Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025

This month's letter is from Rev. Clare Stainsby:

In Matthew chapter 13 we read a couple of the parables of Jesus:

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13: 44-46

These parables came up at a recent prayer meeting, and seem to be reverberating around my thoughts right now.

So, what is there that is of such great value, that someone might sell everything they have for that one thing? What could the treasure be that was worth letting go of everything else? And what made that particular pearl more valuable than any other?

Jesus is teaching the people about God's kingdom. So, what is God's kingdom? William Barclay describes it as "a state of society on earth where God's will is as perfectly done as it is in heaven. In the case of the first of these parables, the treasure that the man discovered that was worth everything he had, was being a place of following God and working with God to build his Kingdom on this earth. That meant, for him, giving up his own comfort and personal ambitions and desires in order to glorify God with his whole life and discover the true depths of the peace which comes from a relationship with God.

Kingdom building is the work of the Church. And the Church is who we are – God's people on this earth. For too long we have used the word "church" to signify a building, and have talked about "my church" or "our church" in a very possessive way. The reality is that we are all God's church, which means those who follow God's way and work together to build the kingdom. We've also talked about "going to church" which has come to mean not only a place, but a particular time on a Sunday morning. Yet surely, as God's people, existing in God's presence, surround by God's love, and assured of God's commitment to us, then we are the Church 168 hours of the week, waking or sleeping!

From the second parable, a pearl was considered in Jesus's time as a thing of great beauty, and a source of utter joy - the loveliest of all things, and worth the sacrifice of all of things. The meaning is clear. In following God's way, there is not only perfect peace and endless hope, but also unsurpassed joy.

The "finders" in these parables, who recognised these things, acted decisively in response to their discovery. What actions do we as individuals, as congregations, as a circuit, need to take in order to be the followers of God's Way, and builders of God's Kingdom here and now? What is holding us back? Where is God leading us, and do we have confidence in the treasure God holds out to us, to give our all to it? These are questions that we need to be asking constantly and prayerfully. We are the Church here and now - not buildings or acts of worship but God's people: loved, accepted, guided, encouraged and blessed, as we open ourselves to all that God wants to give to us. And as we follow the way that God is taking us, so that the Kingdom may grow here and now – something we pray for whenever we meet!

A huge thank you to everyone who brought medical items to the Silsden Repair Café to be sent to Ukraine by @stitch4charityWY. We received so many that they needed more than one car trip.

If you couldn't make it but have items you'd like to donate, please see contact details



Silsden Repair Café

HUMANITARIAN AID FOR UKRAINE

Donations of Medication and Small Equipment



MEDICATION:
Any over-the-counter or prescribed medication - **MUST BE** in original *sealed package and within date - tablet, cream or liquid.*
Includes *antibiotics, eye drops/cream, diabetic pens/kits, EpiPen*

SMALL EQUIPMENT
If it fits in a carrier bag it's small!
Any pain relief, *TENS machine, bandages/pads, plasters, hearing aids, catheters, limb supports, slings, surgical gloves, boots/shoes, medical thermometers and anything else you are not sure about – ask!*
****NO ZIMMER/WALKING FRAMES, CRUTCHES OR TOILET FRAMES***





SANITARY SUPPORT:
Sealed packages within date of: Sanitary towels, Tampons, baby/cleansing wipes, sanitary wipes, incontinence pads, baby nappies.

Statement on the announcement of a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas

17 January 2025

(Taken from the Methodist Website:

https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/statement-on-the-announcement-of-a-ceasefire-agreement-between-israel-and-hamas/)

The Baptist Union of Great Britain
The Methodist Church
The United Reformed Church

The commencement of a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel will come as an enormous relief for all living in Gaza and for those waiting for the release of hostages held by Hamas. The UN reports that 70% of those killed in Gaza are women and children and, even in the last few days, schools and hospitals sheltering those displaced have been bombed. Our churches deeply mourn the loss of life. Each person lost is uniquely and equally precious in the eyes of God.

We long for a halt to the violence in Gaza and for the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners. The ceasefire announced today is only a first phase lasting six weeks. As church leaders we call for the ceasefire to be permanent and unconditional so that humanitarian aid can be rolled out unimpeded in Gaza. The UN agency, UNRWA, has unparalleled capacity to deliver desperately needed support. Israel's ban of UNRWA jeopardises vital life-saving assistance. We ask the UK government to make clear that the restriction of humanitarian aid in this way would have consequences for bilateral relations.

We urge the UK government to uphold standards of International Humanitarian Law. Our government and the international community must fully support the International Criminal Court in its investigations regarding grave breaches of international law.

While a ceasefire is being negotiated in Gaza, there are escalations elsewhere in Palestine, as evidenced by the Israeli drone attack this week on the refugee camp in Jenin, killing at least six people. This takes place against the backdrop of a continued expansion of settlements in the West Bank and the destruction of the homes and property of Palestinians. Our churches will continue to pray for a redoubling of efforts to bring an end to Israel's occupation in order that all Israelis and Palestinians might live in peace, harmony, and friendship.

We pray for a just, equitable, and lasting peace in the region that goes beyond simply the absence of violence. Our churches will continue to work closely with Israeli and Palestinian partners, agonising with them in their current sufferings yet confident that God's grace and deliverance offers hope for the future for all.

Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary, the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Britain

Carolyn Godfrey, Vice-President of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Britain

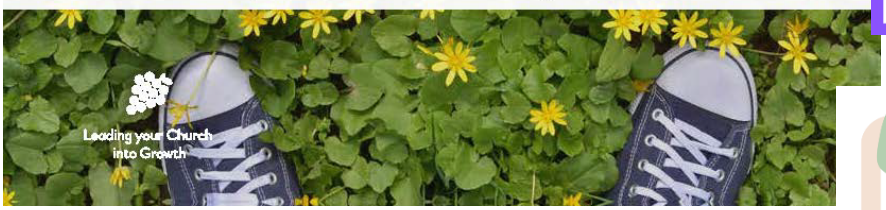
Revd Philip Brooks, Deputy General Secretary (Mission), the United Reformed Church

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY?

If you're looking for answers then maybe it's time to make a Start. Normally run in groups of about 6 to 10 people, each session involves video clips, exercises, group discussion and time for reflection. Each session lasts about an hour and is free to attend.

Courses near you

Cullingworth	Lees	Steeton
1. Mon 13th Jan 2025 2-3pm	1. Tue 14th Jan 2025 2-3pm	1. Wed 15th Jan 2025 2-3pm
2. Mon 20th Jan 2025 2-3pm	2. Tue 21th Jan 2025 2-3pm	2. Wed 22th Jan 2025 2-3pm
3. Mon 27th Jan 2025 2-3pm	3. Tue 28th Jan 2025 2-3pm	3. Wed 29th Jan 2025 2-3pm
4. Mon 3rd Feb 2025 2-3pm	4. Tue 4rd Feb 2025 2-3pm	4. Wed 5rd Feb 2025 2-3pm
5. Mon 10th Feb 2025 2-3pm	5. Tue 11th Feb 2025 2-3pm	5. Wed 12th Feb 2025 2-3pm
6. Mon 17th Feb 2025 2-3pm	6. Tue 18th Feb 2025 2-3pm	6. Wed 19th Feb 2025 2-3pm



Circuit Service

Theme: Wesley Lifepath

Sunday 2nd February

2pm service,
with refreshments to follow

Visiting Preacher:
Rev. Kerry Tankard,
Chair of the Yorkshire West District

Silsden Methodist Church,
BD20 0PA

Lifepath

Windstruments

Windstruments Clarinet Choir
Directed by Juliet Colville

Spring concert
Sunday 16th February
3.30pm
Bingley Methodist Church BD16 4JU

Free entry
Tea and Cake
Donations recieved will be going to Missions

Craven Church

Spuds + Puds

an opportunity to be together as church

St. Peter's, Cross Hills
Sat 8th Feb
5pm



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please sign the sheet in your church if you are able to bring something to go with the spuds, or a cold dessert.

Please bring something to drink - (non-alcoholic!)



with after dinner entertainment

38th Oakworth Methodist Pantomime



15th-22nd February 2025

Book at www.OakworthMethodists.org

Messy Church

2nd Tuesday of the month:
Bingley Messy Church
3.45-5.30pm
Silsden Messy Church
3:30 – 5:30pm

3rd Saturday of the month:
The Eldwick Church
Saturday Church
1-2.30pm
(bring a packed lunch and eat together 12-1pm)

Saturday Church
THE ELDWICK CHURCH

'Messy Church logo © Bible Reading Fellowship 2021. See messychurch.org.uk'

Please keep this page!
If information needs to be updated, a new version will be sent out in a future

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, 7pm

@ St Peter's Methodist Church, Cross Hills
Weekday Communion Service, first Wednesday in the month, 10am
Prayer Service, St Peter's Cross Hills every Wednesday, 10am
(followed by coffee at 10.30am)

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

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

@ The New Place
Methodist Way of Life Quiet Reflection, fourth Wednesday each month, 7pm
Evening Cafe Service, third Sunday each month, 6pm

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

@ Cullingworth Methodist Church
second Wednesday in the month
9.30am Prayer
9.45am Communion

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

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