



# Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit

July 2022

Herald  
Newsletter -  
Issue No 31

How does Isaiah's vision of the Messiah, shape and inform how we talk about Jesus today?

The Circuit is taking part in Bible Month this July so come, reflect, and feel equipped. Joining in worship services around the Circuit and Study Groups. More Details in the pages that follow...



## Over two years of The Herald, reflecting and growing forward

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of May in 2020, The Herald circuit newsletter was launched. It was a mere three pages long and included a potted view of a Methodist circuit, a book review of ‘The Boy, the mole, the fox and the Horse’ by Charlie Mackesy, a short reflection, and signposts to Thy Kingdom Come, Christian Aid Week amongst one or two other things. Many of the earlier editions are still available via the circuit website if you ever fancy a reminiscing read.

Fast forward to today to discover a fantastic circuit newsletter which sees contributions from as far as Canada. Amanda Milner took over the editorial of the Herald and gave it a great injection of life and vivacity in the first instance. It is fantastic to see the contributions brought via the roving reporters and I would encourage more of this. At the heart of the Herald is the people of the circuit, their lives, and the stories shared. I recall a month when West Tanfield simply used the space to express their gratitude and appreciation for the local preachers who faithfully serve them. This made me smile on the inside and out, for it beautifully highlights the point of what it means to recognise God active in the life of the church, both personally and communally.

We can come to God with things great and small, with things joyful and disquieting, furthermore, we can come to God wherever and whenever. There is no place, nor time, nor anything else that we cannot come to God with. When we do God hears, sees, and knows. God also responds and while it might not always be easy to recognise, God is already aware and present in our daily life. Therefore, when it comes to knowing what to share, we can tell of how we are being met and discovering God each day. A relationship with God is newsworthy and tells an honest picture about Our God who is

with us, not just for big mountain top elations but for the sustaining daily walk of faith and hope.

I want thank Amanda for becoming the editor of the Herald and for the great ways it is growing in full vibrant colour reflecting the vibrant life of the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit. May it continue to go from strength to strength in creating a helpful space for connecting with God and each other. May it be full of stories, and poems, prayers and life that proclaim the Gospel and the love of God discovered in daily lives and in communities we serve. So, let us keep on sharing how we are discovering, growing, and living out our faith where we are. In doing this may we be a source of encouragement to another and faithful in prayer. –

**Revd. Gareth Baron**

## 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 August's Edition is 22 July 2022. Thank You – **Amanda Milner (Editor)**



## Message from Revd. Ian Pruden

Dear Friends,

When I was at school, I used to dread sports events where you had to stand in a line and wait for someone to pick you as their partner. No one wanted to be my partner because my ability sport wise was spectacularly bad! I also used to dread school discos or dances. I'd just stand and watch from the side of the hall. I was too scared to ask a girl to dance with me. Childhood for the shy and introvert could be tough!

I've been thinking about partners a lot recently. Maybe the Church has in recent years become insular and isolated in her communities. Maybe we haven't been brave enough to look for partners to work with us, because we've been told sacred, and secular don't mix. Maybe we have convinced ourselves no one would want to dance with us so we don't ask if we can join in. Maybe we've lost confidence that we have something we can offer other people who live in the same place as us. Maybe we've simply forgotten the joy of just joining the dance of vibrant life with others.

I want to share two stories with the Circuit as my time as stand in continues.

First, I would like to reflect on the jubilee. There were wonderful examples of partnership over that weekend right across the Circuit. Nationally, people came together to celebrate, different ages, cultures, backgrounds, united in celebration. I think one of the nicest events on my jubilee tour was to be at the village event in Sawley. On the sunny warm bank holiday Thursday, it felt like the whole village turned out

on the village green and in the village hall and people were just enjoying being together and the chapel was part of it. I know others of you had similar events and street parties and coffee mornings and history exhibitions and carnival floats. Maybe we need to look for opportunities to share together like this apart from jubilees. What do you think?

Then I want to share Boroughbridge's story because it is all about partnership. Towards the end of last year, I spotted an article in the Stray Ferret, the fabulous online news site for my end of the Circuit, that Boroughbridge Lions were looking for a space to open a community larder for the town. Ten minutes later I'd contacted the folk at church and suggested we might offer them our unused little Sunday school room. The Church Council met a month later and agreed unanimously to give them the room just asking for a donation now and again for heat and light. I then began to join in some planning meetings with the Lions, Boroughbridge Community Care, and the local Morrisons Community Champions. A survey was done whether the food shops and pubs would give excess food to us. The response was very positive. An appeal went out across the town for volunteers. Again, this was very positive. An appeal for fridges went out. Fridges were donated to us!

While I was on sabbatical, our little room was painted, and updated with old Sunday school benches removed, a new floor laid, and shelving put up. This was done by church members and members of the Lions working together. The larder opened in April once a week on a Wednesday between 12 and 2. I returned in May to find each week a steady queue of people using it. A few weeks later, we decided we would try serving coffee as a church. We were amazed at the response! Our hall was buzzing with people of all ages, so much so we are now doing coffee every Wednesday from 11.30. The

church has become alive, people know where we are, we are part of serving the town with others, and amazingly we've had new people come to church on a Sunday and I have a baptism in the autumn. All because we are now open and accessible.

Why do I share these stories at this point in our Circuit life? Because I personally do not believe we can survive alone. All our churches are struggling to find people to take on the jobs, we worry about money, our buildings lie empty a lot of them in the week. It could be people around your church are waiting for you to invite them to join you in doing something. It could be there is an opportunity others are thinking about, our churches might help solve. What do our communities need? Have we ever asked? In Boroughbridge barriers have been broken down. Working in partnership is fun and the view some people had of church has been changed.

Take your partners then my friends. Join God's dance. Look for new friends. Don't stand on the side and think no one wants you. On our own, we cannot. With others, we just might do something beyond our wildest dreams...

Can I remind you please of some events this month?

My sabbatical talks are now on 5 July, 2.30pm at Harrogate Road, 7 July, 2.30pm at Boroughbridge, 19 July, 7.30pm at Bedale and District and 21 July, 7.30pm at Allhallowgate.

We will be doing Bible month in our services during July. Alongside the worship, there will be some Bible studies on Wednesday evenings, 6, 13, 20 and 27 July at Allhallowgate. All are welcome. A leaflet with some devotions for everyone will be available at the Circuit Meeting so hassle your reps for one on Sunday 10th!

Deacon Nigel leaves the Circuit at the end of this month. The farewell for Nigel and Jane will be at Harrogate Road on Saturday 23 July at 4pm. Our District Chair is coming to preach. A bring and share tea will follow the service. Please do come so we can thank Nigel and Jane for their ministry amongst us.

With best wishes, **Ian**

*“At the heart of our faith stand not a preoccupation with our own welfare and comfort but the concepts of service and of sacrifice.”*

*“The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So, help me God.”*

Her Majesty the Queen

As we joined together as a nation to celebrate the many and various acts of service made by our Queen last month, it was good to reflect upon the nature of that service and the example that it provides to us all.

Much of what the Queen promised at her coronation 70 years ago related to words of power, law, and justice, but when we reflect on her 70 years of service, these are not the words that often come to my mind.

When I think about how I see the Queen go about her acts of service to her nation I am often struck by how small each individual act seems and yet, together they add up to the job of being the Queen.

So much of the Queen's reign has caught her in her smile. As she goes about the country meeting the people, the Queen is always quick to smile. She smiles at the child who hands her some flowers; she smiles as she pulls the ribbon to unveil the plaque; she even smiles as she walks along streets paved with crowds of well-wishers calling her name and waiting for her attention. Even more than this, the Queen smiles as she presides over yet another formal banquet, while she waits for the translator to communicate her harmless remark about the weather or the food to the waiting dignitary.

The Queen's act of service is often made up of small, everyday actions of a handshake, a smile, and a listening ear. It is the sum of a whole host of small actions that make up the role of the Queen. Furthermore, the Queen is diligent in ensuring that she has an awareness and knowledge of the people, circumstances and concerns of the people who have sent her the invitation that she has accepted. It may only be the opening of a building to some people, but the Queen will have ensured that she knows the importance of why this building is being opened and the impact it is going to have. She cares, she listens, and she takes the time to be attentive. For a lady in her 96<sup>th</sup> year her mind and outlook on life is far younger. She has grown in her awareness of the world, and travelled with the changing world, making her have a modern outlook on life. The Queen has the gift to relate to all ages. She doesn't just dismiss things because it's not how it used to be. What a fantastic example this is to each of us. Who knew Her Majesty was friends with that Bear from Peru? I am sure I am not on my own, that one of the standout moments of the



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations was when Paddington Bear had tea with the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Her faith though is for me a real inspiration. Like all family's things haven't always been easy. There have been disagreements, illness, tragic deaths, and concerns.

Throughout it all her faith has remained strong. The Queen prays daily, seeks the counsel of her minister, and attends church weekly. She serves God through her work and actively shares His love with others.

We can all emulate the Queen and take encouragement from her. Simple acts such as smiling at the people in the shopping queue; passing the time of day with those we walk past; taking an extra moment on our journey to help someone out, are all ways we can make someone else's day a bit better.

Servanthood is at the heart of her ministry in service to the country and to God. To be a true servant you need to humble yourself, put aside any barriers and discriminations and put others needs before your own.

Let us take wisdom from the words of her Majesty as a reminder of what each of us is called to every day and do our bit to act with kindness to others, preferring their needs to our own.

*“At the heart of our faith stand not a preoccupation with our own welfare and comfort but the concepts of service and of sacrifice.”* Her Majesty the Queen

With blessings – **Amanda Milner**



## Blind or Deaf?

The small chapel was nestled up a country lane. From the front was a panoramic view of Pendle Hill stretching for miles. On sunny days at the back end of the year, you could hear tractors and harvesters through the open front door as people worshipped. It was idyllic and a haven of peace and nourishment. All was about to change for me!

A Local Preacher I hadn't seen before was taking the service. The pews were worn, polished and comfortable. The prayers were good and the hymns familiar. Life for me comprised of a good well-paid job as a pharmacist, a delightful wife, a young son, and a cottage in a country village. Settling comfortably to listen to the message, I heard the preacher say, "Whether your eight or eighty, if you haven't given your life and all you have to God, take two minutes of your time and do so. Your eyes and ears will be opened!" What on earth, I'm healthy, no visual or hearing problems? This wasn't comforting and soothing, it sounds daft!

After the service I sought out old Bill. He was the go-to man, who knew everyone and the facts. Enquiring who he was, I was told, "Oh that's Nigel Atherton, head of Chemistry at the Grammar School." Well, chemistry resonated with me and for a man like that, two and two should make four, but I wasn't blind or deaf and a little unsettled.

Our Minister Andrew had begun a new Bible study and invited me to come. Well, my five-year-old would-be asking questions, so I thought I might learn something. If asked I would say I was a Christian and attended church. Maybe I was slightly condescending, held opinions, and comfortably off. At the Bible study as we approached Easter, 'I met Jesus', he really died for me and well as everyone else. But he died for me, it was real, never had I been shaken by that revelation. I knew with absolute certainty Jesus was alive and had died for me! What do I do? Nigel's words came back to me, I had to offer all to God. Next Sunday after the service, in the quiet of the chapel I got down on

my knees. I was frightened, would God reject me, would he laugh at me, would I get struck by lightning? It's sounds crazy but that's what was in my thoughts. I also wondered what God would do, would he ask me to part with every penny, move somewhere I didn't want to go? In retrospect I can chuckle, materially my life didn't change at that point, but I began to see the world differently and re-evaluate all I heard. All this became more natural. My eyes and ears had been opened, Hallelujah! On Christmas Day of that year, I received the Holy Spirit. At the time I was at the sink, on my own, in the kitchen. I was filled with a warmth that was indescribable and just felt I wanted to share Jesus with everyone. If a human being can feel God like that, heaven in God's presence is the only thing. Jesus said to the thief on the Cross. Today you will be with me in paradise.

Seven years later my wife's MS had worsened considerably but she was found to have an inoperable brain tumour. The MS had masked the symptoms. I was told that Susan possibly had a month to live. Slowly I tried to talk to my 12-year-old son about what might happen. In the devastation, God was present! During that month I spent every day with Susan in a small local community hospital. We were surrounded by love. Later I realised God had given me a good 23 year of marriage and a wonderful son. It was during the last month I had with Susan; the word ministry kept coming into my mind. At the time this seemed crazy and tried to shut it out, but the word kept coming to mind. Susan died in the February of 2001. God opens doors and in the September of that very year my theology degree was started. This once, blind and deaf, non-committed Christian was called, three years later placed on probation, two years later ordained in Edinburgh. If you haven't offered all to God, please do so regardless of age. Nigel also used Ephesians 2:8-10 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." – **Deacon David**

**Smith**

## News From Canada

By the time you will be reading this dispatch from Canada we will have passed Summer Solstice----- The nights are drawing in folks. I am always pleased to hear from folk that you are enjoying reading about life in Canada, also Jayne and family can now watch our services as they are streamed on YouTube. What a small world it seems to be now. As promised, we are including a photograph their HGV Trailer and as you can see, it is not the sort of vehicle that you could easily drive up the dale. They certainly seem to have had some exceptional weather last month -----

It's now got to the end of May and this month seems to be racing by! I'm not quite sure where it's gone! I'm sat in the garden, the sun's shining, the birds are singing and it's 32 degrees Celsius. Quite hot, I know, but at least there's a pleasant breeze blowing. It's a far cry from last weekend when we experienced a "derecho", which turned out to be one of the most impactful storms in Canadian history! It was a normal Saturday morning, and I was Molly walking, albeit carefully watching the black clouds building in the west. Nothing unusual in that, we regularly experience thunderstorms! Unfortunately, unbeknown to us, it wasn't any old thunderstorm but a derecho, which is a "widespread, long-lived, straight-line windstorm, with a fast-moving group of severe thunderstorms". It brought with it several tornadoes, two of which touched down a couple of miles from here. It wasn't too long before it passed through, but the wind was unbelievable, we've never experienced anything like it. It was over so quickly that we were more in shock than scared and all looked at each other and said, "what on earth just happened?" To be honest, I was more concerned that I couldn't get the washing in than realizing what danger we were in!

We later found out that there had been 190km/h winds, which had caused widespread and extensive damage along a path that stretched for a 1000km. It left 11 people dead and 1.1 million people without electricity, including us! We were fortunate though; we were back on in 5 days and the damage was minimal.

Anyway, that's been our main little bit of drama for the month. On the farming front it has been go, go, go planting all the main crops. After a very "sluggish" start to spring (the weatherman's words, not mine), the weather started to warm up and dry up. We have 570 acres of corn to plant and 650 acres of soybeans, on top of the usual day to day jobs. The first job was Chris spreading all the valuable cow muck that he has been carefully storing all year. With fertilizer prices being exorbitantly high this year it's become more like gold dust! However, despite his best efforts, we still don't have enough to cover the entire farm, so Andrew was dispatched in his HGV to pick up various combinations of potash, phosphate, urea, and nitrogen. I know Dad likes numbers, but I can't remember how many loads he had. Once Andrew had started spreading the fertilizer, Marc and Chris followed him round with the cultivators and then Dan came round with either his 30ft corn drill or 30ft soybean drill (they're different machines!) I know that sounds very straightforward, which it is if a) nobody has anything else to do b) you have enough tractors and drivers to do each job c) the weather cooperates d) you have no breakdowns and parts are easy to get. As the answer is "no" to all the above for us, it becomes a logistical headache to try and work out who is doing what, when and with which machine! As Dan runs the arable division, this headache has fallen to him.

Now, on the last day of May, we have planted 375 acres of corn and 235 acres of beans, so hopefully, weather and breakdowns permitting another couple of weeks will see it finished.

In a recap of other farming news, the second flock of ewes have lambed very successfully. Apparently lambing in May is a lot easier than January! Andrew isn't happy with the East Friesen breed as he says they aren't the best milk producers. More to follow as he works out what to do next. Dan, in his spare time is working on the forage machinery ready for silage and hay time as soon as planting is done. Chris has designed some improvements to the cattle handling system, including a foot bath for any lame cattle. This will involve a lot of construction and concreting over the summer. Nothing beats laying concrete in a temperature of 40Celsius.

They do seem to have been very fortunate in escaping the "derecho" with only minimal damage. It must have been very scary while it lasted though. Fertilizer seems to come into these letters quite frequently, but I am sure that farmers in England will be experiencing the same problems with the current world hype in prices. We will now look forward to next month, to see what ideas Andrew comes up with regarding the East Friesen sheep flock.



## Kathy's Corner

It's been a frustrating month in Kathy's corner, beginning when we realised the water flow into the pond was lower than usual. Soon found out why when I pulled the pump out of the bottom of the pond! Whilst spawning, the frogs, and fish break pieces off the Canadian pondweed, which sink to the bottom and take root. This time they chose the pump itself, so their roots were blocking all the holes! Explained why the pond water was looking a bit brown, our filtration system couldn't work efficiently. After scrubbing the pump clean, we dropped it in the water, only to have to pull it back out, give it a bang on the paving, then replace it to get it starting!

Next day I was in a panic - no fish could be seen. Considering we must have 100, you'd think I'd spot one of them swimming by. After ten minutes, I dragged Malcolm out to find the testing kit, convinced that we'd disturbed sentiment and killed them the day before. Turned out the pH and nitrate levels were all good, then Malcolm spotted one lonely fish swimming deep down. Perhaps the oxygen levels at the top were low, so Malcolm pulled the pipe off the filtration tank and let the pump water our garden for half an hour. We then set the hose pipe going to re-fill it – 2 hours later! By that time, we've got fish dancing about in the spray, enjoying oxygen flowing through their gills. We've been cleaning the pond filters twice a week since to help clear the sentiment, and with help from our Creator God who provides bacteria that like to eat the waste in the bottom of the pond – found in a product with the grand title of Sludge Buster, the water is now looking clearer and the fish seem a lot happier – and no, we haven't killed any!

Currently, we don't have much surface water to throw food into for them. Our two lily plants have dinner plate sized leaves, so cover half the pond (counted 24 flowers and 12 buds last week) and the pondweed takes up another quarter. The marginal plants have also had a growth spurt, I'm sure they

are 6 inches higher than normal – so the plants have benefitted from the extra nutrients in the pond – and the blackcurrants and gooseberries probably gained some too as they were watered when we drained the pond. I can now sit by the pond and thank God my little eco-system is doing well, and marvel at how He can do that with a whole planet. –

**Every Blessing Kathy Lowrie**





## **Pray and don't stop, a reflection by Revd Gareth Baron**

I was out on my bike cycling at a half decent pace when two ducks came flying by. It's hard to miss ducks in flight, they are so noisy. It's like they are urging each other on, telling each other not to give up. Either that or arguing over which is the shortest route. I couldn't help noticing how strenuous their flight looked and I remember wondering what their 'flap per minute' would be? It must be high, flight as a duck seems to consist of relentless flapping. They don't have the stealth gliding of the owl, or the uplift of the pigeon and they don't look to be as well organised as geese who fly in a mutually helpful formation. No, ducks just appear to take the approach of 'flap like the clappers and don't stop'. These flying amphibious creatures do well, especially when we consider the time they spend on the water or waddling about on the riverbanks. Flight, however labour intensive makes them one of the many remarkable and wonderful birds we find in the world.

You might at this point wondering what is the point of my wandering mind? Well, I like to think we can take inspiration from the world around us, and the creatures God made. No matter how much we project our human similes onto other inhabitant creatures of the earth, we can never know what is to be a duck. We can only ever perceive from the vantage point of our understanding. My perception of the two ducks flying by is distorted from the truth that ducks are meant to fly. Whilst I don't understand why they are so noisy during flight or why they appear to flap like the clappers, others will have greater insight and the ducks will instinctively know how to take to the air.

So perhaps my ornithology needs some work, yet I am not alone in drawing upon the visual aid of the birds living all

around us. Hezekiah drew his own interpretations to aid his expression. *'I cried like a swift or thrush, I moaned like a mourning dove. My eyes grew weak as I looked to the heavens. I am being threatened; Lord, come to my aid!'* Isaiah 38:14. These are some of the words written by Hezekiah in response to God delivering him and the city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and more adding years to his life having been faced illness at the point of death. Hezekiah concludes his psalm with the kind of confidence only God gives; *'The LORD will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the LORD.'* Isaiah 38:20.

The expression in verse fourteen above feels relatable to how we might view the current world affairs and more so for those living through the horrific sufferings. For the Ukraine we pray, Lord, come to their aid, for the parents in Afghanistan so desperate and destitute they try selling their children, we pray, Lord, come to their aid. For the homeless on the streets, for the asylum seekers, for the hungry and the broken, we pray, Lord, come to their aid. These current situations are more than upsetting, they are sickening injustices showing the disgusting face of humanity, when humanity allow evil to rule its heart. It can often feel that all we have in response in prayer, and so we pray, Lord, come to their aid.

I am not looking to a world of ideals but to a world of justice and peace. I believe prayer does make a difference. I would employ that we take to prayer like the ducks' approach to flying, 'flap like the clappers and don't stop'. We don't stop praying, nor offering aid, nor working for justice and peace until we can all sing with stringed instruments to the God of our hope and salvation.

## Sunday Worship

I have been rereading notes made as I listened, many years ago, to the then recently retired Bishop of Durham, Dr David Jenkins; and I came across this quote from his lecture: “preaching is a serious business which needs to be taken as seriously by the hearer as by the preacher - you never know what God will say through the bumbling words of a preacher”. This has made us ask the question “how do we, as members of the congregation, prepare for Sunday worship each week?” “Is it enough just to turn up on time and put something in the offering plate or is more asked of us?” We can be sure that those “bumbling words” mentioned by the bishop are the result of hours of study, research, and prayer on the part of the preacher - as are the prayers offered by the worship leader; and let’s not forget the preparation and practice of our musicians and those who prepare PowerPoint and other material for us”. A service doesn’t just happen, but to be of value it entails more than passive listening from the congregation.

Ask yourself how often during the week do you pray for the preacher for the coming Sunday? And after the service do you revisit the Bible passages and listen for anything further that God might want to say through them? “Worship is a corporate event” said Bishop Jenkins, one in which we are all involved, and which will be enriched when we all feel a sense of responsibility. Surely we want each act of worship to be the very best that we can offer to God and that involves every one of us.

So, if any Sunday service disappoints you, “don’t shoot the preacher” but ask yourself what you contributed to it.

It is some time since I first read: “if we liken an act of worship to a stage production all too often we think of the preacher as the actor, God as the prompt and the congregation as the

audience. Whereas in fact the congregation are the actors, the preacher is the promoter and God the audience”.

So, fellow ‘actor’ are you ready for Sunday? – **Elisabeth Hogerzeil**

## **News from our “Roving Reporters” from around the Circuit**

**Finghall** - Never go back.

Apologies for there being no report from Finghall last month. This was because the roving reporter went roving round North Wales for a few weeks. The idea was to visit places we had been to before when our children were young. This was forty-seven years ago and the youngest being about three years old! We travelled in our mobile house staying at various places with our memories of how things were, and I foolishly expected them to be the same. However, things had changed quite a lot and we were a little bit out in our perception of what it would be like this time. The roving reporter was a bit disappointed in some of the places, but others were ok as we had not been there before. The highlights were when we met other travellers on sites we stayed at and spent time with them sharing experiences. Also meeting up with old friends from our village who had ‘emigrated’ to the Llyn peninsula about five years ago.

Acting on a suggestion from Norman Iveson we went up the Great Orme at Llandudno. It was a very windy day and in the car park at the top our house on wheels swayed quite a lot! Happy to get back down in one piece.

On reflection after we returned home, I thought about revisiting those places and realised that when we were there long ago, it was the fact that the children were with us that made it so

enjoyable. The family. But they have moved on and so have we.

Also that it is not a good thing to go back with memories of how it was and how we hope it still is, but to go with different visions and hopes for new experiences, because nothing stays the same.

It is the same with the Church. We should not look back but keep our eyes, hearts and minds focussed on the future. Yes, we have had good worship and fellowship in our various Churches, but time moves on and so must we. The Church family changes, as does the style of worship, and the places we meet in, as they must to face the challenges and needs of the current times and the needs of the people we serve.

\*\* Even the Psalms are different, if the one in the June issue is anything to go by. Very relevant for us when we returned to our garden that was pristine when we left but is now a jungle! Just goes to show that God has a reason for all His creativity, even though we always seem to see the side of these things that cause us problems. All the creatures He has created serve His purpose.

And humankind?

It is nice to go travelling but oh the joy of coming home where we belong. Keep well everyone.

**Masham** - COFFEE MORNING- with a difference. Bric a Brac - Knitwear - Home Produce - Marmalade - Greeting cards Refreshments. Please come and join us, Saturday July 2nd 10,30 -12pm

**Grewelthorpe** - Our monthly G Club continues with the next one on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 6-7pm. This remains a popular monthly event, with children of primary age exploring biblical themes through fun activities. G Club will return in September after the Summer holidays.

We were pleased to say that the exhibition of “Grewelthorpe through the years” held in church over the Jubilee weekend

deemed a huge success. Our grateful thanks go to all those that made this event happen, especially members of Grewelthorpe WI for their invaluable help, and to those that came and visited. The weather was slightly inclement but were able to hold a short service of thanksgiving for the Queen on the village Green.

We have a very active fundraising team that are working hard in helping to raise funds for essential work needed for a new church roof. Our future events include: -

**Live Music by the Pond, 6<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm till Late.** Light supper of pulled pork or jackfruit sandwich and a pudding. Pimm's, beer and wine.

£20 per ticket from the Village Hall or Church. More info from Susan Rizos – 658200

**A Summer Evening' 12<sup>th</sup> August** held at Lynette Barnes home in Ripon. Light refreshments and wine– more details to follow

**Annual Collectors Fair on BH Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August 10-4pm in Masham Town Hall.** Interesting variety of stalls and delicious refreshments served all day. Watch out for more detail. If you would like a stall please contact Gillian Lyon, 01765 650229

**West Tanfield** - We had another J.A. M. (Jesus and Me) Session with West Tanfield and North Stainley schools in May. We meet before to decide on a theme and plan the 4/5 activities. The story we looked at in May was all about Joseph and his jealous brothers. Liz and I made fat and thin cows thinking about the dream that the king had, and another group made a prison out of drinking straws. At the start each child is given a paper bag to write their names on so that anything they make can be put in to take home. Then we have a chat and recap on what we remember from last time followed by a story or sometimes a film and song. The children then go round the various activities connected to the

story and finish with a chat about the story and the things they have made. We meet again on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June when we will look at the 2 men who built houses. Both the adults and children have an enjoyable time, and it is so encouraging when we do a recap of the last session how much they remember.

The Homemakers met on June 20<sup>th</sup> at Norton Conyers Garden on a lovely sunny afternoon. We were met by the head gardener who gave us a tour of the garden answering numerous questions giving us lots of information about the very wide range of flowers shrubs and trees — — and he knew all the names!!! It is a truly beautiful garden very natural with its 41/2 acres there is plenty of room for wide borders. The peony border would have been stunning, and the roses were at their best. Lots of vegetables too. After a cup of tea and cake in the stable courtyard we were given a short talk about the house and garden by the lady of the house. A perfect afternoon.

**Allhallowgate** - It must be said that June has been a very busy month at Allhallowgate. Ripon was absolutely rocking over the Queen's Jubilee celebration with live music in the square Thursday to Saturday. We took the opportunity to be part of that by having 'Jubilee' coffee morning with our regular visitors on the Thursday morning. The hall had been decorated, songs were sung, and everyone left with a cupcake in a 'Union Jack' case.

Sunday morning was very busy. A Pentecost banner was displayed in the worship area and the day was celebrated. The Queen's wonderful reign was remembered, and our youngest family member was dedicated to God, named Rupert Roy James Foster Lilly. After that a boring and share lunch was enjoyed so celebrations could be continued

June the 19<sup>th</sup> was our Church Anniversary, and we were delighted to welcome Rev. Ken Marshall back to lead that service in his own traditional manner. It was good to see him

and afterwards exchange news over the shared lunch, the tradition always enjoyed on Church Anniversary days. After ordination Ken's first placement was in Choma, Zambia. Having just returned from a reminiscence trip to Zambia, one of the things that Ken initiated during his time as Minister at Allhallowgate was the supporting of the United Church of Zambia in Choma. The Zambian Church was struggling in its effort to support orphans and vulnerable children in education by supplying food, schooling and clothing needed for that. Since then, supporters in both Ripon Methodist Churches have continued to raise and donate to the charity.

A Brass Band Concert was held at Allhallowgate on 26<sup>th</sup> June to raise money for two adopted charities, Choma and Noreen's Kids, a home for very young children who are severely handicapped with multiple medical conditions. The majority do not live to adulthood, but a few do and 'Noreen's Kids' continues to look after them as there is nowhere else for them to go. Families who care for their own disabled children in the community are also supported.

So, the life of the church goes on and we are now developing plans for the chosen projects decided on at our recent 'Looking Forward' meeting. This will all happen without Deacon Nigel who will have left this area but, hopefully someone else will be here to fill the gap and, with God's help, all will be well.

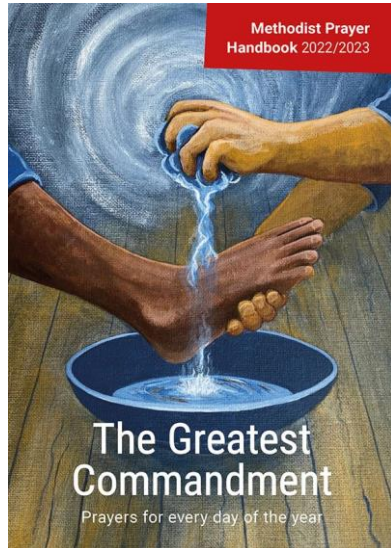
**Bedale & District** – Are preparing for Bible Month when our Local Preachers will guide us in worship through the book of Isaiah in four weeks! Alongside our Sunday Worship we will be doing some Bible Study on Monday's 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> July, and 1<sup>st</sup> August at 7.30pm, all are welcome to join us.

In the June Edition of the Herald we reported that we had started live-streaming our services, this hasn't gone without technical problems! We now have a YouTube Channel so if you are unable to attend worship you will be able to view it on



the Bedale Methodists YouTube or Facebook Page at 10.30am when we go live or anytime during the following week.

The Methodist Prayer Handbook is available to order at £4.50 each. There is the option of a large-print version at no extra cost. Please let Kathy Lowrie know, and she will order you a copy. Join our Methodist friends around the world in daily prayers, Bible readings, and even a daily hymn to sing! The theme this year is The Greatest Commandment. Do you know what that is? Matt 22:36-39.



## Prayer Page

We bring ourselves to this place, this moment in time,  
we bring ourselves to worship you, O God.  
We come knowing you and yet seeking to know you more,  
to offer you our prayers and praises,  
and to receive your blessing.

**Amen.**

Creator God, you are our all,  
you created and crafted us.  
God of the journey,  
you are our journey, our aim, our purpose, our goal.  
God of welcome,  
you receive each of us, no matter who and what we are.  
God of peace,

you give us peace, and you call us to be one in you  
and to share that peace.

**Amen.**

Loving God, you call us to bear one another's burdens,  
so we seek your discernment in aiding those struggling to  
stand

beneath the ravages of physical and mental ill health.

**Peace and mercy be upon them.**

Help us to speak up for the marginalised and the vulnerable  
burdened by the ever growing onslaught of social media.

**Peace and mercy be upon them.**

Help us to get alongside and bring comfort  
to those fighting their way through the dark forest of grief.

**Peace and mercy be upon them.**

Lord, with an ever growing population  
there is great need of you in the world today.

We pray for all those in the field of mission, at home and  
abroad,

particularly for those just stepping out on their journey.

**Peace and mercy be upon them.**

May your blessings be poured out to all in need  
as we journey in step with your Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
we rejoice in all that you have done.

We gather to praise you

and to reflect on how we can play our part in your work.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, be with us now –

inspire us, enrich our worship, and encourage our mission,

in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

Where there is conflict,

**let there be peace.**

Where there is fearfulness,

**let there be peace.**

Where there is anger,

**let there be peace.**

Where there is violence,

**let there be peace.**

May God's peace rest on our homes

**and all who live in them.**

**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](mailto: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](http://riponlowerdalesmethodists.org.uk) – [yorkshiremethodist.org](http://yorkshiremethodist.org)