



Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit



September 2022

Herald
Newsletter -
Issue No 33

God of perfect wisdom,
we approach you
acknowledging your holy love
and your perfect intent for our
lives.

We gather to discern,
to hear your voice,
to recognise your Spirit's
leading.

Give us ears to listen, we pray.
Amen.



Reflection from Amanda Milner

So, we're now into September and another Church Year, and how the Summer has flown by. Can you remember when you were a youngster, and how excited you were with the knowledge that 6 weeks of holidays spread out before you and would go on forever? How we wished!! But of course, there was always the excitement of starting a new term, new uniforms were needed, new exercise books, plus pens and pencils etc...

Everything felt so fresh and new; even the school looked different after a coat of paint!!! Many youngsters were going into the Senior Schools, how overwhelmed many must feel on that first day of term. I expect many of you remember getting ready for college or university, or perhaps starting an apprenticeship, or indeed starting your first job. How new everything was.

Being human though, the novelty can wear off, and anything that was new and exciting becomes a drudge or just plain boring. Somehow, we're always looking for that 'something new' or different. We need then, to turn our thoughts in a different direction and look at everyday life situations with new 'eyes'. Have you noticed, when reading from the Bible, you read a passage or verse which you read some time ago, it appears to be fresh and new. That is how we should view our daily lives. Look at our situations in a different light. It's amazing what you will find. You will then see that life is not boring anymore!!

We have all faced challenges at some point in our lives. People react in different ways to challenges. Some folks embrace a good challenge, others are terrified, and others worry until whatever the situation is, is over. Have you ever felt 'out of your comfort zone'? Yes, I should think many of us have. Whatever the challenge is that we are facing, we must

put our trust in Him. Meeting challenges could surprise us on what we can achieve. There's an old saying 'You never know what you can do until you try'. We are living in challenging times; the past two years have been extremely difficult for many. Even now, we are feeling the after-effects of Covid, and numbers are rising again; then we have the cost-of-living crisis, many are worried about facing the winter months, simply because of the high cost of fuel. We are worried about the war in Ukraine; there are also situations that have been going on for years in other countries. There will always be a time when we need to be strong, strong enough to face up to certain events happening. We need not fear though. All we must do is ask our Loving Saviour to be with us and help us, as only He can. – **Blessings Amanda Milner**



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

Message from Revd. Ian Pruden

Kirkby Malzeard Methodist Chapel

It is with deep sadness, after a period of soul searching and honest conversation, that the Church Council at Kirkby have decided to cease to worship in their building at the end of October.

Our congregation now is very small, and we have struggled to find enough people to fill all the roles necessary to keep functioning for some time. We have a serious financial deficit which will only get worse and maintaining our building to be safe will become a problem soon.

A Circuit Meeting is being held on 7 September to obtain Circuit permission to do this and then will be received by District Synod on 10 September.

The final services in our building will be Sunday 30 October 10.30am Harvest Festival, and then a 6.30pm Circuit and Ecumenical Service with Rev Ian Pruden and Rev Susan Richardson. We are still open every Sunday before that, apart from the third Sunday of the month when we are joining Grewelthorpe for worship. We'd love to see you!

It's important that everyone knows that this isn't the end of our story!

We are keen to maintain Methodist presence in the village.

It was decided at the Church Council to investigate closer working with St Andrews. I have a meeting with the vicar in a

few weeks.

The members decided to hold a Village Carol service in the Mechanics Institute on 11th December at 4pm. Discussions were also held as to possible informal worship/ coffee mornings in the Mechanics Institute.

Our minister will continue to support community events and be involved in village life. As I've said already, It is not the end of Kirkby Methodism, we are just moving on from our building and the demands of doing church as we do it now which simply cannot be sustained.

We ask for your prayers and support at this time.

Rev Ian Pruden, on behalf of all the members at Kirkby Malzeard Methodist Chapel.

May Christ be always at your side;
Give you courage for the journey,
And be your goal and your joy.
And may the blessing of God,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**



Rooted in Love

Flourish | 23

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www.yorkshinemethodist.org/flourish23
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Join us at Scarborough Spa for our second Flourish event where we will be exploring the theme "ROOTED IN LOVE" Organised by [Yorkshire North and East Methodist District](#) [Book Tickets Now](#)

The Wallet

In the past the centre for the Methodist Diaconal Order was in Birmingham. It was known as the 'Mother House', previously all members had been female. It was a place much loved and where you could stay or meet. Well, I thought with a smile I'm going to meet 'M'! The group of five of us were candidating for Diaconal Ministry. We were summoned to Birmingham for initial interviews and to meet the Warden and Deputy Warden. All of us were slightly nervous or at least apprehensive. However, we were met by Rowland a congenial Yorkshire man, the Deputy Warden, who put us at ease.

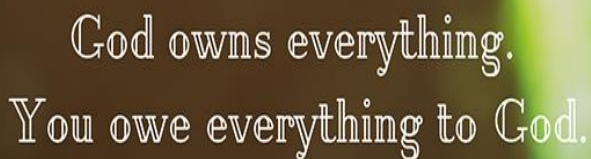
After general conversation over coffee and seated comfortably, Rowland stood up and pulled his wallet out of the back pocket of his trousers. He opened it to show notes and cards inside. Then he asked us, "Whose is this wallet?" There was silence and bemused looks passed round the group. Rowland a Yorkshire man knew I was a Lancashire lad. I'm thinking this is strange, a Yorkshire man, known for care over money, pulling his own wallet out and confused to its provenance? Could it be pressure of work? Gentle concern passed across all faces.

Unanimously we said it's yours. NO! it's not mine it's God's! Everything I have comes from God and so all I have belongs to God. Well before the call of ministry, Rowland had been a Tax Inspector. An amazing call to ministry, a call not so different to Matthew. What did Jesus say about the Denarius? Wow, give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's. It certainly puts a different slant on money. Yes, we need to pay taxes which through the government help those in need. But we need to think carefully what we do with God's money. How do we handle the excess from God's generously? Years later, ordained in ministry as a Deacon, I was

taking someone released from prison to a hostel. He was a vulnerable person and needed, so as to speak, not get lost on route. We were early and stopped at a retail park to get something to eat. Before eating I bought him a cheap mobile and initial sim. He would later need to use the internet to set up an email and organise benefits, then be contactable. Simple things we take for granted, having an address, a bank account, an email address and telephone number. Then the young man said, “thanks but how can I repay you, you’ve bought me food and a phone?” “Wasn’t me,” said I, using a common expression in prison, God paid. Then I shared Rowland’s story and who owned my wallet. Out of curiosity, who owns your wallet and who have you told? - **Deacon David Smith**



THANK YOU



God owns everything.
You owe everything to God.

News From Canada

Our story from Canada this month is written by Rhianne, (my granddaughter), as she is more involved with the sheep flock and the milking side of the farm business than Jayne. She is also in charge of most of the office work and books. She has also included a couple of photographs of the “Open Day” Hope you find the article interesting.

“THEY’RE HERE ALREADY!!!!” Andrew yelled through the house, as he stumbled out of the shower. Posie and I looked at each other. “I’ve got the clipboard Mummy, I’m ready” she said as she looked very seriously at me. Dressed in shorts and her brand-new Collinson Farms t-shirt, she certainly did look ready. Andrew, jumping up and down trying to put his trousers on, did not, so Posie and I decided to leave him to it, while we went to greet the first of our guests.

It was the Ontario Sheep Farmer’s District 1 Sheep Education Day. It was an opportunity for sheep farmers in our area (there’s not that many of them!), to get together at the local agricultural college and eat pizza while learning about sheep. After the lectures there was an hour-long drive to our farm, where Andrew had been asked to host a barn tour and information session on milking sheep.

The district 1 chair had called him several months ago to ask if he was interested in hosting an Open Day. He hummed and hawed for a while. We had only started milking in January, so he didn’t feel qualified for the job. He was still learning himself and he is not comfortable in front of crowds. On the other hand, it was an honour to be asked, and it’s so important to promote all aspects of the sheep industry in any way we can. In the end he agreed; after all, if the main part of The Sheep

Day was being held in the college, the chances of crowds of people driving even further to come to us was minimal, so he figured it would probably be quite a small gathering. It turned out, he was wrong!! We had over 30 people turn up, very eager to see our sheep milking set up. They hadn't spent a lot of time at the other lectures and were here 30 minutes early!! Posie and I had set up the display and the samples and then waited at the front of the barn as the cars, trucks, and ministry vehicles came piling in. They just kept coming!! Eventually everyone arrived, including Andrew, and we were ready to go.

Andrew did an incredible job and had everyone absolutely enthralled. He started with an introduction, both about himself and the farm. Then talked about how we got into milking sheep in the first place. He then took everyone into the parlour, and up into the barn to see the sheep themselves. There were so many questions, and all the guests were fascinated by the process.

Interestingly, the lady who seemed the most enthusiastic turned out to be from "The Ministry"!!!!

A company called Red Dragon Dairy had provided us with samples of their cheese curds, so that everyone could see and taste exactly what was produced from the milk. Almost everyone was surprised by how much they enjoyed them, and how smooth the taste was. We had also put up a display showing the farm through the last few years, which many



people appreciated!

One of my personal favourite moments was at the beginning. Posie and I had moved to the back of the crowd to take photos, and she noticed that everyone was wearing plastic coverings for their shoes and having never seen this before, she asked about it. Later, she angrily whispered to me that one of the men wasn't wearing the plastic foot covering. I had a quick look round before smiling and asked her if she didn't recognise **Uncle Dan**??

Overall, it was a really good experience, and if asked, we would do it again. Just next time, we would make sure we were ready earlier!!

What an amazing day it had been. I can see why so many people attended----It is not often that one gets the chance to look round a farm where sheep are being milked. Folk are always interested to see how other similar businesses are run (especially farmers!!). I'm sure I would have liked to have been there.



Kathy's Corner

Make do and mend.

How did you enjoy the heatwaves we have experienced lately? A bit too warm for many, especially if you must work outdoors in it. It made for unpleasant working conditions – as I know. My husband decided both hot weeks would be the perfect time for outdoor working!

As the first heatwave started, we were repainting doors and window frames on our outbuilding. Once Malcolm starts something, he must continue until it is completed, so I had to grin and bear the heat.

By the second heatwave we had finished the outbuilding, repainted the shed by our pond and were looking at the bottom of the garden. This was more of a challenge. It was our pigeon loft, comprising 4 separate sections for birds, plus an aviary for the stock (breeding) birds to exercise in. The birds have long since gone, and the loft is now a storage area, that has gradually deteriorated to the point - I said it should be pulled down before it fell down completely!

Malcolm didn't like the idea of that and chatting to son-in-law (who normally erects half-timbered steel barns) the pair decided it could be repaired. So, Gordon has rebuilt the rotten timber floor and framework to attach Perspex to make it secure again, then we set on to paint all the timber at the back and one side.

As the heatwave started, we just had the aviary to face. The back wood panel had rotted away, causing it to collapse at the back corner. I said, "Pull it down", but Malcolm has a make do and mend attitude – and he's very good at recycling! "I bet I've got enough plywood and timber lengths to redo it all" he says. And indeed, he had, hidden inside the pigeon loft! There was a major problem though – Malcolm has severe arthritis. He managed using the saw, but a screwdriver was far too painful,

so guess who a dab hand at is now putting screws in! I must say, we have done a good job, and the apple tree cast a perfect shadow to sit under to rest on regular breaks as we kept drinking fluids. Malcolm is really pleased as we had everything we needed – it hasn't cost him any money. He even found hinges and bolts to make a new door into the aviary. The only expense was bottles of pop to keep us hydrated!

I wonder if you like to reuse or recycle things – perhaps not on the scale we just have, though.

I'm now waiting for our granddaughter to suggest we keep chickens like she does! – **Every Blessing Kathy Lowrie**



News from our “Roving Reporters” from around the Circuit

Bedale & District - What a wonderful Songs of Praise Service we had last month! Our hymns were chosen by members of our congregation, and we were beautifully accompanied by "Earl Grey". For those who were unable to attend or simply wish to participate again in the act of worship, the Live-Stream is still available on our YouTube Channel: Bedale Methodists...



We also had an absolute fabulous time we had at Lego Journeys a couple of weeks ago. We may have been small in numbers, but two little girls told the whole story of Joseph using Lego, and we even managed to build the large tree that grew from the mustard seed with the birds of the air living in the nest. - Those two girls certainly taught us this afternoon that Jesus teaches that although the Kingdom of God started small, with Jesus and the disciples, it would grow and spread across the world to unlimited numbers of followers...

Finghall - There's not a lot to report from Finghall this month. Arrangements are under way for the transference of the chairs from our building to another Chapel in the circuit, where we are sure they will be welcomed.

We said our final farewells to Keith Loadman at his funeral service on the 5th of August that was well attended and held at Hunton Methodist Church. Keith was a regular worshipper and a strong supporter of all we did in the Chapel and in the area and will be much missed.

For a variety of reasons our home group has had a hesitant start, not the least of these being that Deacon Nigel who was taking the lead for us and had just arranged for a second meeting when he was suddenly whisked away to serve elsewhere. There have also been the summer holidays to contend with, especially as this roving reporter tends to rove a lot. (The Lakes this time).

However, we are to hold a fellowship coffee morning at home on the 18th and hopefully arrange for future home group meetings where we can continue the theme of rebuilding using the book of Nehemiah that Nigel started.

Now that's a thought, Coffee with Nehemiah!

Apparently, Nehemiah used to go camping as well. In Chapter 8 it describes the Festival of Shelters when all the people had to build temporary shelters to live in for a week!

Table Tennis - Did you know that it said in The Times recently that table tennis is the best exercise both mentally and physically and Hackforth Village Hall runs a Table Tennis Club.

The new season starts in September and meets every Monday evening at 6-30pm at a cost of £3. Age is no limit; come and have a game you are very welcome.

Telephone. - Nick Jones, 07749117781 or Betty Burke 07721071064

Grewelthorpe - At our recent council meeting we joined with Ian Pruden in remembering Revd. Elizabeth Clark, whom without her tireless work our LEP would not have existed. We also reflected on her fruitful life and her strong rural connections.

Our monthly G Club continues, with a consistently good turnout. This remains a popular monthly event, with children of primary age exploring biblical themes through fun activities. 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. We were thrilled with the response to our live Music by the Pond in August. The marquees went up, delicious food was served, music was heard, and the community spirit was very much in evidence. We are always so very grateful how people support the church and its events.

By the time that you read this we will have already held our annual Collectors, craft and Bric-a-Brac event in Masham Town Hall. A very big thank you to all those that gave their time to make this event what it is, and of course those that visited.

We are opening our doors on Saturday, 10th September 10-4pm as part of the Yorkshire Churches Day. There will be tea and cakes served, with some history of our church and activities for children. You may be interested in finding out more about our LEP. Please visit and come and say hello if you can.

Masham - Saturday September 3rd 2022, It's the monthly fund raising Coffee Morning, with all the usual stalls. Bric a Brac - knitwear - Cards - Home produce and marmalade.

AT THE SAME TIME - SAME DATE - The Chapel will be open for a very special Gift Day. Please come and see all the different things we have on view. Refreshments available.

West Tanfield - We have had a lot going on in the sporting world this summer starting with Wimbledon then the ladies football followed by the commonwealth games and now the European games. The BBC have done a wonderful job of broadcasting many of the events and I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the many different sports. I found the commonwealth games particularly inspiring. Everyone seemed to be so happy and positive. It was good to see the disabled athletes competing at the same time and to have so many people watching and cheering them on and wasn't Ellie Symonds so wonderful so well informed and talented. We heard time and time again how many injuries disappointments and setbacks the athletes had had over years of training, but they had kept going always looking to find a way to achieve and get a medal.

We have much to learn from them. I am sure sometimes they have had to look to new ways of doing things not getting into a rut and having people around them to inspire them and motivate them. We need that too as Christians.

Let us pray that with Gods help and with his spirit we can run the Christian race passing on the baton to the next generation and jumping over all the hurdles put in front of us with enthusiasm and a smile on our faces.

Snape - In July we were delighted that we could have the first holiday club since Covid.

Last year we were able to have a family morning on the green, but this year we had 3 mornings, following the Scripture Union booklet, Wonder Zone. This helped us discover Gods wonderful world. During the morning as well as the children all enjoying being together, and singing, biblical stories, etc, they all went to a Craft, a Science, and a Games section each. Children came from a wide area, but really entered into it well. As a church we are focussing a lot on Prayer. This has been

on our hearts a long time. Now we have a prayer station in Chapel, open to anyone passing by, for Ukraine. We also have a prayer station, that people are using daily, praying for us as a church, a church family, and a witness. This is being used daily at the moment. We also meet every Monday evening to pray. These are lovely times, and our prayers are very varied, and for all sorts of situations near and far. Please feel free to ask if there is something specific that you would like us to pray for.

High Ellington - As the summer draws on its time to start a new church year but this time of year also heralds a few new year's. My daughters start a new school year, for our youngest we hope for a year uninterrupted by covid which she has yet to encounter as her first 2 years have been a little fragmented, also on the farm the new year starts we gather the harvest and have our harvest thanksgiving but at the same time we save some grain to put back in the ground in autumn for the next crop. All these new year's begin with a clean slate and full of promise

Another new start is encountered by students heading off to university, new cities, new friends sometimes a new field of study we pray for their safety and smooth transition every Sunday not just the weekend they go. It also can be tough on parents who may also need prayer.

I ask you all to pray for the community around Masham, as recently a tragic accident took the lives of three young men. Children and young adults can have difficulty processing a loss. We have struggled with how to cover the subject with our family as we have connections with the lads. Now they are back to school I am sure the questions will keep coming.

Finally, back to a positive the Harvest Festival season will be here soon, chance to sing our praises loudly, enjoy food and fellowship and see our chapels decorated (I love harvest festivals, can you tell?)

and hear the word interpreted by speakers you don't usually hear. Enjoy the celebration

Carthorpe - Where has this year gone!

At Carthorpe we have just completed the programme for our Tuesday Get Together which anyone who would like to join us on the first Tuesday in the month is very welcome, there is a programme for it on the notice board in Bedale and District Church Foyer.

The first meeting is September 6th at 2pm, then the following morning, Wednesday 7th we are having a coffee morning and cake stall for Tuesday Get Together, that's at 10am, we would love to have you join us.

We are sad to be losing Moira from our congregation. Moira has been living at Kirklington, but feels the need for a smaller house, we will miss her very much, a lovely friend and very helpful member of our Church family.

Harrogate Road - In July we hosted Nigel and Janes' leaving service. It was supported by many friends from other churches. What a joy to have a full church and the volume of sound with the hymns. As usual Leslie Newton had a lovely way of expressing himself in his sermon. The following bring and share tea was a good opportunity to be with friends we don't see too often.

The following day (Sun) we shared communion with our friends from AHG led by Rev. Ian. A busy weekend.

Our coffee mornings on the first Friday each month (10 to noon approx.) are usually loyally supported by AHG and friends from the local community. The latter actually 'did' the last event themselves. We do not charge but people are generous with donations and the first £200 will shortly be shared by the Ukrainian and Save the Children funds.

We have been selected as having suitable premises to receive a grant for solar panels on the church roof and look forward to taking this project forward asap. This adds to our efforts to go green on energy and follows our fitting of double glazing to the main hall and nursery windows.

More members are slowly returning following absence due to covid, and a new flowers rota started to help in making our premises a welcoming place to be. **God bless,**

a prayer of thanks

FOR MY CIRCUIT

Dear Father,
Today I thank you for my circuit.
While some might think
Of doors and windows,
I'm praising you
For spirits and hearts.
The people whose lives you've intersected
Are remarkable through your grace.
I can't praise you enough
For the unique way
You've blended the talents of individuals
Into beautiful masterpieces of joy.
May we love one another to the fullest
And by evidence of your ultimate love
To advance the work of your kingdom.
Amen.

Prayer Page

Lord of light and goodness,
we worship you, beautiful one.
We delight in your ways,
and we long to know you more deeply,
to give you all our praise.

Amen.

O God, for the times
when we have closed our eyes to what is good for us,
behaved in ways that dishonour who we were made to be
and ignored the value you have given us –
forgive us for these choices,
for treating others and ourselves badly
and, in doing so, mistreating you.
Restore us to peace and clarity,
help us to re-assess where we are going;
open our minds to new ways of thinking
and our hearts to your gentle leading.
Where we have rushed ahead, unprepared,
grant us renewed wisdom,
a healthy view of ourselves
and a place to pause to right ourselves,
so that we can be ready to follow you.
In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Saviour, we know you hear us;
you assure us of your love.
Your arms are open to us –
our wounded hearts, confused thoughts and stumbling steps.
Thank you for being ready to embrace us,
to set us up right where we have fallen.

Help us to go forward in freedom and faith.

Amen.

Thank you, O God, for your guidance and love,
for your presence embedded in our lives
through your Holy Spirit.

Thank you that you offer us counsel.

We thank you for your blessings
and for the hope you give us.

Thank you for choosing to walk beside us
and for being with us
on every pathway and all terrain,
as we go through our lives.

Amen.

We pray for a world where slavery still exists:

for all those forced to work for the merest subsistence to keep
them alive;

for those trafficked to satisfy the lusts or economic desires of
others.

We remember, too, those whose slavery might not be
apparent:

those trapped in abusive relationships;

those kept in deprivation and degradation so they cannot
escape.

Lord, let there be justice for these people,
and enable us to play our part.

May we be voices where people have none,

and support them when their prison walls are breached.

May we be people unafraid to speak out,

and to step out, in the name of justice.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, we want to follow you,
but we are pulled in many directions.
As we go from this place,
help us to root ourselves in your word.
Give us the courage to speak truth to
injustice,
that your kingdom may come
and your will be done.
Amen.



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Prayer Commitment by the Circuit Meeting:

- Pray our country's MPs and government, for clarity of thinking, wisdom, and honesty at this time of change.
- Pray for Bishop Monkton and Boroughbridge as they work to implement change in their buildings and their communities.
- Pray for Afghanistan, for peace, provision for the poor and equality for all. Pray for all the aid agencies seeking to work in difficult of situations.



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Newsletter

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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