Colin Firth, playing an English author, is in Portugal to write his latest book. He’s sitting outside at a table overlooking a beautiful lake, working on an ancient typewriter. The finished pages are piling up around him, weighed down by empty mugs. The lovely young Portuguese woman who comes daily to do some housekeeping arrives to clear the empty mugs – and dozens of pages of original manuscript are blown away into the lake. (Things do turn out okay in the end!)

Letting the Holy Spirit loose in our lives might be a bit like that. But first we’d probably want to do a risk assessment – as perhaps those ‘devout Jews’ did on that particular Day of Pentecost. For them, Pentecost was a celebration of the giving of the Law to

Moses on Mount Sinai, but the events they witnessed and the message they heard from Peter that day told a different story. It wasn't about the Law but about the Prophets – in this case Joel – and about the beginning of 'the last days': it wasn't about God's work in the past, but about God's work in the present, pointing to the future fulfilment of all things. Would they continue to sneer ('They are filled with new wine!') or would they 'call on the name of the Lord and be saved'?

We too have a choice. Will we celebrate Pentecost simply as a reminder of God's work in the past, or dare we respond to Peter's message as an invitation for us today? What if we did set aside time to be alone with God, to ask him to set us on fire with his love? What if our church family set time aside to be together with God, asking him to blow through us with his power?

'What if...?' is a great question to ask in prayer. Not only can it open our eyes to God's possibilities and purposes for us, it also helps us to notice what's holding us back. It's often helpful to write down, or to draw, what comes to us as we dare to open our hearts and minds to God in this way: where are the 'fire doors' and the 'draught excluders' in our lives, both personally and as a church? And what would it mean to dismantle them?

The transformation of Jesus' disciples on that particular Day of Pentecost signified the offer of transformation for all people, as Joel had prophesied. And as all creation inches towards its final fulfilment, with 'the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day', we are invited both to be transformed ourselves and to be agents of transformation for others. This is God's great purpose for us: our 'fullest fulfilment' involves saying 'Yes' to the love and the power of his Holy Spirit. – **Every Blessing Amanda Milner**



What is a Deacon?

A person male or female, belonging to a Religious Order within the Methodist Church. The role focuses on bridging the gap between church and world, encouraging others in the servant ministry of Christ. The Methodist Diaconal Order is one of the two ordained ministries of the Methodist Church, the other being Presbyteral ministry. The call of the two ministries are different.

If you asked a church member, what is a Presbyter, some might be puzzled for a moment, then answer with the question, is that the Minister? No two Presbyters are alike, similarly no two Deacons are alike. Yet people desire boxes and an ability to catalogue the specimen. Ah, yes, Presbyters chair church councils, do communion, baptisms, weddings and funerals, things in the church. But a Deacon, umm, well they can't..... The answer soon runs out of steam and is rather negative.

My experience as a Deacon is varied and mixed, sometimes pseudo-presbyteral. This is because of responding to need in a Circuit. In several stations, my responsibility has been to specific churches, conducting weddings, baptisms and funerals. In two stations I was authorised to preside at communion. This was because of need and not normally accepted by the Warden of the Order, as it confuses the call to ministry. We have two sacraments the other being baptism. Biblically you may recall Phillip, one of the seven Deacons of Jerusalem baptising the Ethiopian Eunuch, after explaining the passages from the book of Isaiah. Another was Stephen who was stoned to death. There are other accounts of female Deacons. I have preached every Sunday during my active ministry.

One of my appointments was a true Diaconal appointment. It was a missional appointment, written by a Circuit, for a Deacon not connected to any specific church, but to the Circuit. The Holy Spirit has been my conscious guide since I committed my life to

the Lord. Thinking of Deacon Phillip being sent to speak to the Civic Official who was a person in authority as the treasurer to the Queen of the Ethiopians, makes me smile. Please indulge me as I share my story.

Curious to speak to people, I walked along the main street asking individuals, “Excuse me, do you know where the Methodist Church is please?” It was just down one of the streets from where I was standing. All the answers were negative. Bemused, I thought perhaps a map of the town centre might help me, so headed for the town hall. Security seeing my clerical collar kindly took me to administration in the basement. There I was to meet my Civic Official, Councillor Terry Grayshon. He became Mayor of Morley, I became his Chaplain. Taking prayers before Council meetings, conducting his Civic service and having the pleasure of attending meetings in the Town Hall. Well God opens doors and relationships, next I had the pleasure of being Chaplain to Councillor Judith Elliot, the Lord Mayor of Leeds. The relationships formed enabled me to set up a town centre chaplaincy working with the Salvation Army and Roman Catholics. A club for non church children was also started with help from the Council. An annual memorial service for local families was begun with the help of a local undertaker. I can’t take credit for any of these and more. All were part of God’s plan, to his glory in the name of Christ. The Holy Spirit is amazing and that Circuit allowed this Deacon to work in a truly Diaconal appointment. God’s wisdom provides true understanding, Hallelujah!

There are more stories of chaplaincy, in retail, in prison, as a Street Pastor in Piccadilly Gardens Manchester on a Friday night, also in Liverpool, Hillsborough. If the Church, local, has a positive attitude to Diaconal Ministry, God can do absolutely amazing works. The work of a Presbyterian is essential, Word, Sacrament,

Leadership and much more! But think about it, Jesus and his disciples spent time rubbing shoulders with Joe Public, miracles do happen, lives are changed. Both you and I are the disciples of Jesus, only fear and waiting for the Holy Spirit kept them in the Upper Room? – **Deacon David Smith**

News From Canada

Jayne has written the letter from Canada again this month. We hope you enjoyed reading about their activities in the May Herald. It was interesting to hear how talented Chris is, when it comes to buying cattle at the auctions. A real asset to the team. You will also remember that Jayne told us about the building of a Roller Mill. We are including a photograph of it in this edition. (I wonder if you agree with me that the foundations look as if they are built on giant LEGO blocks!!). Read on----

I am sat here writing this letter at the beginning of May and looking out of the window. You could be forgiven for thinking that it is the beginning of March! To say it's been a cold, wet spring so far, is a bit of an understatement! All our family were sat eating turkey with all the trimmings on Easter Sunday with two inches of snow in the garden! Christmas or Easter? It could have been either.

Apparently, this time last year, we had all the corn (maize) stalks baled, the muck spread, and the first 150 acres of spring crops cultivated and planted. Unfortunately, this year we haven't been able to start anything!



When we combine the corn (maize) in the autumn, we usually leave the stubble about a foot high. Then in the spring we go back with the mowers, cut them down to ground level and bale them for cattle bedding. They're not as good as wheat straw, which is extremely expensive and like gold dust over here, but they do the job. As with baling wheat and barley straw they require dry conditions.

This is then followed by multiple days of muck spreading, which tends to be Chris' domain, although the others do help out. Due to the wet Spring we now have muck piled up everywhere, which you can appreciate, is less than ideal. This year Chris has installed a camera in the back of the spreader. As the spreader is so big, he struggles to see into it and so isn't always aware when it's empty, which can get exceedingly frustrating! It will also help with spreading in the dark!

Finally, we would normally cultivate the fields at least twice before finally planting! As you can see, we're quite a long way behind!

Another repercussion of the wet autumn and spring is that we still have about 80 acres of maize left in the ground to combine! On the positive side, the nice weatherman has said we're in for a few dry, warm days this next week, so then it'll be go! go! go!

The joys of farming! Nothing ever seems to go to plan!

Not ones to be idle while the weather is being difficult, the guys have all kept busy planning and working towards various projects. Marc built the roller mill complex and it's now up and running. I shall try and include a photo. Dan has been mending and servicing the machinery so it should see us through the planting season with minimal breakdowns. He has also been helping Marc as he's a dab hand with the welder. Andrew has been busy lambing and shearing the sheep. The first group of ewes lambed successfully so now he's waiting for the second group, who are due at the end of May. Hopefully by staggering

the lambing it should enable him to ship milk throughout the year. Alongside looking after the cattle and marketing, Chris has bought a large dump trailer to go on the back of the large truck (HGV lorry). He has done a deal with a local brewery to ship all their brewer's grains (remnants from making beer) to feed to the cattle. The idea is, Andrew will drop off the trailer in their yard on a Monday, they'll fill it throughout the week, and then he'll bring it back, empty it, and take it back! Very simple, very efficient and cuts out the middlemen!

Sad to hear about the bad weather they have had in the early Spring. It certainly must be very frustrating not being able to get started with all the Early Season Farm Work, but they all seem to have adapted to the circumstance and found plenty of useful jobs to do. A Camara in a Muck Spreader---- now I have heard it all !!!!!, but an ingenious accessory when you hear how it makes the job so much more efficient. I have heard about this TRAILER. It is some piece of kit. We will include a picture of it in next month's Herald.

If anyone has any questions about farming in Canada, please send them onto Amanda. She will then pass them onto Jayne, to hopefully be answered the following month.



Kathy's Corner

As I began to think about what to write for this month's Herald, I was sitting by water – but not my pond! Malcolm and I were holidaying in Berwick, overlooking the River Tweed, with some different wildlife to observe. Berwick is famous for its swans, and there were plenty of them, although sadly the breeding season has been disastrous, very few cygnets being observed by locals. We were also entertained by cormorants and herons, busy catching sand eels on the river, and also in the harbour at Eyemouth when we visited. Caught our own fish there too - well, you've got to have fish and chips in Eyemouth! We like that busy port, it still has a fish market, and a boat yard that always has several restoration/ repair jobs on the go. Although, as we arrived, it was low tide, so most of the fishing fleet were moored doing their own repairs or a spot of painting. We did see the two resident harbour seals, and there were swallows busy swooping for insects, plus the aforementioned cormorants and heron. We got chatting to one of the locals about all the wildlife, who called us back when he spotted a sea otter. Naturally as we returned it dived off the rocks and disappeared, never to return!

My highlight though, was watching the traditional river netting for fish. In Berwick, there were 4 blue rowing boats moored in the middle. Bit daft, they'd need a boat to get to them, I thought - except at low tide, 6 men could walk across, board two of them and row along to a sand bank where they stepped ashore. One holds fast to a rope hanging at the back of the boat, another rows out into the river, releasing the netted rope as he goes in a big loop back towards his mates. They all gather ashore to pull the net back in and a huge salmon is soon seen splashing. They repeat this again to catch a smaller fish – then nothing the third time. It was fascinating to watch this old way of fishing, it's tightly controlled these days, to ensure sufficient fish can swim

upstream to breed, when Malcolm nudges me, further downstream he's spotted several fish leaping. Those fishermen could have done with Jesus joining them on the shore, telling them to cast their net on the other side! – **Every Blessing Kathy Lowrie**



Follow the leader!

Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)

The Great Commission

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



I recently attended a worship service at Killinghall Methodist Church in the Nidd Valley Circuit (my home circuit). The theme of the service was the Great Commission and after a time of worship and a brief talk entitled ‘Follow the leader’, we were invited to go off and explore the theme together in a variety of different ways. We could choose to listen to a short sermonette or explore using a range of craft materials or words or through drawing and colouring or simply through spending time in quiet reflection and prayer.

We were given 2 questions to consider: ‘How do you think the first disciples felt when they were told to go and make disciples?’ and ‘What does this mean for us today?’

I was drawn towards the words table and quickly felt led to write a poem exploring the theme. I was encouraged by others there to share the poem with the Circuit as others may find it helpful and so I thought I would also share it with you in the Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit. So here goes...

No pressure!

No pressure then Jesus!
To go and spread the word
To go into this great big world
Tell others what we’ve heard

Lord do you really know us
All our mess and all our flaws?
To go to those around us
And convince them that we’re yours!

But then I remember
That you gave your life for me
That you suffered there in silence
On the cross at Calvary

That you’ve told me
That you love me

That you've called me
By my name

That you've saved me
By your spirit
It's for me
For whom you came

Even if I was the only one
You would still have borne my sin
Faced the darkness of the gates of hell
So my eternity could begin

So I'm ready Lord, I get it now
I need to go and shout
Leave this place in your great power
Tell the world what you're about!

I pray that you will know God's great love for you as you go forward in His power to share the good news of all that only He can offer with those in your communities and beyond.

God bless, - **Catherine Clowes – Local Pastor**

News from our “Roving Reporters” from around the Circuit

Masham - Hello from everyone at Masham Chapel !

We don't want to boast or show off, but we do want to share with you that we managed to take a Sunday morning service - by ourselves!

The situation happened at the last minute. Our, Worship Leader that day, was not mobile, stuck at home and unable to come.

We tried not to panic, as there was no one else free. Do we cancel- can we arrange transport, to get people to another Chapel. In the end we just decided to go ahead ourselves

What happened that morning (without any preparation) was amazing. We just had a morning of sharing and talking, praying and singing.

People shared how they had spent Easter. Some of it was happy, some sad. People who have not talked before, shared things with us. Things just flowed, naturally.

It was like one big family, sitting, chatting. We couldn't believe that there were no awkward moments, and there were hugs and smiles at the end.

We all agree, that if we had been given time to arrange it all, it wouldn't have turned out so well.

Maybe we were given a bit of help from above, or maybe it was God, giving us a nudge, saying "Come on everyone - D. I. Y."

High Ellington - As you can't but help notice spring has sprung as I look out of the chapel window I see daffodils dying back and grass growing and a multitude of green and occasionally lambs running past. Makes you glad we live in beautiful rural Yorkshire during prayer time in services helps visualise things to be thankful for. Our chapel garden has erupted into life give a nice space to chat after the service if the weather is nice, it's a space to share fellowship with one another with bees buzzing and birds cheeping and all the smells of flowers in bloom (although that's not good if you have hay fever)

Also, May brings exams for some younger people and others the decisions on their future, We have one such member who is looking at universities around the country and it seems she may not be joining us in fellowship as much she will be in our thoughts and prayers.

After our fundraising concert we have the resources to paint the exterior of the chapel. This process has started so we look forward to our paintwork looking nice and weatherproof and care for our chapel so we can continue to worship.

Allhallowgate - With our congregation numbers slowly increasing and with new congregants it was a good time for us to have a Church Review on the 15th May so, after sharing in a lovely hot meal with many choices we were all able to sit down and get together to make more choices, those to be made influencing which way our Church will move forward in all aspects of its life here in Ripon.

Sometimes meetings can be very mundane and a bit tedious with most people just sitting their way through them. However, Sunday was very good with everyone making valuable contributions and, even better, with agreement on three main issues that we will begin to work on.

Well, it will be up to us now to see if we can put those words into action and reach out in a positive way in our attempt to bring Jesus into the lives of more people in our community.

Grewelthorpe - Our monthly G Club continues with the next one on Wednesday 15th June, 6-7pm. This remains a popular monthly event, with children of primary age exploring biblical themes through fun activities.

We in Grewelthorpe church are busy organising our exhibition of community events, village history and changes over the years called 'Grewelthorpe through the Years'. This is part of the Queens Millennium Centenary celebrations 2nd-5th June in the village. The event is launched on Thursday 2nd June at 7.45pm in church with wine and canapés, followed by a procession to the village green for the lighting of a fire pit circle with Jubilee celebration music at 9.40pm. The exhibition remains open on Friday and Saturday 11.00-3.00pm. We are hoping people will take the opportunity to have a look at this interesting display.

The events continue in the village over the weekend with a Jubilee tea party, children sports and a short service of thanksgiving on the green led by Revd Ian Kitchen on Sunday 5th June. In the evening there will be a BBQ and a singer.

Bedale & District - The lengths churches go to find an organist!

A couple of weeks ago two gentlemen popped into our regular Saturday coffee morning and asked if they could look round the church. It is always pleasing to show folk around our newly developed premises, and they were impressed by what they saw. One of them was raking a particular interest in the organ and asked if he could look at it. I showed them up into the organ loft and it transpired that one of them, Jan Valovic (pictured), was an organ tuner by trade. He was visiting from Slovakia and staying at the home of his cousin who lives in



Bedale. Having recognised the makers name on the organ, Jan asked if he might be allowed to play it. I was glad to grant permission and for five minutes we were treated to an impromptu organ recital, which was clearly appreciated by the regular coffee drinkers in the hall below. Jan enjoyed the experience of playing our organ and gave it a good report, which will bring joy to the ears of our property steward. He did reluctantly decline the offer to join our organist rota stating that the distance between Slovakia and Bedale was just a bit too far. It was worth asking though!

Live-streaming – We are also now live-streaming our services, so if you are unable to attend worship you will be able to view it on the Bedale Methodists Facebook Page at 10.30am when we go live or anytime during the following week. We can also email the link out sometime on a Sunday afternoon for those who don't do Facebook. So, if you would like to be added to the email distribution list please contact Amanda Milner.

A seed reflection by Revd. Gareth Baron

Christmas has presents, cake, trees and decorations, Easter has eggs and floral displays aplenty, but what might Pentecost have as way of celebration?

I've always found it strange that this divine world changing event which transcends from that most wonderful whirlwind time to our present day is seldom celebrated with the same vigour as Christmas and Easter. The most I've seen in years past, have been churches having a birthday cake which is enjoyed alongside the tea and coffee after a service. The drama is unmissable when you read about what happened at the festival fifty days after Passover, and more significantly, after Jesus had risen from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus had spoken about this just before he was taken up into heaven, making clear the impact of being baptised with the Holy Spirit and instructing his followers to not leave Jerusalem until this baptism from God and then to be witnesses in Jerusalem and letting their witness flow out to the ends of the earth. Of course, Easter Sunday was just the beginning of journeying the Eastertide road that leads us to Pentecost.

Recalling the events described in the book of Acts chapter two, we see it is full of the transformation life given by God Holy Spirit switching on the world languages megaphone. The apostles, those who had been with Jesus from the start of His ministry, who had been astounded by the miracles He performed, and a perfect sinless life lived with compassion for the outcast and least. They had sat at the feet of Jesus when He taught and learned how to live love in serving others. They looked on with the deepest anguish at Jesus' death, before joy triumphed in discovering Jesus had risen from the dead. They become the first resurrection people with Jesus meeting them in the garden, on

the Emmaus road and on the beach. Jesus taught what it will mean for those who believe in Him even though they haven't seen or touched his wounds with Thomas and prepared them for his ascension. The Holy Spirit enabled the apostles to speak in languages not their own. They didn't speak in languages learnt at night class or via a school exchange. They were enabled to be witnesses that could tell of all that Jesus had done. They were able to tell the world that there is salvation for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus.

The apostles, *'they were all together when suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.'*

(Acts 2:1b-3) God called to Moses from within a burning bush which was on fire but did not burn up. God speaks through the apostles with what is described as tongues of fire. Reflecting upon this passage, I consider the courage to be open and responsive to the Holy Spirit, when suddenly, the house is full of a tremendous noise and tongues of fire separating before coming to rest on each of them. I also consider place of faith and trust. You can almost imagine the rush of emotions as the apostles collectively received the Holy Spirit with sitting together. They didn't know how the Holy Spirit would come but knew God in Jesus and thus the reception was of a familiar friend, Lord, and Risen Saviour.

Filled with the Holy Spirit the apostles spoke, and the world got to hear the Good news of God's Kingdom come, the Good news that Jesus is the Saviour for all. They had passion, not least because they had a front row seat witnessing the Passion of Christ Jesus loving them and the world. They had passion because they had received into their very person God, Holy Spirit, who inspired and enabled and equipped them with all they

needed to be the kind of witnesses Jesus had taught them to be as followers of The Way. *John Wesley said; 'Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to see you burn'* How about this Pentecost asking God Holy Spirit to light you on fire with passion? Passion to seek after God. Passion to serve God by serving others. Passion to worship God in Spirit and Truth. Passion to live each day with a heart of devotion to God that no matter what you are doing or where you are, that people might recognise what difference the inspiration of the Holy Spirit makes in your life.

Take That had a hit song called 'Relight My Fire' which featured Lulu. The opening words of that song are 'Help me escape this feeling of insecurity. I need you so much, but I don't think you really need me.' if you're familiar with the song, sing on... What hesitancy do we live because of insecurity? We can be secure in the knowledge of the love of God in Jesus Christ. We can be secure in the enabling, loving, and equipping presence of God Holy Spirit in us, guiding and inspiring us. It is so true that we need God so much, but our insecurity leads us to think, 'God, You don't really need me.' God needs everyone to know that they are loved by God; that they are precious to God, and that they are worth the Son of God. God's need of us isn't born out of necessity but born out of love, it is a Holy passion that burns with inextinguishable love, and joy, and life.

What might Pentecost have as way of celebration? I'd like to offer a suggestion... that Pentecost would have you. You open to being set on fire with passion. You open to asking God into your life anew each day. You, seeking first the kingdom of God in the whole of life and living those kingdom values along the way. And if you happen to be inspired to hold a Pentecost party, BBQ, or something else joyful and lifegiving, then great. But let us be the Pentecost celebration, our whole life long, to God Holy Spirit's praise and glory. For true jubilation comes through such a life

lived in loving relationship with God.

If you would like to spend time reflecting with God with inspiring worship songs, give an ear to ‘Holy Spirit Fall On Me’ by Mark Savill. It is a beautiful worship song that helps to give our hearts voice, calling to God. It is available to listen to on [soundcloud.com](https://www.soundcloud.com) and whilst there check out the worship song ‘Worthy, You Are Worthy’ by Matt Baker.

May the Holy Wind blow throughout this Yorkshire land, indeed the world! And may we all know the universal language of love burst forth. Happy Pentecost! – **Revd. Gareth**

Prayer Page

God of wonder, how marvellous you are.

We have an awesome God.

All creation looks to you to provide and satisfy every need.

You amaze us with your sustaining breath,
your wisdom and wonderful generosity.

God of wonder, how marvellous you are.

We have an awesome God.

From glory you lovingly gave your Son Jesus Christ
to come among us and to die on the cross for us
before taking him back to sit at your right hand.

God of wonder, how marvellous you are.

We have an awesome God.

With mighty power you poured out your Holy Spirit at Pentecost
on all people, all ages, all nations;

igniting the life of your church with wind and fire.

God of wonder, how marvellous you are.

We have an awesome God. Amen.

Synod Prayer

Relight our fire, Lord;
Help us burn with a passion for you again,
Fan the flames, Lord;
Rekindle the embers of our past,
and revive us, Lord, again.

Relight our faith, Lord;
Help us flourish in the world
as a force for peace,
Re-ignite the spark, Lord;
Encourage the sharing of our faith,
and your kingdom, we pray, increase.

Relight our passion, Lord;
Help us navigate new challenges
for this generation,
Set our hearts ablaze, Lord;
Inspire us to live your way,
and be inclusive, for all, in our nation.

Relight our action, Lord
Help us centre on wellbeing for everyone,
Let our love burn, Lord;
Facing issues of today,
and seeking justice, like Jesus, your son.

Relight our fire, Lord,
Rekindle the passion for our future,
and revive us, Lord, again.
Amen



We pray, Holy Spirit, for all who lack confidence.

For parents struggling to meet the needs of their families...

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

For children struggling with their work at school...

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

For teachers struggling to meet the demands of the day...

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

For young people who feel misunderstood...

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

For young adults struggling to find their place in the world...

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

For carers trying to support and comfort those who are vulnerable...

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

For the frail, facing diminishing strength and loss of identity...

Holy Spirit, affirm them today.

For all people struggling to be who they truly are...

Holy Spirit affirm them – and us – today.

Amen.

Holy Spirit, fire of God,

warm us with your love;

Holy Spirit, fire of God,

burn up the rubbish in our lives;

Holy Spirit, fire of God,

set us on fire with love for the world.

Holy Spirit, wind of God,

blow on us gently;

Holy Spirit, wind of God,

blow on us powerfully;

Holy Spirit, wind of God,

send us out to live for others.

God of all nations,
on this day of Pentecost we praise you for
the power of your Holy Spirit,
equipping each of us for our life's work.
We celebrate especially the wonderful work
of our Queen, who has put loyalty before
her royalty through all the ages of her reign.
And who, day by day, has served you her
God and Christ her King with humility,
resilience and grace. Thank you for all she
is and all she has done to your glory.



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