



Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit



October 2022

Herald
Newsletter -
Issue No 34

**Lord Jesus, you welcomed
strangers and ate with
sinners.**

**You called outcasts to
follow you and gave your
own life for us all.**

**Give us brave and loving
hearts
so we may serve like you.**



A belated but sincere thank you.

As the autumn colours begin to burst forth upon the trees, it reminds us that the seasons and life keep moving and waits for no one. I was unfortunate to have caught covid last month and whilst I was symptomatic, I was also frustrated to be missing services, including the circuit gathering for the recognition of Mr Richard Clark's fifty years local preacher's long service. I offer my congratulations to Richard for this achievement and add my thanks for how Richard lives out his ministry with such faithful dedication.

My belated but sincere thank you is for all those who have gone the extra miles during my sabbatical leave. I am thankful to Revd Ian for his diligence in taking on being acting superintendent. I am thankful to Local Pastor Catherine Clowes for taking on more and supporting the churches. I am thankful to the Supernumerary ministers who generously gave their time to support the circuit and care for families by taking extra services. I am thankful to all our faithfully dedicated local preachers and worship leaders who took extra appointments to ensure churches were well served. For all those who I have mentioned and everyone else who took on more and gave extra to help during the time I was on sabbatical, please accept my grateful thanks.

Last month we joined with the nation in sharing a time of national mourning for her late majesty Queen Elizabeth II and joined with billions of people in sharing the state funeral service. It was a time when we witnessed continuous accounts being given to how the Queen's Christian faith impacted how she performed her Royal duties. We too had a more personal bereavement as a circuit family, upon receiving the sad news of the death of Elisabeth Hogerzeil. I had the privilege of being able to visit Elisabeth in hospital the week before she died. When I entered her room, Elisabeth greeted me with a smile,

and she was radiant with the love of God. We spoke together and Elisabeth shared with me her calling and how she began her ministry in the office of a local preacher. I left Elisabeth giving thanks to God for her faithful devotion and recognising that which so many have experienced, that I had been blessed by her heart to share the love of God. We will continue to hold Elisabeth's family in prayer and as we recognise in trust that Elisabeth is now home with God in glory, may we too continue with the same heart to always share the love of God.

It will not surprise you to hear of how encouraging and supportive Elisabeth was towards the Mission and Ministries gathering. When I introduced this gathering into the circuit, Elisabeth took the time to phone and thank me for this, impressing the value of what such a gathering can offer into enriching, supporting, and challenging the circuit of churches in their life, witness, and ministry. I mention this here because we are continually called to be God's church in a world continually in need of God's grace and salvation through Jesus Christ. Please be encouraged to make best use of the opportunities that the mission and ministries gatherings provide but let us carry this beyond the circuit gatherings to find traction in our local churches and communities.

Finally, please can I call us all to pray for the circuit throughout this coming year. We will be seeing a change within the staff team as both Pip Smith and Diane Gaskill retire. Please pray for Pip and Diane at this significant time of change. Please pray too for the recruitment of a new circuit administrator and for the recruitment of a local pastor. Please pray for those within our circuit of churches, remembering those who serve as stewards, worship leaders and local preachers. Also, let us continue in prayer for Melmerby, Finghall and Kirkby Malzeard who will be continuing to be a Christian Methodist presence within their local communities in new spaces. And please pray for all our circuit of churches to be brave spaces that draw upon God's strength to respond to how the Holy Spirit is

inspiring us to grow in love and how we serve the Lord.
Be assured of my prayers for everyone in the circuit, as I give thanks to God for you.

Grace and peace, - **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 November's Edition is Friday 21 October 2022. Thank You – **Amanda Milner (Editor)**

Message from Revd. Ian Pruden

It isn't often we live through events which will be remembered in history which will be spoken of long after we have left this earth.

Prior to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, I guess I had lived through two such events. The first was the death of Diana, Princess of Wales in 1997, and the second was 9/11 in 2001. Both events made us stop and think deeply about what had happened and now we might react to shattering news that would change life forever.

The passing of Queen Elizabeth II has seen us share in a sense of communal loss. We've worshipped together, cried together, shared stories together, watched pageantry together and we've had to stop and take in that someone who has always been there in our lives has now slipped into history. I think I will remember several things observing the transition of constitutional monarchy and how we've reacted to a Queen dying we never wanted to go.

First, the importance of worship, prayer and silence at a time of grief.

After the Queen passed away, I went into the cathedral and lit a candle and said a prayer with someone who was in tears.

We just stood together, stunned we were in uncharted waters. I remember emailing my Anglican colleague in Boroughbridge saying “help, have you got any prayers?”

It was really good to return to the cathedral later that evening for a hastily arranged compline. I gathered the Circuit together on the Sunday after the Queen’s passing and over seventy of us shared a quiet service of reflection, then a week after her passing I shared in a service in the Anglican Church in Boroughbridge which was extremely powerful in its simplicity. We lit candles as a violinist played. It was good a lot of younger people were there. Then on the night before her funeral, after another Circuit Service we shared a minute’s silence together and then left the church in silence. That was extremely powerful.

Then the funeral itself, remember, was a Christian act of worship. I hadn’t realised we would share in two parts of it, one in Westminster Abbey and one in Windsor. The liturgy was comfortably ancient. I was reminded as I watched the two services the promises of God are timeless and eternal. As we’ve worshipped and prayed in these days, we’ve remembered a sovereign who put worship and prayer first. As the Archbishop of Canterbury reminded us she first prayed silently at the high altar in the Abbey prior to her coronation putting service to God before service to others.



Then secondly, I think the events around the passing of the Queen have brought death into the public arena. Maybe we have domesticated death in the modern age. The Victorians took it more seriously with black clothes and periods of mourning maybe. I've not lived through a time of national mourning before. It's been really interesting having people stop and want to talk about what they have been feeling. It's happened to me in coffee shops and even in men's loos! A man said to me "I'm not religious but this has really got to me." We've learnt again that death is part of life. Yes, we believe in resurrection and eternal life, but first we have to go through death.

The funeral marches played as the late Queen was processed through the streets were sombre, but we needed them to be. Death is real. We have to face it. The good news comes but first we have to remember we are dust and to dust we shall return — and that's hard. And it's okay and good to admit that. As the late Queen write to President George W Bush after 9/11 "grief is the price we pay for love."

Then finally living through these days we've been part of history. We will never see a long reign like Queen Elizabeth's again.

I found the process of accession really interesting. The new King permitted previously private things to be opened up for us to share them. It was good on the Sunday after the Queen's passing to stand on the market square and listen to words proclaiming the new King from the balcony of the town hall. It was hard to sing "God save our gracious King" for the first time.

Then on the day before the Queen's funeral, I was glad to represent the Methodist Church at a service in the cathedral. I was really conscious we were mourning and marking change. And I guess it hit me most when we saw her coffin being lowered into the vault at Windsor and the wand of office broken in two, signifying the second Elizabethan Age was at an end.

One of the news reporters on the night of the funeral suggested we are mourning not just a person but an ideal. Queen Elizabeth taught us the joy of service, duty and dignity. She brought this country together - think about the Platinum Jubilee a few months ago and strangers becoming friends waiting for hours to see her lying in state.

I pray in changing times, we might hold on to the faith our late Queen lived by, we might keep supporting each other and we might pray for King Charles III as he adapts to a new life. On the day after her death, he said hers was a life well lived. If we

show in our lives just a little of what she lived her life by, her reign will have not been in vain.

Where do you belong in Queen Elizabeth's story? And God's story?

The peaceful death of Her Majesty the Queen on the 8 September 2022 has stirred many deep feelings. As the world's longest-serving Head of State, the stability she embodied will be missed by other national leaders, not least in the Commonwealth. Her absence from the life and culture of the United Kingdom, from her annual Christmas message and Maundy Thursday ceremony to the Royal Variety Performance and her image on coins and stamps, will take considerable adjustment for many. We should remember, however, that in addition to her innumerable public roles, the Queen died a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and offer our prayers for her family as we would for any others experiencing bereavement; may they find the comfort and consolation they need in this time of grief and loss.

'Family does not necessarily mean blood relatives but often a description of a community, organisation or nation.' (*Queen Elizabeth II*) In recent days, our country, and indeed the world, has been struck by the news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. During her coronation in 1953, Elizabeth promised to serve her country and God until her dying day, and indeed she did just that. In Luke 16.1-8, Jesus explains how, if we can be trusted with small things, we can be trusted with larger things. Our late Queen has been an exemplary leader – having been entrusted with plentiful resources, she used them faithfully to help build up communities, support charities and serve others. Although we may not have the wealth of the British royal family, how can we show that we can faithfully use the things that we

have been given? The Queen was generous in her charitable giving, but perhaps the biggest impact she had on the smaller communities was her giving of time too. Is this something which we could explore - how to use the time given to us to glorify God? In the coming days why not challenge yourself to explore further the work the Queen undertook whilst being trusted with her role as Britain's head of state? Is there anything which inspires us to imitate her actions so we can build up and look after your own community too?

Many people are remarking how they felt as if the Queen was a member of their family, and it is easy to understand why. The Queen was genuinely interested in people and took time to speak to them. Over 70 years of faithful service she upheld values such as dignity, integrity and respect and many other admirable qualities. I sense that for many families Christmas won't feel the same without the Queen's Speech; not only did it provide an opportunity to reflect on what had gone before, but of course, the Queen didn't miss the chance to share her Christian faith and values with the nation.



This large image is made of many smaller ones, each of which has its own story to tell. Where do you belong in Queen Elizabeth's story? And God's story?

Just last year, in her address to General Synod, the Queen wrote, ‘None of us can slow the passage of time; and while we often focus on all that has changed in the intervening years, much remains unchanged, including the Gospel of Christ and his teachings.’

We might be tempted to ‘Stop all the clocks’ and ‘cut off the telephone’ but we must not lose sight of the hope of the Gospel. As we mourn, I thank God that the Queen chose to serve her country and its people so faithfully and I pray for King Charles and the Royal Family as they adapt to this new season. – **Blessings Amanda Milner**

News From Canada

Well, here we are again folks three quarters of the way through the year already. How time flies. I hope that you have all enjoyed learning a little about farming life in Canada. This month we are going to catch up with Jayne and Marc’s Autumn jobs and activities as they prepare the farm for the winter.

I can’t believe it’s the beginning of September already and in true farming fashion, “we’ve got nothing done!” Not true really, but the pile of jobs that need doing never seems to get any smaller!

It’s been a very hot, humid summer. Whereas I don’t like to complain about the heat, as it gets cold enough in winter, I would prefer a little less humidity. Even though it’s September now, the heat and humidity are still with us. I certainly wouldn’t cope living in the jungle!

On saying all that, I am living with a bunch of relatively happy farmers! Very hard to believe, I know, but true. They’ve had a relatively successful summer and have managed to complete a number of the larger projects.

We are rather unique over here as we do all our building and construction work ourselves. For the most part, Canadian farmers either don't do any and the farm stays the same year on year, or they get the builders in and build the same shed as everyone else! Very unimaginative, in my opinion!

Chris set a cracking pace and wanted all the cattle handling pens concreting first. He was tired of plodding around in a foot of muck and mud, which only got deeper each time they were used. He'd also worked his way through a large number of pairs of wellies, which was getting expensive. That was quite a major job, but due to a long period of dry weather, him, Marc and Dan completed it in good time. They make a formidable team and I could probably make some good money hiring them out! Next, was building a foot bath. Chris has had a number of issues with lameness in the cattle and was desperate to rectify this. Apart from a slight hiccup, when they couldn't remember where they'd laid the water pipes (and they all thought it was somewhere different) this went quite well. Dan spent a long time working out the levels and the slopes, so it could be drained at one end. It has been used a number of times now and Chris is very happy.

They have now made a start on concreting the main yard, to make life easier for Andrew's truck to travel. This will be ongoing for the foreseeable future as we have a very large yard.

The final project they are working on is Chris's new stables for his American Quarter horses, Holly and Cutter. He is using entirely recycled materials, as the cost of new is ridiculous. So far, they have the foundations, the uprights and the roof. Marc and Chris are now going to start the backbreaking job of "block walling", using 8" concrete blocks to build the walls. Marc has laid thousands over the years, but not many in recent years. We will see how his back holds up!

On a totally different note, entirely, Andrew brought back our first boxes of biscuit waste for the cattle.

As in the UK, inflation over here is going through the roof and this extends to animal feed too. In an attempt to reduce costs, Marc contacted a local biscuit factory to find out what they did with the waste biscuits. As luck would have it, they were looking for someone to remove it, so he promptly said we'd do it. In true Marc fashion, he did the deal, made the promise, then came home to try and sort out how we were actually going to do it. This approach can sometimes cause problems with the other members of the team, who like to have some idea what they're doing before agreeing a deal. Anyway, a flat bed trailer was purchased with curtain sides for Andrew's transport truck, as was a large number of plastic boxes. The boxes were lined with plastic, loaded onto the trailer and duly delivered to the factory.

Two weeks later they have returned full of broken gingerbread. Apparently, the factory are producing gingerbread houses for Walmart for Christmas and these ones aren't up to scratch. Having been tipped into the feed store in a big pile, the gingerbread is loaded with the loader into the feeder wagon with all the other ingredients and fed to the cattle. So far, so good! We have some very happy cattle!

Thanks again Jayne-----How very unusual that Canadian farmers do not do their own building and construction work. It must be very satisfying, showing them true British Ingenuity. Also "Plodding around in a foot of muck" is no fun. Well done Chris and the team for tackling the concreting job. What a clever idea of Marc's to think of waste ginger biscuits----No wonder the cattle are happy. Let's hope that they put on plenty of weight too.

Kathy's Corner

Standing in Kathy's corner of the garden (too damp to sit), on Friday 9th September, looking at the state of our pond and garden, was enough to depress me, without considering that the world had just taken another almighty jerk. I felt like shouting, "Stop this planet turning, and let me get off!" Surely, we have gone through enough. A pandemic, a war in Ukraine that is affecting whole world economy, weeks of frustration as Conservatives decide who's best placed to lead as Prime Minister – did it really need 7 weeks, when so many people were worried about their finances? And then came the image of a frail, elderly lady saying goodbye to her 14th PM and welcoming her 15th, followed by news that her health was failing. Most of us guessed she was dying, but even so, it was a shock when the announcement came.

By the time you read this, our wonderful Servant Queen will have been laid to rest, and we'll be getting used to saying King Charles III. But I will never forget the date Queen Elizabeth died – it was our Wedding Anniversary. The planned lunch out had already been cancelled, as our Doctor wanted to see Malcolm in person (that's a rare occurrence still, isn't it?), so we were glued to the TV from late afternoon. I was thankful it was the online District evening prayers, led by Rev Leslie Newton at 6.30pm. The announcement came just as he started, and he was able to collect his thoughts quickly and lead us in prayer.

Friday morning, at 8am, I joined the online prayers of the Nidd Valley Circuit, as I usually do, and found Leslie Newton leading those prayers – he'd had a few hours to consider how to help us at this difficult time, but it was Rev Ruth Parry's comment that drew my tears. "Pray for EH, who typically, quietly left by the back door, as we were all focussed on the front" . Ruth could only be speaking of our dear friend

Elisabeth Hogerzeil, who's friendship I have treasured. She was so supportive as I travelled the route to be a Local Preacher – gentle encouragement in a letter arrived every time she heard me preach during my training. Elizabeth and Elisabeth, ladies of great faith, both with radiant smiles. I pictured them walking the stairway to heaven together – and having a good chat!

As many have said: Rest in peace, good and gentle servant. They have both received their reward from God - eternal love, and thanks for a job well done.

What an example to follow. - **Every Blessing Kathy Lowrie**



A short sabbatical reflection by Revd Gareth Baron

Jerusalem and the Holy Land, Rome and Assisi in Italy, Lourdes in France, and the Way of Saint James in Spain are but a few of the famed pilgrimaged sites and routes around the world, with those closer to home such as Iona and Lindisfarne (Holy Island). All these locations are deep rooted in history and alive with inspirational stories of the faithful Christians who encountered Our loving God in widely significant ways. Of course, those who visit the Holy Land, tread where Our Saviour Jesus Christ once trod. Whilst I appreciate the wonderful and spectacular significance of such places and the very real sense of experiencing something of God's presence, for many Christians they remain distant lands which are unreachable due to financial or other constraints.

I have been fortunate enough to visit Lindisfarne (Holy Island) on two occasions, first whilst visiting friends in Northumberland and the second whilst training for ministry in Durham. Such pilgrimage places in the United Kingdom are more accessible for obvious reasons, but have pilgrimages become a pursuit of God which is only for those who can afford it? If we expand our understanding of pilgrimage, then the answer is no. I recently spoke about pilgrimage put simply as being open to God and when we introduce this approach with the theological stance of God's omnipresence, that God's knowledge, power, and presence extends everywhere, then everywhere holds the potential to discover God within it. It was from this belief that I spent my sabbatical time exploring through practice pilgrimage done locally.

The Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit is privileged to sit in one of the most beautiful parts of the earth and I felt blessed to be embarking on pilgrimage walks out and about in this area.

Some of the pilgrimage walks were familiar routes and others I walked for the first time. It was a time of discovery and rediscovery; it was space to breathe deep in the presence of God through prayer, scripture, and reflection. I was able to spend time without having to hurry into the next appointment of the day and importantly I was able to be open to God from my personal self. One of the things I sort to discover was a rhythm set by seeking Our Father's heartbeat. A heartbeat of love, mercy, and grace.

My first pilgrim walk was to Jervaulx Abbey. As I entered the grounds around the abbey, I was struck by all the sheep with their lambs scattered in the grounds. Seeing sheep in North Yorkshire is no surprise, but on this occasion, God was showing me something as a shepherd in the Methodist Church. It was a vivid reminder for getting out into the places where the sheep are to be found. Whilst the Abbey ruins continue to offer a space for people to visit and reflect, the sheep had been put out to pasture, finding sustenance in the fields they filled. I became mindful again of the need to seek the lost sheep, that this kind of seeking is an active looking with a purpose of finding the lost sheep. This first pilgrim walk inspired me to pay attention to noticing God beyond the walls of the church and informed my reflecting on other pilgrim walks.

I have been able to share my sabbatical reflections on two occasions since returning into circuit ministry. I will be looking for further opportunities to share my talk and would welcome all who might be interested in attending. I have been encouraged by the interactions and feedback from those who attended the first two talks. It has certainly set off new sparks of enthusiasm for engaging in pilgrimage and living out our Christian faith in theologically reflective and practical ways.



News from our “Roving Reporters” from around the Circuit

Carthorpe - We began the month with our quarterly services at Melmerby Village Hall which we have had since Melmerby joined us.

As usual it was organised by John Foster who interviewed our new vicar Rev James Gwyn-Thomas. It was a very interesting and rewarding evening. There was a good congregation from the local area, it is hoped to have one each quarter.

Tuesday Get Together started on the first Tuesday when we welcomed new members from Tanfield and Bedale.

We heard a report from Rev Gareth Baron on his Sabbatical and had a very happy afternoon.

Our next meeting is 4th October when we meet at Carthorpe at 1pm for our annual afternoon out, all very welcome.

Our Harvest Festival is Sunday 2nd October at 3pm when Rev James will lead it. Do come and join us if you can.

West Tanfield - What a wonderful example the late Queen has been to us all. Even as a child during the Second World War she spoke over the radio to the children every night. At her coronation she promised to serve us all and was a great evangelist speaking about her faith at every opportunity.

The courage of members of her family to allow television to show their grief has touched all our hearts and now we move on. At West Tanfield we plan to hold a coffee morning on the first Saturday of the month and have booked the High Side singers to give a Christmas Concert on Friday December 9th.

Masham - Chapel would like to thank all our supporters for their help and donations. We were very unsure about our Gift Day on 3rd September. A lot of prayer went into it as, (like a lot of Chapels now) we needed the cash.

Well, we did quite well that weekend, and we were happy with the donations, BUT - afterwards donations were still trickling in. We are expecting the final total to be over £5,000!!! Thank you everyone and thank you Lord.

ANOTHER FUNDRAISER - Our annual earner. **MASHAM SHEEP FAIR** – 24th -25th September. We are trying to stay confident, as its 2 years since we've done our catering, due to covid. This is for the public and 32 judges each day. Soup, Sandwiches, cakes, tea/coffee. The other reason it's different this year is for genuine reasons; we just don't have the same numbers to help. We've even got the Scouts and Guides coming to help us!! Will let you know how it went. What keeps us going that weekend is it's also our **HARVEST FESTIVAL**, and we really enjoy decorating the Chapel and giving praise. **REMINDER – COFFEE** – 1st October 10.30-12noon. - Our usual coffee morning, with lots of stalls. Hope to see you.

Allhallowgate - It has to be said that September was a busy month at Allhallowgate starting with a **BANG** on the 1st as we welcomed people with financial struggles to come and have a full meal with us. 24 people came, comprising of all age family groups. There was plenty to go around and 'take away' meals were also supplied. This time our guests didn't wait outside until they could enter as one large group but felt confident enough to simply come in independently and were happy to sit and chat with us until everyone had arrived and we could start the feast. They were much more relaxed, and we laughed at the fact that they had come prepared this time with boxes and bags to carry food home in. We hope to repeat the event in the near future.

The central position of our building makes it a great venue to offer a 'Warm, Safe Place in Winter' and arrangements to work with other Churches on this scheme are underway. This joint approach gives flexibility on available spaces at different

times and should work well.

Harvest is always a busy time and, as with all Churches in the circuit, decorating the building with produce and singing those wonderful harvest hymns gives us a sense of thankfulness and pleasure. There is always the added value of taking produce to the Community House food bank where supplies are always needed. This year I had reason to share harvest lunch at a circuit church other than Allhallowgate but the sense of family and sharing felt exactly the same. It's such a blessing to know that our Church family really is 'extended' to wherever we are.

Meanwhile all of our social/interest groups are back in full swing, and it is good to see that those initiated by Allhallowgate, such as indoor bowls and the Tuesday afternoon club are attracting members who do not attend church services but are becoming increasingly involved with our activities. One person who started coming to the busy coffee morning is now coming to our worship services and it's good to know that outreach by friendship is alive and well. Friday October 28th is the date for our next Barbershop Chorus concert, along with the ukulele group and our super pianist Errol who travels up from London to support us in this event each time. Funds raised will be given to 'Noreen's Kids, based in Romania and caring for severely mentally and physically impaired children. It is one of 2 charities that Allhallowgate supports, and the concert is always enjoyed. Upwards and onwards

Snape - Over the past few sad weeks we have taken time to remember the Royal family and give thanks for our wonderful Queen Elizabeth, as we also have prayed for King Charles. We also watched and listened to the song, written in memory of the Queen, and sung by Katherine Jenkins, it was beautiful.

As we look towards facing a harsh cold winter of rising bills, we are working as a church, together with the institute to offer a warmer space and social afternoon.

The plans aren't finalised yet, but we are hoping that they will shortly all come together.

The after school fortnightly Sunshine Corner club has started again for all primary school age children. If any children need any information, please speak to Elaine or Joy.

The weekly Under 5's group has started again each Wednesday morning from 10-11.30am for any children, from babies to school age, with either of their parents, grandparents or carers etc. If you know of anyone who may appreciate coming along to this group, please pass this info on or ask for a flier.

High Ellington - With the night's drawing in, the weather becoming cooler and the leaves beginning to turn yellow it is clear that autumn is upon us. With autumn comes Ellington chapel's harvest festival that is a highlight of the year for many. This year our Sunday service is on the 9th October at 2pm. Ellington chapel also hold a Wednesday evening harvest service to auction off all of the fantastic offerings people have kindly given. There is a large selection of things from fruit and vegetables, tinned goods, chocolate and sweets and flowers. This evening service will be on the 12th October at 7:15 with a fantastic supper afterwards. We would love to see all of you there to help us celebrate and give thanks for the harvest.

Grewelthorpe - At our recent council meeting we remembered Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In church we provided a book of condolence for people to come and sign and to pay their respects. This remained in church until after Her Majesty's funeral on September 19th.

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. Our Harvest activities will soon be under way, with our Harvest Festival being held on Sunday, 9th October at 10.30pm. Our village school children will join us. Also on Tuesday, 11th October at 7pm we will be holding our Methodist Harvest Thanksgiving service, Supper, and Sale. Rev Ian Pruden will be leading the service and will be joined by Mr Norman Clark the widower of Rev. Elizabeth Clark, who passed away recently. We will be thrilled to welcome him to our service, as we know how much Grewelthorpe church meant to Elizabeth. We hope that people will come and join us and support Norman at this time.

Collections for both these services will be divided between church funds and the Ukrainian Appeal.

Finghall - Where is the Church.?

So, Kirby Malzeard is looking to close. This seems to be not good news. We here in Finghall who have recently closed our doors understand the feelings of the members there.

Many of our Methodist Churches have now closed their doors for worship over the past couple of years. These usually are the smaller village ones that in the past have been the mainstay of the communities and a central point for worshipping God and many social activities as well.

Times, communities, and the needs of our society appear to be changing and it is not only the Methodist churches that are affected. Many other denominations have also closed their doors.

We hear this when we are on our travels and meet other folks on the various sites we stay on.

HOWEVER, if we think about this, we find that it is not the Church that is closing. It is the buildings we use. The building,

as we well know is not the Church. It never has been. So take heart, have faith, the Church lives on. But we might ask, where is it?

Well, when we meet new people and fellow travellers, we find that when chatting with them, as this garrulous pilgrim does, and we mention the Church in our conversations, we quite often hear that many people have the same opinion as we do, that they miss the communal worship and fellowship. You will be surprised how many there are. There must be many hundreds.

But the fact that they talk about the Church tells us much about them and fellowship continues.

Often we meet up with some of these same travellers again on different sites and the friendship bond becomes stronger.

So, if the buildings are being closed, where is the Church.

Jesus said that “whenever two or more are gathered in my name, I will be with them”.

Jesus is the cornerstone of the Church and WHEREVER we meet in His name He is with us, so this must be the Church.

He is the Churches one and only foundation.

He built his Church with people, His followers were and are, not bricks and mortar, but people like you and me.

His Church grew and is still growing. Perhaps we may now remember that it is not our Church, but His, and we are part of it, as we gather in His name.

And the question may be not WHERE is the Church, but WHO is the Church?

And perhaps we might also be the Church in the way we actively work in His name, and be joyful.

So, “ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS”.

We enjoyed a very lively coffee morning on the 18th August at home and it was good to bring people together again in a happy (and noisy) group. Everyone was pleased about being with friends again and the troubles of the current times were forgotten for a while as our visitors ‘caught up’ with each other. And good news, we went to a wedding, yes, a wedding

in the village in September. Now that makes a joyful change for us. St Andrew's was the venue and we were there to give our congratulations and sing as lustily as we could! A very happy event.

Also it is jam making time again as the apple trees and hedgerows are overhung with fruit so we will be staying home for a while, jamming!

Bedale & District – Last month we were delighted to host the Circuit Service when we celebrated along with Richard Clark his 50 years' Service as a Local Preacher, it was lovely to see so many of you there. If you missed the service and would like to see it. It is still available on our Church YouTube Channel "Bedale Methodists".

On the day of the Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II, we opened our Church doors for anybody who wished to watch the funeral. As a group of people who shared Her Majesty's Christian Faith, it only seemed right to offer to have our Church doors open to say a fond farewell to this amazing lady. So, if people wanted some company on this occasion, or didn't own a TV, or simply wanted to share in this momentous occasion with others, or for whatever reason, they received a warm welcome, a cup of coffee/tea some light refreshments. And could stay for as long or short time as they wished.

The No73 Bus

Fortunately, I live in the next road to the bus stop and there is a snicket to get through to it. It's a good service with familiar drivers. Often people in the villages who are frequent travellers' wave at the passing bus. It's a community on wheels connecting the communities. Generally, the bus is almost empty after the 9.30am bus pass start.

But this morning I needed to be in Northallerton for 9.00am. That meant getting the 8.30am and the school stop is the one following.

As the bus approached, I could see it was full of school children. The cheerful driver said to me, hop on, but stand and hold the bar, the children will get off at the school. Not a problem and at the next stop I disembarked as the flood of young people streamed off the single decker.

But the school children did not get past the grinning driver before being given some sound advice in a loud cheerful voice. “Listen to your teachers, learn as much as you can and enjoy your day!! One spindly teen said to her friend with a chuckle, “I’m not listening to my teacher.” The rest of the kids cheerfully headed up the pavement, helpful, friendly advice and good wishes ringing in their ears. What a great start to their school day! Their driver was a well-liked and tolerated mentor.

So, the laws of Maths, Science and English had to be learnt, then committed to following a line of work, the laws then were applied to please the employer. Rather like Paul’s teaching in Galatians, learn about the gospel, commit to follow Jesus, then obey the law to please God.

Like Nicodemus we must be reborn, born of the Spirit. We become like children. God is the source of all wisdom and through this wisdom we have true understanding. Listening to the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, the Helper, we are reminded of all Christ said and helped in understanding. Jesus often said to his disciples, are you so dull you can’t understand? Yes Lord, I am, help my understanding then I might help others. Then David, get to grips with what I have said, listen to your helper, the Holy Spirit and don’t be afraid to ask questions. Really David, you have a lot in common with those children, listen to the bus driver! - **Deacon David**



Prayer Page

God of power,
give us your Spirit of love and self-discipline,
that we may live relying on your power
and responding to your calling.
Give us grace to make choices
that will increase our faith
and strengthen our obedience to Jesus Christ,
who is our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

Creator of our world,
saviour of our souls,
guardian of our hearts,
we come to you today,
acknowledging that we are yours.
We belong to you,
and in our belonging, we find faith –
faith to live our lives,
celebrating your goodness
and faithfulness to us.

Amen.

Destroyer of death, giver of life, we worship you.
We delight in you,
in your steadfast love,
in your nourishing strength,
in your constant care.

We adore you,
our wonderful, marvellous and generous God.

Amen.

O God, where we have brought an agenda or expectation that is faithless or cynical, forgive us.

Where we have considered ourselves better than we are, or more deserving than others, forgive us.

Where we have forgotten the call to faithfulness and dismissed your importance in our lives, forgive us.

Where we have demanded special treatment and disregarded that which truly matters, forgive us.

Give us a renewed faith today, O God; remind us of your calling on our lives and restore us to community.

In Jesus' name and by your Spirit's power.

Amen.

Blessed be you, Lord God, for your forgiveness.

This is the God who calls us:

a generous and forgiving God.

This is the God who redeems us:

the One who made us and treasures us.

This the God who restores us:

a leader worthy of our trust.

We take a deep breath of God's grace

and know that we can begin again.

Let us go forward in renewed faith.

Amen.

We are those who hope in you, gracious God, for we know your mercy and are thankful for your provision.

Thank you for giving us strength for today.

Thank you for your Holy Spirit, who surrounds us and dwells within us,

fanning into flame the gifts you have given us.

Thank you for giving us a place to belong.

Amen.

Help us, Lord, to make the most of whatever you have given us. Thank you that our faith has grown during our life's journey, and we can look back on all the ways you have helped us. Show us how our faith can continue to grow, and help us to do whatever is necessary for that to happen, in Jesus' name.

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