Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District

NEWSLETTER MAY 2024

Letter from Chris Partington, Lay Worker for Worth Valley Church:

Dear Christian Brothers and Sisters

As someone who, until recently, was a schoolteacher, I know only too well the value of the holidays from school. The Christmas holiday was always too busy with family things and the rushing around to get last minute presents and make last minute arrangements to be a real holiday. The two weeks of the Easter holiday was far more relaxed and did offer a chance to rest and recuperate before the final stretch of the Summer Term with exams running to the summer holidays. I say rest and recuperate but, to be honest, it nearly always felt that after even only a couple of hours back in school, it was almost as if you had never been away.

I wonder if we feel a little bit of the same about Easter. It was only a few weeks ago since the wonderful celebrations of our Easter morning services and the amazing evening Praise Service at Eldwick. Yet it does feel a little like the Easter gloss has gone and we're now fully back in real life. And real life is throwing some significant challenges to a number of our congregations around the Circuit, whether it is the state of the buildings, the falling numbers, the falling energy levels or even, in one case, the loss of a building.

We are, however, an Easter People. A people whose symbol is the cross, a symbol of torture and death but, beyond that, a symbol of VICTORY. A victory validated by the events of that Easter morn. As Christians we know we are far from the finished article – we continue to sin and fail, we continue to fall short of the perfection of Jesus. Yet, we know that God is with us, God's Spirit is within us, and the Resurrection Hope is lived out in our lives as individuals and as part of worshipping communities. Remember, whatever our current circumstances, God is in control and has a plan. In Jeremiah 29.11 it says,

The Lord declares:
For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Let us live as Resurrection people. Just as the RSPCA advert used to say, 'A dog is for life, not just for Christmas', perhaps our slogan this Easter season (and beyond) should be 'Resurrection is for life, and not just for Easter!' We are called to take that message to both those we meet in the communities in which we are based and those who come into our buildings. Through our words and actions we can bring that message of Hope and Resurrection to the people of Airedale as we live as Easter People.

If you need an 'earworm' to run through your mind as you face the daily challenges, I suppose any of the great Easter hymns, ancient or modern, will do. The following is from Resurrection Day by the Rend Collective. I find it has been an 'earworm' for me recently – I leave you with the words of the first verse and chorus.

Because You're risen I can rise
Because You're living I'm alive
Because Your cross is powerful
Because You rose invincible
I can get up off the floor
This is my resurrection day
Nothing's gonna hold me in the grave
This is my resurrection day
Nothing's gonna hold me down
Say goodbye to my yesterdays
Ever since I met You I am changed
This is my resurrection day
Nothing's gonna hold me down

Blessings

Chris Partington



Easter Cross in Silsden, Easter 2024

April Repair Café at Silsden was the busiest ever!

What a morning, it was fantastic to see the church buzzing and we were all working flat out. The morning didn't start too well when several volunteers messaged to say they were sick so a quick shift round of duties was needed (I came off the café and went on the reception desk and thank you to Wendy for stepping in to help. William came off the cafe for a while to help with repairs and thank you to others for stepping in).

The stats for the morning were 93 items brought in, 87% were either repaired or advice given.
The Refill shop had it's busiest session so far saving 94 bottles going into landfill and 2 of us also went to Embassy in the afternoon to an Environmental Event and saved another 62 bottles.
The Clothes Swap was busy and had 62 customers who all had paid a £1 to take away whatever they wanted. The money raised went back into funds for Climate Action Silsden activities.
The 2 (at times 3) bike repairers were kept going all morning and thank you to them for not only repairing our Grandson's bike but showing him what to do to replace his brake pads and general maintenance.



I didn't see a lot of the repairs but there was a soft toy brought in by a young Ukrainian widow who came to stay with a UK family and their sausage dog chewed the toy. The chewed part was mended, and he is coming back next month to have a new voice
box fitted—a great outcome.
Eileen

Are we led by the Holy Spirit?

Do we believe that the Holy Spirit is God's power working in us and through us, enabling us to do the impossible in His name?
Anne, from Lees, invites us all to pray at every opportunity for spiritual growth, for the making of new disciples in each and every location where we've been set down, for help and empowerment and discernment to fulfil God's mission so that this and future generations may know the love of God and have life in all its fullness.

During 'Mission May' let's earnestly and fervently pray –

O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
Revive Your church with life and power.
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit Your church to meet this hour'.
With God's help all things are possible.
Amen

WHAT'S ON IN MAY?

Please don't forget…. TAXIS ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOU!

If you want to go to any Circuit events, services or meetings over the winter months and would struggle to get there, just tell Esther in the office and she will book you a taxi, at no cost to you.
Please leave a message on 07904 883288

Fundraising for Christian Aid



You're invited!

What: Soup, Bread & Cheese Lunch

When: Saturday 4th May

Where: The Eldwick Church
Otley Road, Eldwick, BD16 3EQ

Time: 12 - 2pm

Admission Adults £6 Children £3

Home made cakes, tombola, plants

All welcome, bring a friend.

We're raising funds for Christian Aid to help people in poverty around the world. We'd love you to join us!

christian aid
We believe in life before death

Your gift can change lives! Find out more at caid.org.uk or christianaid.ie

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Opportunities to pray and worship together (outside of Sunday Mornings):

@ Steeton Methodist Church
Prayer and Praise on the first Thursday of the month
7pm to 8pm

@ Silsden Methodist Church
Prayer gathering, first Monday in the month at 7pm

@ Silsden Methodist Church
'Born in Song', every Friday 10.30-11am

@ Silsden Methodist Church
Praise Service, fourth Sunday in the month, 6pm

@ Lees Methodist Church
Café Worship, third Sunday in the month, 1pm

@ Bingley Methodist Church
Communion, second Monday in the month, 1pm

@ Cullingworth Methodist Church
first Wednesday in the month
9am Prayer
9.45am Communion



Fresh Aire:

Eastertide 🌼 On Monday 8th April we began a journey together through the Book of Acts until Friday 17th May.

Our reflecting together on weekday mornings will start at Acts 1:12, we will return to Acts 1:1-11 on Ascension Day. We will also save Acts 2:1-13 for Friday 17th May as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost on Sunday 19th May.

We look forward to sharing together in this epic story of the early church, and how these accounts can inspire our own discipleship in these days.



YOU'LL FIND CONTENT EACH WEEKDAY ON
INSTAGRAM @FRESH_AIRE1
AND FACEBOOK @FRESH AIRE

Film Night at Oakworth Methodist Church…



The Last Bus (2021) (12)

Friday 24th May *6.30 pm*

A heart-warming tale of Tom, a pensioner whose wife, Mary, has just passed away, who travels from Britain's most northerly point to his original home town at its most southerly point using his free bus pass. He carries with him only a small suitcase. Along the way, his adventures are recorded by the people he meets and helps, and by the end of his trip he has unwittingly become a social media celebrity.

christian aid

Please come and support our

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday May 11th

9.30 am - 12 noon

Silsden Methodist Church

Thank you

Silsden Christian Aid Committee
and Churches Together in Silsden

Clearing Out Challenge – written by Rev. Clare

I am a big fan of Stacey Solomon's Sort Out Your Life TV programme, as she and her team encourage and help families whose homes have become overwhelmed with possessions, to decide what they really need for their lives. Their homes get reorganised, and in every case their lives become more manageable as the space they exist in is made workable for their current lives. And the excess clutter is divided between things to donate to others who may have a use for it, or things that can be recycled, or things that can be sold. The rest is taken to the tip.

In recent times, with the closure of Exley Head and Cowling, as well as the sale of Keighley Hall, we have realised the sheer quantity of "stuff" that accumulates in church buildings. Much that is stored in cupboards is neither used or needed. When a building closes then the task of dealing with the clutter falls to a small number of people, working under pressure, and often under a time constraint.

The thing with Stacey Solomon's programme is that the process is about improving the lives of those existing in a house. Perhaps that is something that would help us as churches too. We don't need to wait till the end of the life of a building to sort through the years of accumulated papers and artefacts. Many of our buildings have received eco awards, and our congregations have become very eco-minded. Perhaps as part of our Eco commitment we could make de-cluttering a thing of now, rather than some time in the distant future. Is there stuff in our buildings that is no longer of use or value to us that might be of great use to another congregation? Is there historic material that should be stored in archives where other can access it? Is there material that is of no value to anyone that could be recycled, or simple tipped, freeing up space within our buildings?
The circuit staff and stewards are happy to help with this, and encourage you to talk about what might be done in your buildings, to help us all exist more comfortably and in a more eco-friendly way.