

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 as we continue to live out our faith.

When asked by one of the scribes “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” [Mark 12:29-31]



Book review in 100 words

MORE>
Distinct
Reclaiming
holiness
for the
world today.

Calvin T. Samuel

MORE> *Distinct*: Reclaiming holiness for the world today. By Calvin T. Samuel does exactly what it says of the cover. Revd Dr Calvin T. Samuel is a Methodist Minister, former Principal of the London School of Theology.

In his book Calvin dares to tackle the prohibiting voice of fear that rises when pursuing holiness, the worry of being perceived as ‘holier than thou’. In keeping with the MORE> Books series, this most accessible read, invites the reader to think about holiness in a meaningful way for today. The wealth of wisdom and sound biblical teaching makes for an inspirational read.

CLIFF COLLEGE FESTIVAL at HOME ‘Global Vision’

With the help of technology, we can now travel across the world, digitally speaking. How about going to the Peak District in Derbyshire for Cliff Festival at Home.

Whether this would be your umpteenth time attending the Festival or your first, this is certainly a fantastic opportunity for everyone. Cliff College Festival at Home is a free to access online festival taking place from Friday 22nd of May till Monday 25th of May. The College will be streaming live and pre-recorded Bible studies, seminars, workshops, preaching, worship, and music throughout the bank holiday weekend.

Checkout the Cliff College website for more information or follow the link below. Have a great Festival time!

<https://cliffcollege.ac.uk/cliff-festival/festival-2020>



Worship Album Highlight

The album entitled ‘Music of Unity and Peace’ realised by TAIZÉ in 2014 begins with ‘The Bells of Taizé’ a call to worship. The twenty songs create a beautiful pool of worship music for the worshipper to be fully immersed in whilst encountering the presence of Our loving Lord. You might want to explore the French and Latin used in the expression of praise to God or be content with eclectic expression including English. The classical music with harmonious voices provides rest and food for the soul. Entering a Taizé worship environment, you quickly comprehend why thousands of young people and the young at heart go on pilgrimage to Taizé each year. The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France.

Lockdown Lookout! This week we hear from Joy Abel.

During these times I have appreciated having time to go for walks around fields and the general area. On them I have appreciated the changing hedgerows, scenery, bird song, but also found it beneficial for thought, reflection, and prayer too.

Also, I have appreciated communication, via phone, internet, and WhatsApp groups, 1 of which set up within chapel is the Snape Chapel Community Choir. It includes at least 20 people who are sent 2 songs on YouTube every Monday and then the following Sunday at 6.30 pm we sit in our own homes and sing the songs, knowing that others will be doing the same. We always finish with the blessing 'May the road rise up to meet you'. As we sit and sing this, we can visualise the other singers and pray this blessing over them. A blessed and moving time individually, and yet together.

Pause for thought – Godly fashion is always on trend!

It may be that since entering lockdown you have worried less about what you should wear. Or perhaps you are someone who always dresses to impress regardless of occasion. I heard one piece of advice during this pandemic which encourages getting dressed for the day just as you would for going out to work for example. It is something to do with mindset and creating a different sense of perspective.

I wonder what godly fashion looks like. In Paul's letter to the Colossians he gives some fashion advice. 'As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.' Paul does continue to say, 'Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.' [Colossians 3:12; 14] I am mindful that God is love, thus, God holds everything together in perfect harmony. God is both the fashion designer and tailor who knows your perfect fit.

This week saw the beginning of Mental Health Awareness Week and the theme is kindness. I wonder if you have spent time engaging a little more with understanding Mental Health issues. During these challenging days it is as important as ever to take care of our mental health and kindness is key.

Kindness might look like a phone call to someone to ask, 'how are you?' and giving time to properly listen. It might be that you need kindness, giving yourself space to breath, mentally. The scope of mental health concerns is vast because every single person has mental health, so let us be more aware of each other with kindness.

Hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, Mental Health Awareness Week takes place from 18-24 May 2020. The theme is kindness.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>



A friend of Catherine Clowes, Becca Byass (Wellbeing Officer for the Nottingham and Derby District) and her daughter have put a brilliant YouTube video together called 'Fearfully and Wonderfully Made - a message for you' which is all about looking after your whole self. Here is the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBgsE4hVlps>

Let us continue in prayer and pray for each other – Let us pray for those struggling with mental health concerns and pray that we would all become a people that foster kindness throughout humanity.

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.



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.

Let us pray for those seeking God during this pandemic, perhaps for the first time in their lives.

Reflections and Worship at Home

Over this last month we have been blessed by several local preachers putting fingers to keyboards to provide the circuit with inspirational reflections and worship at home services. Special thanks to God for all those who have contributed so far. Please can I encourage you to keep visiting the Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit Website each week. Usually the latest offerings will be uploaded on Thursday or Friday at the latest. We have such a rich and nourishing collection of resources being provided. Before we even begin to worship with the aid of the resources, I praise God for such a wealth of provision and thank God for speaking to us today.



Pip has been doing an excellent job of keeping the Website up to date and you will find all the various Worship at home services available. We really want to make the circuit website a place that reflects all the wonderful ways we witness God active in the life of the churches in the area. Presently this looks quite different, but God is faithful and remains with us. Let us continue to be a support and encouragement to one another, near and far.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness,” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.’
[2 Corinthians 12:9]

Note from the editor – It is wonderful to hear from so many different people from across the circuit and further afield. More contributions are always welcome, and it would be wonderful to hear some reflections on how people have been engaging with Cliff Festival, Thy Kingdom Come, etc. You might even have a lockdown lookout story or a news item to share, if so, 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 and thank you reading. Go forward with kindness and may the peace of the Lord be always with you.



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