Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2025

This month's letter is from Pippa Lupton:

"Weeping may endure for the night, but JOY still comes in the morning" Psalm 30:5
We're now entering the third month of 2025 and we're about to begin our lent journey. My word that I picked for this year is JOY, I'm finding it quite hard to seek JOY at the moment whilst we're in this constant phase of dark, cold, dismal weather. I look out of the window and there's very little JOY to be seen, it feels like the sun hasn't shone for a while. But even without the dark weather, I'm struggling each day to seek JOY, the news shows very little JOY, the people around me are tired, people are struggling with rising costs, illness and bad news.

I come back to the quote from Psalms, even in a season of darkness we're assured that JOY will return in the morning. Not only is every day a new day with new possibilities for JOY but also we know that our stories will all end in JOY – a promise that I hold onto in darker days. However, what about what we give to others, instead of just seeking JOY for ourselves. If we all gave slightly more JOY then there would be more to seek.
In the day to day, spreading JOY to others means that someone else will get to experience some JOY themselves. Therefore during lent I've decorated a beautiful jar, each day I'm going to write down either something that has brought me JOY or something that has brought someone else JOY. Some days I might be able to write down both, and what I'll be left with is a jar full of JOY.

But aside from the little day to day things that we do, what about the bigger picture.
We are promised that our stories will end in JOY, after we leave this earth there will be JOY when we are welcomed home. But what about the JOY that we leave behind us. At the recent circuit service we focussed on the work of John Wesley, look at all the JOY he left behind, his work and discipleship has continued way past the end of his life. People are still coming to faith in his Methodist churches, hearing the good news and being discipled by faithful Methodists and Christians. The Methodist Church is still alive and we are all part of this story!! The Methodist church now still has many of the original principals that John started, however it has also grown and evolved, and it needs to continue to grow and evolve. John reminded us that we aim to make disciples not converts, and by doing that we can make sure that even after our story ends the seeds that we have planted and nurtured in others can continue to grow, JOY can continue to grow.
There were many reasons why I picked the word JOY as my word for 2025, one of them was that we recently celebrated the life of my old Sunday school teacher who passed away at the end of 2024. Joy Kempster was my Sunday school teacher from being about 6 months old to being 16, she was the first person to teach me about Jesus, the first person to pray with me, the first person to set me off on my journey with Christ. Those seeds of faith that she planted in me and nurtured over the years continue to grow now, even though she is no longer here. Up until the day she died Joy was still spreading the good news, she still led the Sunday school the week before her death, attended the toddler group at the church and the coffee morning, sat and chatted to people, right up until the end of her story.

This lent I encourage you to be a disciple, to help disciple others by walking with them through their faith journey, and to think about how your actions <u>now</u> will help the JOY and word of God continue to be spread even after all our stories have ended.

At the circuit service I coined this phrase 'A church continues to grow when all people nurture seeds of faith, who's flourishing they may never witness.' It's a hybrid mash up of me, John Wesley and Ricky Gervais. We may not witness the flourishing of faith in others, but we can still be a part of the nurturing and the planting. We have to look forwards.
If you're a YouTube/Spotify/Apple music (other platforms are available) music listener, I urge you to have a listen to 'Alive and Breathing' by Matt Maher.
Every blessing for this Lent season, Pippa

Think community organising rally meets Methodist band meeting meets Holy Spirit revival!

The Wholehearted Conference sold out its 250 places in just a few days. We don't want anyone to miss out on the energy, so we're running a holy experiment in the seasons after the Wholehearted Conference.

Wholehearted monthly aims to digitally connect up diverse leaders doing mission across the Connexion in different ways and contexts for inspiration, equipping and networking for the sake of transformation in the world God loves.

Together we'll open to the Holy Spirit, learn from a different renowned guest speaker each month, and break into groups for wisdom-sharing and equipping for mission with others who share our particular focus.

We're praying, learning, and acting in commitment to being, by God's grace, a growing, inclusive, evangelistic, and justice-seeking Church!

We are delighted to announce our first three speakers:

Nadia Bolz-Weber is a best-selling author, public theologian and pastor, and is the founder and church planter of House for All Sinners and Saints. (Tuesday 11 March, 7-9pm)

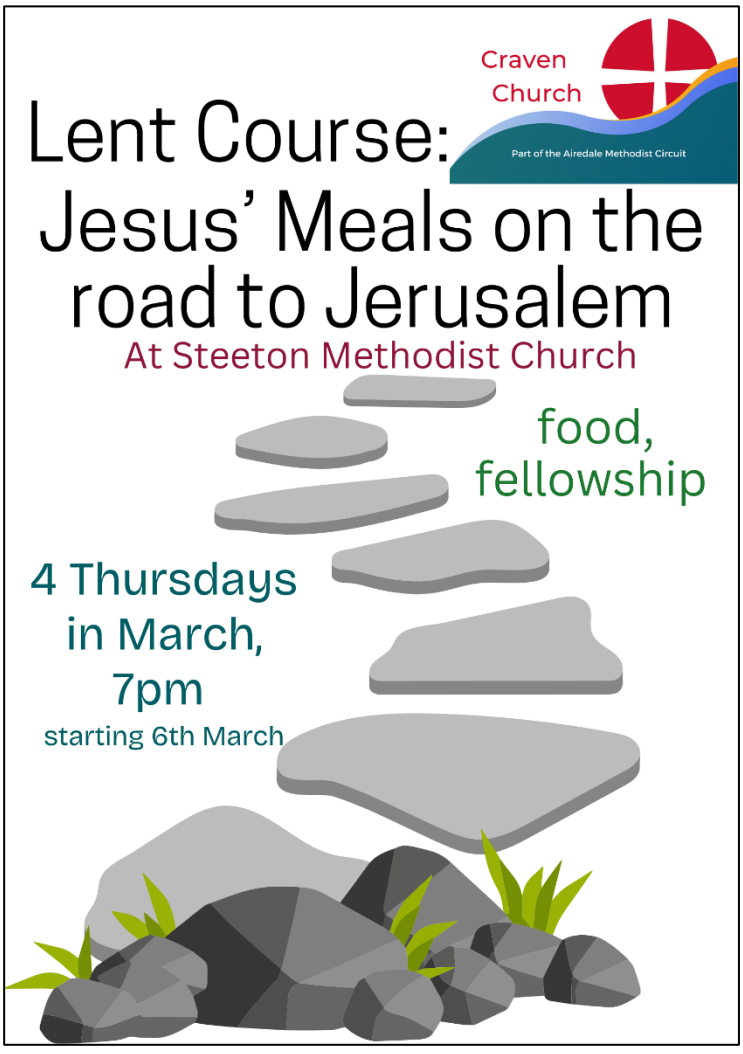
Rowan Williams is a theologian, poet and former Archbishop of Canterbury, and is author of fifty books on literature, politics, and being Christian. (Tuesday 8 April, 7-9pm)

Chine McDonald is a writer, broadcaster and author, and is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank. (Tuesday 13 May, 7-9pm)

Click HERE to book: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082365166349?aff=evangelismgrowth

wholehearted monthly

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH?



Silsden Bereavement Group

A support group for those struggling with unresolved grief. This is a chance to talk
with other people in a similar situation, to share your journey and to receive
support and guidance. I am a palliative care Nurse and bereavement counsellor
and will be on hand to help in any way I can. We meet on the 1st and the 3rd
Tuesday of every month 10.30-12.30, in the Quiet room.

Please feel free to contact Jo Onions on 07927 769400 or see her website group for
more details. Otherwise you are very welcome to just turn up on the day.

SILSDEN METHODIST CHURCH

presents

Hall Royd Brass Band 'In Concert'

Sunday 2nd March

2.30pm

FREE ENTRY

DONATIONS

for Silsden Methodist Church and 'Peertalk' welcomed

Light Refreshments

Raffle

We are delighted to be hosting an **ArtServe Regional day at The New Place (Keighley) on Saturday 8th March, 10am to 2pm.**

There will be a lovely selection of reflective art and craft activities, prayer stations, and contemplative worship. The day is free to attend, and all resources will be provided*. Drinks, toast, and fruit will be freely available but please bring your own packed lunch.

To book your place please email: events@artserve.org.uk

*donations will be gratefully received

ArtServe

supporting creative arts in worship

www.artserve.org.uk

Methodist Women in Britain

YORKSHIRE WEST DISTRICT

ZOOM

Tuesday 4th March 2025

at 7.00pm-8.45pm

Guest Speaker: **Rachel Lampard,**

Director of Social Justice and Social Action for the Methodist Church.

'HOW SHALL WE DO JUSTICE?'

Learn more about Rachel's current role and milestones along her journey.

Some examples of how injustice is being challenged - stories / projects etc.

Ways in which we can get involved and resources available to help us.

Opportunity for questions /discussion as time allows.

For link contactJean Delaney at jn.delaney@btopenworld.com by March 1st

All Welcome!

Registered Charity No. 1156626

ST. PATRICK'S COFFEE MORNING AND BRING AND BUY

VARIOUS STALLS, BOOKS, ETC

INCLUDING A THEMED STALL

WHICH IS ALL **GREEN!**

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 2025

10.00 - 11.30 A.M.

LEES METHODIST CHAPEL

(PART OF THE WORTH VALLEY CHURCH)

DIRECTLY OPPOSITE LEES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mercy Ships

ALL PROCEEDS FOR MERCY SHIPS

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING TOASTED TEACAKES AND HOME BAKING

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

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'



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