



Ripon & Lower Dales Methodist Circuit



June 2023

Herald
Newsletter -
Issue No 42

The grace, love and fellowship of God surrounds us today and always. So, come, let us journey together in the wonderful adventure of worshipping God, the holy 'three in one'.



Worship at home – a heartfelt word of thanks from Revd. Gareth

This month sees change to the provision of worship at home resources. The weekly recorded service which people could join in worship via YouTube has now ceased. The written worship at home service is set to continue in response to the feedback received from its recipients. I would like to invite you to stand with me a moment and take a look back to when these first began in 2020.

Back in 2020 our world was thrown in turmoil as we all know too well. Along with the worry, sadness and challenges that came, opportunities also arose. Our much loved and valued church members who had previously missed out on receiving local worship services because of their circumstances began to be connected once again and messages of appreciation flowed into the circuit. Local churches who have fortnightly services also appreciated having an increase in the locally produced worship resources that have been provided. This has been a helpful learning experience that came out of the pandemic and why we endeavour to continue with the written worship at home (or anywhere else) services.

The recorded services have seen many people, including myself overcome being camera shy to lead acts of worship remotely. Producing these services takes a great deal of work behind the scenes. Those who record the services and dedicated team of editors have been extremely generous with the amount of time given to producing services. In rural areas of the circuit that doesn't have the most reliable or quickest internet connection, the editing task has been even more time demanding. The past services will still be available for some time, so if you've missed any or haven't ventured onto the circuit's YouTube channel, there is still chance to join in online. When you see these worship at home videos, you will see the

love and care the team of editors have put into producing them. The team's heart has always been bigger than their number and they have faithfully put these services together for the last three years, continuing beyond the lockdowns of the pandemic. It is for all their tremendous work that on behalf of the circuit I give my heartfelt thanks. Thank you, because without your willingness to use your gifts the recorded services simply wouldn't have been possible. I hope we will have one off special's going forward so that the gifts and skills that have been developed over the years can be put to good use.

I would also like to say thank you for all those who have being willing like me to stand in front of the camera in order to lead those stood behind the screens in times of worship. I extend my thanks to those who will be continuing to prayerfully provide written worship at home services.

To conclude, on behalf of all who have been blessed through worship at home services I give many, many thanks to everyone who has been involved in the recorded services over the years.

Blessings, Revd. Gareth

Note From the Editor

Welcome to the June edition of THE HERALD. It really is a bumper edition, with news from around our Circuit. Thank you again to all who have submitted articles, there's been no shortage this month and there has been lots of juggling done to squeeze it all in, but please don't let that stop you from submitting something for next time it really is great to have this problem and makes the editing role feel very worthwhile. The deadline for July's Edition is 23 June 2023. Thank You. –

Amanda Milner (Editor)

Every month is Bible month, and every day is for worship. A seed reflection from Revd. Gareth

Why Bible month? Bible month is about helping build confidence in reading the Bible or put another way biblical literacy. Often the unknown can create within us a hesitant spirit. Not sure how to handle a particular book found within the holy library of differing books can mean we simply don't read them at all. Perhaps it's a fear of what the Bible might speak to us that we are afraid of, and I fully respect this position because I believe the Bible reads us as much as we read it. I pray this year during Bible month we will all dig deep within our resolve to engage in one way or another with the book of Revelation and come out of it having gained something of benefit for our humble Christian walk with God.

During my Cliff College student days, I went on a Mission to Peterlee in the Northeast. In the weeks leading up to the Mission, I felt led by God to read the book of Revelation. I had read it before, but it had been a little while, so I turned to this book found at the back of our Bibles and read it once more. During a walk with a youth group one evening, someone said that there are some books in the Bible no one ever reads, for example they said, no one ever reads Revelation. You know what came next, I replied 'well actually, I've just finished reading Revelation.' It wasn't a hugely profound moment in time, but I was able to talk about my reading of it and what I had drawn from it. Compared with past generations we have such a privilege with the Bible being more accessible than ever before and yet it seems sometimes we are much poorer in our personal knowledge of it. If you have a smartphone, then you have access to multiple versions of the Bible and commentaries too. If reading from a screen isn't your thing,

then the various versions come in different sizes for whatever suits you best, gone are the days when you needed a donkey just to carry the huge family, Bible. The point is that our Bibles are at hand whenever and wherever we choose to read them.

Over the years I have noted those little inspirational quotes related to reading the Bible, one is 'a Bible that is falling apart is read by someone who isn't.' Whilst I'd like to believe this to be true, I am not quite sure. What I am sure of however, is that if you are feeling like you are falling apart the Bible can offer the means for God to speak into your situation. The other quote which I like is 'the Bible isn't meant to be cake for special occasions but meant to be daily **bread**.' The emphasis of reading the Bible daily, in ordinary and everyday life will feel for some like a chore and for others like a staple of life. However, someone might feel about reading the Bible daily, it is a discipline which will definitely increase our Spiritual fitness and well-being.

Bible month is a chance to take advantage of all the extra resources available to engage with a book of the Bible at the same time as others. But every month is Bible month really because every day is worship in how as Christians we are called to live to God's praise and glory. So why wouldn't we seek to read daily the Bible in which God speaks his wisdom, guidance, encouragement, and love. In conclusion I turn to the quote attributed to the theologian Karl Barth who said, 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.' As you read the Bible, may you know that Jesus loves you. Amen.



Taking time to notice God.

The Rev Richard Coles, Anglican Vicar, and broadcaster has retired from active parish ministry and has moved to the South Downs in East Sussex. He was asked what he planned to do in retirement. He said, “take time to notice things.”

When we see something exciting, we react positively to it. A sunset, bumping into someone we haven't seen in ages in the supermarket, a tv programme that draws us into its content and keeps our attention, a pot of lemon meringue pie in the freezer at Minskip Farm Shop which I went ooh at, but it was just like eating a pot of sugar! So never again; a poster in a window that invites us to join something or go to something we hadn't known about before. When we are out in the countryside or by the sea, we notice the beauty of the world around us. My late Auntie Doris used to sit in the passenger seat of a car while out and notice things and say very loudly, “look at that!” To which my late Uncle Bob would begin to respond and be slapped down with a curse “don't you look, Bob!” My late aunt and uncle really were like Hyacinth Bucket and her poor husband Richard if you remember Keeping Up Appearances.

When's the last time you got really excited about seeing something, noticing something that just makes your heart leap with joy? When I was minister in Lancashire, we used to have regular coach trips with church to Blackpool. What do you do when you approach Blackpool? You shout “Tower!” when you see it. The sabbatical before this last one I did some writing about traditions. Remember some of the mill towns went on masse to Blackpool when they had wakes week and all the mills were shut down for a week.

Here's a quote from "The Blackpool Tower: A Seaside Icon": "The Mass-Observation research group in the 1930s recorded those working-class visitors often described the effect of their first view of the tower from the train journey to Blackpool. It created great excitement, confirmed that you were on holiday and was a sign of the 'other world' of pleasure about to be entered where the 'cotton and factory chimney are finished with'. Just like the Eiffel Tower, the distant view of Blackpool's tower was what transformed an essentially utilitarian structure into a ornament of the town, the oriental iron crown being the most potent symbol of entering another world, one that reversed the normal associations of the factory chimneys of visitors' home towns." How exciting to notice something that gives you joy and life.

God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year. And maybe just maybe we've stopped taking time to notice God and we've stopped being expectant in our worship and that God might even be noticed out in the world. We dare to put God in a box and bring him out like the best china now and again... we've forgotten that God in Jesus is found in mess. So, we need to take notice again. Moses has it right. In Exodus 3, he sees a burning bush by the side of the road and is compelled to step aside and see what's going on. Like a decent sized poster on a church notice board should do. Burning bushes are those circumstances or events that interrupt life and grab our attention. They are not part of our plans. They take us by surprise. They stop us in our tracks and cause us to turn aside. We take a second look. Sometimes we are brought up short, speechless, at a loss for words. We cannot but look at them.

What are you noticing God doing in your part of his world? Write and tell us in the next Herald! - **Ian**

Belongings - Belong

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2: 42 - 47

One thing we all have in common is that we all have possessions - belongings. We can say that's my house, my car, my guitar, my lawnmower etc. In fact where we list the possessions, we have it would be a very long list, including some very small and insignificant things as well as some very large things. Our ancestors, including our very immediate ancestors would be amazed at the number of things that belong to each of us. And because of the society we live in, we frequently add to our possessions. It's part of life!

We in turn belong to God: God's people, God's followers, Christ's church. We use the same word - "belong" - in relation to God that we use for things we own. But although we can say we own our possessions, God has chosen not to own us in the same way. He has given us free will. God does not bind us to himself as slaves, nor does God coerce or manipulate us or make impossible demands upon us because we are His. We belong to God because we choose to accept his love for us. We choose God's way of living, and do our very best to follow it. We fail, frequently, but because we belong to God,

we can know acceptance, forgiveness, patience, and love at every stage.

God formed the church as people who recognise together that they belong to a loving, caring, creative all-powerful God, who loves to be worship. We are stronger together, because we can support one another, encourage one another, and together we can share the love that we have received with others, whoever they are and wherever we meet them. That is what the church is: those who know that they share a common bond in belonging to God.

So, what about the church? We often regard the church - the building - as “our church”. None of us own it as individuals, but we often regard it as belonging to us collectively. It’s our building, our special place for meeting with each other and with God. It’s our right to say how things happen there, what may or may not go on. We believe we have earned that right because of our long relationship with the building, and the amount of time and effort we have put into making it what it is. It’s ours!

Regardless of how long we have been a part of a particular church, or how much time and energy we have put into making a church what it is, the buildings will never belong to you, or me, and him, or us. It will always be God’s church. I remember the time when the Church Council was called the Trustees Meeting. and to this day, the language of the church remains the language of trusteeship. We have our buildings on trust. From the time they were built, those that had the vision and made it a reality, then entrusted the building to future generations of church members. It didn’t belong to them though; it always belonged to God. In one sense it belongs to the Methodist Church, but then we are the Methodist Church here and now. But we have our buildings in trust, for those

who come after us. That's also true for the funds held by the church. They were given in faith, for the building of God's kingdom here”.

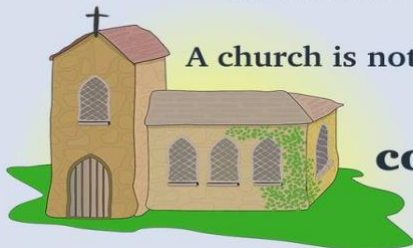
So if our church, our buildings, our finances, ourselves belong to God, then how does it all work? It works because we worship a living, loving communicating God. And God will connect with us as we connect with Him to keep His purposes moving in the right direction. The church is not a static thing, any more than we, God's people, are inanimate objects or puppets belonging to manipulative controlling power.

Everything in this world is moving, and we need to ensure that we are moving too, in step with God's plans and purposes, in tune with God's loving nature. We need to fulfil the trust placed upon us by others, to use our resources wisely and prayerfully, so that the work of God's kingdom may grow and flourish both in our buildings and in the communities that surround them. And at every stage, we need to commit ourselves, those who belong to God, and the places and things he has entrusted to us, to God's work and his purpose.

And so I pray, may God bless us all, God's Ripon & Lower Dales Circuit here, and may we in turn be a blessing to God, to whom we belong, now and always. – **Blessings Amanda Milner**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God...

Read More: Acts 2:42-47



A church is not just a building.

**It's a
community.**

talk **amen**

Kathy's Corner

Oh, the merry month of May! Well, it was for me at any rate, and I hope you enjoyed the month too. It was a bit special this year with 3 bank holidays. The first Bank Holiday was a busy one, actually, catching up with jobs in the garden, and preparing my last on-line service. So, no more inviting you to my spare room for a time of worship!

The second Bank Holiday, I was glued to the TV, as we watched King Charles crowned. I found it a very moving service, with its emphasis on our king's call to serve God, by serving us. It was a nice touch to have the symbols of that calling, brought forth by people of other faith groups too.

The Sunday Coronation Concert was also enjoyable. The performers certainly gave it their all, and I think the video clips of what Charles achieved as Prince of Wales would help the younger generation see what type of king he will be as he continues to serve us. The light show was spectacular too, and made a change from fireworks exploding everywhere. Bank Holiday Monday was a great finale to my weekend. My daughter, having grown up in Londonderry with a large group of children, laments the fact that her daughter now only sees two teenage boys (not interested in 9-year-old girls) and a toddler – who only likes tractors! When we moved into the village, it was a slip-road onto the A1, had a lorry park and cafe at each end, with one acting as our shop, and the other selling fuel and sweets. Now we are a cul-de-sac of 50 homes, and no one knows their neighbours because we have no amenities.

“Let's have a street party”, said Sharon. So, we did - in a barn due to the weather. 50 of us, of all ages, finding out where people lived! There was a mountain of food - we all brought something, and games for the children – all 10 of them! Bethany now has new playmates - two girls live nearby, that

we didn't know about. I guess that's what happens when you don't transfer to the local school, but continue to go to Bedale Primary.

The day was such a success, we now have a Community Facebook page and a Scarecrow competition planned for August. So thanks to our new king, we have a much friendly community.

Our true King calls us to love our neighbour, and that's easier to do, when you know them in the first place! How well do you know yours? – **Blessings Kathy Lowrie**



Visions; Dreams and courage to flourish.

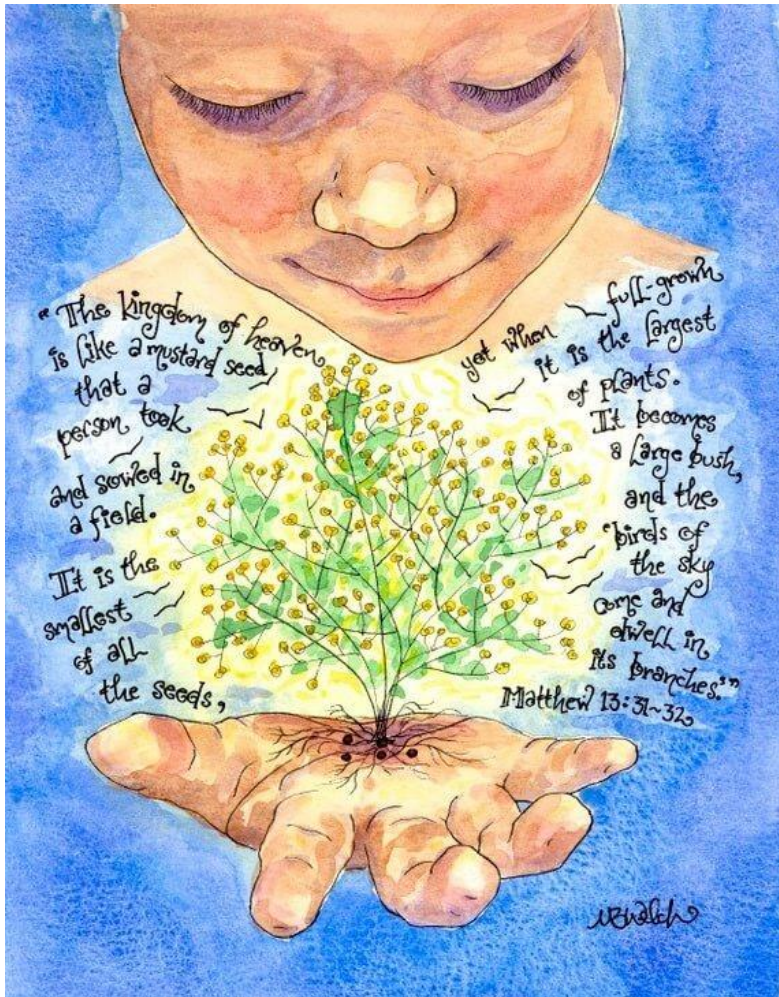
Last month I had the privilege of spending time with a group of inspirational Christians from across the Yorkshire North and East District at Wydale Hall. It was the annual Superintendents residential which provided helpful space for collaboratively looking at the current context of church and society as we

enter into what is a new era in the world. The sessions were led by Revd Ruth Gilson-Webb who is part of the District team, carrying out the role as Circuits Support Team Leader and our Chair of District Revd Leslie Newton. Each session developed from the last and lots of questions stimulated helpful and challenging discussions, and reflections. Like all good sessions of this nature, they also raised many more questions. We explored a model which showed how through the history of the church we have experienced many changes. Within such changes people respond differently, with some being more of a 'settler' in nature and others being more of a 'pioneer' in their nature. Both are equally valuable within the life and witness of the Church, as God continually shapes our form and expressions. Along with these sessions, I had time to reflect on how I have been blessed to witness God growing the Church, from my time in the role as a Community Youth Evangelist, to when I first entered into Presbyteral Ministry in Peterborough. The growth came about in different ways but what they had in common was the unconditional giving of resources which includes, time, energy and money. By unconditional I mean people gave to God, not for their own interests but for the benefit of others. That by placing the resources they had into God's hands, which means letting go, their unconditional giving was used not for their own benefit but for others to the glory of God.

I also reflected on how during these times of growth they included visions, dreams and having courage to let God lead. Whilst we can often speak about serving the will of God, sometimes can find ourselves seldom seeking God's guidance with the readiness that is needed to follow. Even though no-one knows the Mission of God better than God, we get tied up in trying to figure out how we sustain something before we've even begun. I believe however well intended; this is a misplaced pursuit which tends to become a stumbling block as

opposed to a steppingstone. Rather than trying to figure out how we sustain something, we need to recognise that it is God who sustains everything accordingly. So even when we cannot see all the steps, if God is leading us to take the first step, we need to take it. It is about faith; it is about trust, and it is about God being first in all aspects of our church and personal life. Resistance to change can sometimes include denial by focusing on the things of past glories. I recently spoke with someone who expressed their preference for the traditional church pew. I asked about how they did their washing; did they still use a mangle. I asked about the type of car they drove suspecting that it wasn't a vintage original from the garage of Henry Ford. Change happens, this is not something we can ever prevent and in the main, most embrace it for the benefits it brings. The real question to consider is how passive or engaged we want to be? For some, surfing the wave of change is where you will find them and for some it is only when they find themselves in the sea of change, they discover it's a different water they're swimming in. Again, the different natures of personality types and all in-between these polarised points are equally valued, it's not about right and wrong. I would suggest it is about understanding our personality type and how we respond or not during times of change. Envisioning, dreaming, even imagining a different way of being church in an ever-changing world is not about abandoning our past, rather it's having courage to flourish into the future. A flourishing church is the one which will tell the stories of the past. A flourishing church will be the one that holds the memories to be treasured as well as being the church that's grown through the more painful ones. A flourishing church will look different than what was envisioned, it will be beyond our wildest dreams. A flourishing church will be the church that responded positively to God, having realised that it is God *'who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or*

Imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.’ (Ephesians 3:20-21). We look differently to the early church and so will future generations, but may all give glory to God, whose church it is, whose church we are. - Revd. Gareth Baron.



Vic's Monthly Musings

As I write my ponderings for this month the media is very much involved in reporting the prospects of the local elections. As I stood in a supermarket queue the other day, I overheard discussions between two ladies. One was perhaps in her early twenties, the other of more mature years. I am not usually one for “earwiggling”, but there are some people whose voices you just cannot ignore. They were discussing the current political situation (which let’s face it is not at its healthiest at the moment). They then moved onto voting ----- What should they do? What were the alternatives? “Well of course there is always the Green Party”, said the younger. “but of course, back in your days, your generation would not always have had the opportunity to vote for them.”. (I think that the Green Party was only formed in the 90’s.) I was intrigued to hear what the older ladies reply was going to be, but that was the end of the conversation, the checkout lady was ready to deal with her shopping.

What would she have said?

Well, back then, we returned milk bottles and soda bottles to the shop. They sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized and refilled so that they could be reused.

We walked up stairs because we did not have lifts and escalators in every shop. We walked to the local shops and did not climb into a 250HP machine every time we had to go shopping. We bought fruit and vegetables loose and washed them at home, so that we did not have to throw away vast quantities of plastic, foam and paper packaging. All of which need huge recycling plants to dispose of them.

Back then, we washed baby’s nappies, because we did not have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line not in an energy guzzling machine ----- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes. Children got “hand-me-down” clothes (mostly

Flourish – or Flour ish? Give us this day our daily bread. A seed reflection by Revd. Gareth Baron

Dependence upon God isn't about weakness, rather, it recognises our strength doesn't compare with that which God provides. God provided manna in the wilderness and provided it daily. It was a provision that was not to be stored up in an attempt ensure one's own provision by taking more. It was a provision for what was needed for that day, it was daily bread. It was about God saying I have you covered today and tomorrow I do just the same. The temptation is to build up reserves, to draw upon what we have and look after ourselves. It could be perceived as being easy to place faith in God from a place of strength, of wealth and prosperity, the gospels tell us differently, with the rich young man walking away because the cost to follow was too much. The real challenge is to place our strength, wealth and success into the hands of God and not just our failings and weaknesses. Our strength is weakness compared to God's strength and our weaknesses are made strong in God. Placing these things, strengths, weaknesses and ourselves into God's hands means we need to 'let go, let God'. This phrase was said to me by a church member in my previous circuit and I know it's a familiar phrase to many others too. Four words which remind us that it's best when God is in the driving seat. That when we orientate our lives to keep trusting God and follow Jesus' example of faithful obedience.

For Elijah, the widow and her son, it was a little flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug that God used to sustain them. Elijah showed confidence in God to provide through using the little that the widow had to give. The widow showed confidence in God through believing what Elijah said,

welcoming Elijah and sharing the little flour and oil by baking a small loaf, putting her trust along with what she had in God. Here the **flourishing** wasn't found in a flour mill or store house with an abundance of flour. It was found with God ensuring that each day they all had enough, that the flour didn't run out and the oil didn't run dry. We might at times be called to live out our faith in similar ways, putting our faith in our God who as an abundance that cannot be exhausted. What might the little flour and the little olive oil represent in our lives and in the life of the church? What little do we have in our jar and jug that we are being asked to place in God's hands. Notice too, how the little the widow and her son had was used to help another and not just feed themselves. This could be described as radical hospitality and certainly when we consider how worrying the impact of the cost-of-living crises is having upon so many, we need to remember that it is God who causes us to flourish. It is God who we ask to give us our daily bread because it is God who gives us our daily bread.



News from our “Roving Reporters” from around the Circuit

Bedale & District - An invitation June is Bible Month and this year we are invited to explore together the Book of Revelation Four themes will inspire our Sunday Morning Worship and we shall have two further mid-week opportunities to delve more deeply into this fascinating book of the Bible.

Tuesday Evenings 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th June Led by David Emison at his home, 25 Sycamore Drive, Bedale, DL8 1EY
The meetings will begin at 7.30pm.

Thursday afternoons, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th June Led by Lister Baynes In the Church Meeting Room

The meetings will begin at 2.00pm

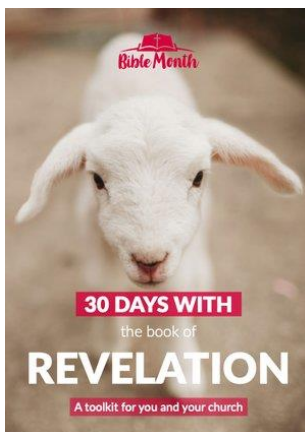
The Themes:

Week 1: The Church Then and Now Revelation Chapters 1 – 3

Week 2: The Triumph of the Lamb Revelation Chapters 4 – 5

Week 3: Witness, Worship and Waiting Revelation Chapters 10 – 13

Week 4: Heading Home Revelation Chapters 17-22



BRASS IMPACT



Salvation Army Brass Band

Musicians from the Midlands & North of England.

IN CONCERT

At Allhallowgate Methodist Church

Victoria Grove, Ripon.

On

Saturday June 17th at 7.00pm

Donation Tickets £10-

In aid of Choma & Noreen's Kids Children's Homes.

Tickets obtained from:- Stuff4Offices (11, Queen Street)

Also available from the Church

And from Roger tel: 07852 618 154

Harrogate Road - Summer is here and we are all looking forward to warmer weather and lighter evenings whereby we may be able to visit our churches around the Circuit.

We, at Harrogate Rd, are very appreciative of the way in which Rev. Sarah Caddell has settled in with us and has already visited groups who use our premises as well as calling on Church Members in their homes. Rev Sarah's enthusiasm is rubbing off on the congregation, so we feel we are looking forward to exciting times ahead.

Our Development Group will soon be meeting to discuss plans for our Future and Outreach at Harrogate Rd and how we can move forward to glorify our God within our Church and Community and further afield. Please pray for the Group as they develop this important role.

Our coffee morning, THIRSTY FRIDAY, is on the FIRST FRIDAY of every month from 10-12. All are most welcome to join us; pop in for a coffee and if your brain is on alert, you can try your hand at our quiz sheets - great fun and sharing knowledge as well as fellowship with one another. You don't need to belong to Mensa and it is a great way to chat and have a few giggles.

Due to popular demand, in SEPTEMBER 2023, we are holding our coffee mornings EVERY FRIDAY from 10-12. WATCH THIS SPACE and join us if you are able.

God Bless, keep safe, keep smiling and share yourself around. Sharing is Caring.

Carthorpe - Greetings again from Carthorpe, thank you to everyone as we worship together as a Christian Family. We send our love and sympathy to Dennis and Hazel Glass on the very sudden death of their daughter. We do appreciate the Fellowship that we share with them when they join with us at Sunday Evening services and assume them of our continuing prayers for them and their family. We had our final

meeting for this session of Tuesday Get Together on 2nd May. We thanked Pauline for being our secretary over the last few years, we know that she will still join with us, but with no responsibility. We were very grateful to Sue and Jean for stepping in as joint secretaries. There were lots of ideas for the next session beginning in September, so look forward to that.

We missed Eileen who sadly was in hospital, we are pleased that she is now home, and we send her our love and prayers. She has been a very faithful member for many years and sent every member a card on their birthday, if anyone would like to take on this very important task, please contact Pat.

We concluded our meeting with a selection of poems chosen and read by Joan Teasdale.

Last Sunday we celebrated our Chapel Anniversary led by Joyce Bainbridge. We had a wonderful time of worship including memories of the special people and occasions, a real time of being thankful for God's Goodness to us all.

Snape - This month I am reminding everyone about the Holiday club this year.

It is each morning, from Tuesday 25th July to Thursday 27th July. It will be held in the village institute. Fliers will shortly be going to lots of schools. We are using new Scripture Union material.

Do you know any school age children, who are relatives, or neighbours, who may fancy coming?

Do you fancy helping in some way one morning?

If so, Elaine or Joy would love to hear from you please.

Also, each fortnight during school term time on a Friday, we hold Sunshine Corner, at Snape, which is an after-school club for primary school children. We have lots of fun at these afternoons with a wide variety of games, crafts etc all based around a biblical story. All children welcome. Elaine or Joy can

get registration forms etc.

Mini church is held during part of each Sunday morning service. Again, please pass this on to friends and families, we'd love to see more children.

Each Wednesday morning during term time we have 'Under 5's' where a group of preschool babies, toddlers and children, with their mums, dads, grandparents, or carers, meet from 10 to 11.30am for a playtime, chat and coffee etc. we'd always love to meet more children and adults.

These are just the Children's ventures going on at Chapel which I thought you'd be interested in and May be able to pass the word around, so that more children can meet together.

Grewelthorpe - The service in church on Sunday 7th May to commemorate the crowning of King Charles III was well attended and was followed by light refreshments and a toast to the King. The congregation then proceeded to the village green where the two renovated benches were unveiled by the local branch of the RBL. Members have been working tirelessly to renovate these benches by the children's playground area on behalf of the Parish Council in recognition of this historical event.

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. Next G-Club Wednesday 14th June 6-7pm.

We recently held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. We were grateful to those on the church council who chose to remain as council members and to those that stand as officers. It would be lovely to see some new faces but are grateful for all the support and help that we have from volunteers in the village.

Not only do we have a wedding in Church to look forward to

in June, but also a French Boules evening!

This will take place on the Village Green, (Ripon end) near the home of Liz Witton.

It is a knock-out competition and will commence at 6.00pm, but later arrivals can be accommodated. Players will be in pairs and must register with the M.C. on their arrival to be placed on the Order of Play Board. **Skill at the game is not required!!**

A simple supper will be provided with soft drinks but if you prefer to bring your own food, that will be fine. You are invited to bring your own bottles of wine or beer if you should care to do so. If it is a fine, warm, and dry evening – as we hope – we will have supper outside – if it is windy, cold or wet, those who wish to do so will be welcome to eat inside at Gildersbank. There is no charge for playing boules or for the supper, but we would like to ask everyone to make a generous donation to church. There will also be a Raffle. Please come and join in the fun.

Sawley – Sunday 21 May saw us celebrate our 99th Anniversary (watch this space for our Centenary Year!)



and the Circuit presented Joyce our Organist with a 70-year certificate. Yes 70 years!!! Not a misprint. Joyce started playing our organ as a young girl and is still playing today.



ArtServe
Christian Creativity
www.artservemethodist.org.uk

Awarded to
Joyce Sporesley
In appreciation of
your creative talents
enriching the life of
the church
to mark her 70th anniversary
as organist at
Sawley Methodist Chapel

Presented on 21-8-2023
By
Worshipful Minister
Revd. Gareth Barrow



Prayer Page

Living God,
You invite us to go on the greatest adventure ever.
Meet us today as we come to worship you.
May we rest in your giant loving arms
and know your presence with us.
May we find safety and security there.
Raise us up that we may find strength when we are weary
and energy when we are faint,
so we never fail to praise your holy name.
Amen.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we come before you now to worship,
to marvel at your being,
to focus on your calling to us,
to know your love,
and to seek your truth.
Amen.

On this Trinity Sunday,
O God the Holy Trinity,
we worship you
– even though sometimes we have doubts and fears.
You are the one we adore, without whom life has no purpose.
You, O Holy Trinity, meet us and greet us, support and uphold
us,
provide for us and equip us, wherever we are on our journey
in life.
We adventure with you, into the known and unknown,
but believing that you will always be with us,
to the end of the age.
You are the one we adore.
Amen.

Blessed God,
in thought and word and deed,
in the done and the undone,
in the known and the unknown,
we have wandered and wondered,
journeyed and backtracked,
succeeded and failed.

We have stepped out on our own,
taking no heed of your Word and your map of life.
We have delighted you and made you despair.
As we pause in the journey of adventure and intrigue
that delights and astounds us,
that challenges and changes us,
we confess before you, O God,
those times we have disappointed you
by the ways we have chosen,
by the words we have spoken,
or by the needless deeds we have done.
Blessed God, forgive us.

Amen.

The journey of life has its ups and its downs
and God travels with us,
waiting for us to turn and confess,
offering warmth, welcome and assurance that,
when we repent, we are forgiven,
cleansed, renewed, released, set free.
Thanks be to God.

Amen.

We journey with you, O God,
because you have proved yourself to us,
revealed yourself to us,
made yourself known to us.

You have drawn us to yourself.

Thanks be to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our journey with you is adventure,
It is yearning, striving and seeking,
It is letting go and picking up,
It is trusting and following,
It is being and doing.

And in all of this you are with us on the journey.

Thanks be to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You are balm to our fears,
the glue that holds us to yourself in our times of uncertainty.
You are the Father/parent who offers us sustenance.
You are the Son who lived and died and lives with us and
among us.

You are the Holy Spirit who sets us on fire, who burns within
us.

Thanks be to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Where there is conflict between nations and within nations;
where people live in fear of the bullet and the bomb;
when parents weep for children who have been killed:
God of peace,
may your peace be known.

In homes filled with anger, cruelty and neglect;
where there are no safe places;
where poverty and addiction bring suffering and pain:
God of peace,
may your peace be known.

To those whose minds are tormented by depression;

to those whose hold on life is fragile;
to those whose lives are filled with
stress:

God of peace,
may your peace be known.

To those who are nearing the end of life;
to those who love and care for them:
God of peace,
may your peace be known.

May your peace be known to us,
and may we be bearers of your peace in
Amen.

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**Prayer Commitment by the Circuit
Meeting:**

- Please pray for the Summer Holiday Club at Snape Methodist Chapel in July, especially for volunteers to help, and the children who will come and their families who will be reached with the Christian message.
- Pray for our current Circuit Stewards, and that the Lord will call more to join the team that are visionary, caring, supportive and mindful of our circuit's needs. We as a Circuit ask your prayers also for the Revd. Gareth, Heather and Isabella and the Invitation Committee as we enter the stationing process for 2024.
- Pray for Bishop Monkton Chapel as they take their building alteration project forward, especially as they choose their preferred Builder to carry out the work.



Newsletter

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

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