

Herald

Ripon And Lower Dales Circuit Newsletter

Welcome the Herald! It is envisioned that Herald will provide a helpful space for connecting with each other and God. Its purpose is to proclaim the Gospel and the love of God discovered in daily lives and communities across the Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit. We hope it will be a welcomed voice during these challenging days.

‘How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’ [Isaiah 52:7]



Book review for this week comes from Catherine Clowes at home with the author.

BEN CLOWES

SINCE WE SAW YOU LAST



SINCE WE SAW YOU LAST My husband Ben has written this brilliant set of bible studies for individual or group use. Having studied them as part of a small group on several occasions I thoroughly recommend them. Our Chair of District, Rev Leslie Newton wrote this endorsement for the book.

‘Ben helps us explore a range of life’s rites of passage by reflecting afresh on the “I am” sayings of Jesus. He draws on the music of Gary Barlow, adds in well-chosen references to an eclectic range of films and TV programmes, and skilfully combines this all with scripture and other Christian resources. The result is engaging, thought-provoking and inspiring. It will challenge Christians to think again about how to build positive relationships with those around them; it will challenge those who are not yet Christian to recognise the Good News that Jesus offers. This is a great resource for churches looking to grow as faithful and vibrant communities of faith.’

If you would like a copy at the discounted price of £6 plus £1.40 P & P please email me at: riponcircuitenabler@gmail.com or you can contact me on phone number: 07377614581

Blessings, Catherine Clowes

Community Link Enabler for the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit



Worship Album Highlight

Rend Collective realised their new album entitled **‘Choose to Worship’** at the very beginning of this country entering lockdown. If you are familiar with the worship style of Rend Collective you will not be disappointed with this vibrant, fresh, uplifting and moving album. The first worship song on the album is ‘I Choose to Worship’ this felt so apt for our current circumstance when finding space within our domestic settings to meet with God in worship. There is also something of a defiant voice, in the sense that no matter what may come, ‘I Choose to Worship’. I would highly recommend this album, Rend Collective are a modern praise and worship band with their roots in Bangor, Northern Ireland. They have a folk-rock approach and are gifted in reaching across generations to lead them in worship of our amazing God.

Lockdown Lookout! This week we hear from John and Daphne Ensoll

On Sunday 15 March I played the piano for the morning service at Allhallowgate. Little did I know that it would be the last service in church for a long time. Since then we have explored various online services, including our own Allhallowgate version, but we have mainly watched one of the many services streamed from All Souls, Langham Place each week.

My job as treasurer has changed a lot. Instead of recording church collections each week we have encouraged people to give direct to the church bank account; more recently I found that I could "bank" cheques by putting them in the bank's letter-box (so not needing to go into the bank), a useful second option. Our congregation is proving to be very generous, so the church finances at present look favourable, though we have of course lost our lettings income. But our heating and lighting bill should have gone down, too.

We are both well, though inevitably sometimes frustrated by not being able to meet people or go on planned holidays. However, we have a garden and can go for shortish walks, so we are blessed by comparison with many others.

VE Day 75: Home – Stories

Last Friday saw people taking to the streets and front gardens to share in VE Day celebrations. It was wonderful to see so many posting photos on social media. Some gathered at a safe distance on camp chairs with a cuppa for a friendly chat with neighbours, whilst others had afternoon tea alfresco.

It was a moving day with veterans' first-hand accounts being broadcast along with representatives giving tributes at memorials across the country, and not least speech by Her Majesty The Queen.

For all who served in the Second World War, for the peace and freedom that was won, thank you.

Pause for thought – images and imagination

Being dyslexic and living in a world of words brings daily challenges. Communication can often feel frustrating when your internal processing feels prohibited by constructed language of words. Yet, communication is much more than words, for words themselves represent something else be it action or emotion and often change meaning depending on the tone of how they are spoken.

Sometimes in worship I like to invite imagination which introduces another tool of communication, the mind, and images. I recognise that for some, this can feel like how I feel with words. And using imagination also brings with it as many variations as there are people imagining. However, I believe when we begin to imagine, we begin to look outward and seek to better understand something.

I wonder if you ever spend time imagining how God might be wanting to shape you and your life? Are there any images that God is wanting to speak to you through? Jesus frequently used images and people's imaginations to teach and help bring about a clear understanding of the Kingdom of God. For me personally, I have found images important part of my discipleship. God speaking powerfully through them and accomplishing work within my life by communicating this way.

'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work with us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.' [Ephesians 3:20-21]

What are we the church asking and imagining? Whatever it might be, let us be open to God who is able to do immeasurably more.



The Convocation—Deacon Nigel Perrott

Each year Deacons from across our connexion gather for their annual Convocation, in short convocation is a “gathering.

There are 260 members of the Methodist Diaconal Order, 161 are in active ministry across the UK.

Each year we eagerly await the four days in which we all come together to worship, pray and commune with each other. Deacons are members of a Religious Order, we do not have a “Mother House”, similar to other religious orders and are directly stationed to a particular context. This means we are a dispersed community, we live and serve in local communities’ right across our connexion. All Deacons are Ministers in the church, Ordained to a lifetime ministry of witness and service. The most distinctive of all, is our commitment to the Rule of Life which we all follow and which helps to bind us together that we may continue to become the people of God wants us to be both individually and as an Order. So we are apart, yet connected. In these uncertain times that must sound familiar.

This year our convocation, like many other meetings could not take place in the usual way. Thankfully, wonders of modern technology meant that we could meet “on-Line”. Over 200 members of the Order were able to join together and though apart, be together.

The convocation will always include the President and Vice President of the conference. This online meeting was no exception it was a delight to hear them lead Bible studies and lead us in worship. Rev Dr Jonathon Hustler, the Secretary of Conference also joined us.

Our days began with Morning Prayer, and ended with an Examen in the evening. Intertwined with worship and teaching, we had a quiz and even an online Panto!

Along with the fun and spiritual content, there is always a small amount of business that needs to take place. Each year the Convocation welcomes those to be Ordained at the annual conference. This year was no exception and I was humbled to be one of those being sent forward. In June, The conference will take place, though again, online. I will then be brought into “Full Connexion” and become a full member of The Methodist Diaconal Order. At some point before next year’s conference I will be Ordained. So for now, I am an Ordinand and no longer on probation!

I really could not sum up four days’ worth of teaching in this edition of the Herald. I would however, leave you with some thoughts that you could ponder over.

Have a read of Genesis 9:8-17

We look forward to the resumption of Church life (and there are many suggestions around that we should do that with a Covenant service). But we are not there yet. We are still in the Ark (albeit, perhaps, sending out the dove or the raven).

Question for Reflection:

In what ways has the current experience brought aspects of daily life into sharper focus?

(below) **The Methodist Convocation 2018**



Let us continue in prayer and pray for each other – I am sure you will join with me in praying for Deacon Nigel and sending congratulations on completing probation to become an Ordinand. We give thanks to God for the many gifts and blessings which Nigel brings with his ministry.

THY KINGDOM COME Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension Day 21st May and Pentecost 31st of May 2020.

If you have struggled to find resources due to high demand, visit cpo.org.uk

Circuit focus **'Time to pray day'** on Wednesday the 28th of May. Prayer is a wonderful gift from God and if you can pray on this day as well, what a great thing to do together. We will pray throughout the day and if you are able to stop for prayer at 10am, we can know others are praying at this same time.

Let us pray for the Mission and Ministry of the local churches across the circuit.



Dial-a-Prayer

FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon

'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing' [1 Thessalonians 5:11]

Note from the editor – if you have a lockdown lookout story or a news item to share, please contact Revd. Gareth on Tel: 01677 989169 or email: Gareth.baron@methodist.org.uk
Thank you to all who have contributed to this week's issue of the Herald. Peace be with you.