Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025

This month's reflection is written Pippa Lupton:

Every year I enjoy taking part in or watching the Methodist Conference, to me it feels like a yearly family gathering. You are reminded that your family, from up and down the country, who you might not have spoken to in a year, and you don't know much about their day-to-day life, have way more in common with you than you might think. You get to swap stories, share blessings and pain, mourn those we have lost in the last year and celebrate that we see new faces here. We get to share fellowship, worship, food and communion.

At conference we hear what's going on across the whole Methodist Connexion, we hear that other Circuits are also undergoing vital restructure, other Churches are wrestling with buildings that were not built for 2025, congregations are dwindling, people are tired, and Churches are struggling to fill roles. This gives the sense of us not being alone in our struggles, in a way it gives a sense that these things are not a failure but a necessary part of our movement as Methodist people – as we move away from the old onto something new and exciting.

But we also hear incredible news of Silent revivals, of a children's weekend where over 1,500 children and over 500 leaders met together for a weekend of worship, growth and community, we hear of Students arriving at Cliff college to learn about evangelism, we hear news of the Methodist Church's aspiration to be net zero by 2030. We reaffirm the commitments to being a Justice seeking Church, a Church where everyone is welcome, a Church where we strive to be not only open to all but accessible to all. We reaffirm the ministry of our current Presbyters and Deacons, and we affirm for the first time the ministry of those choosing to take up ordained roles. We get to hear Kingdom building stories, and stories of enabling Kingdom building, across the whole country. We meet in a Methodist tradition of both Lay and Ordained representatives, both paid and volunteers, remembering that we are all equal and we all have our part to play. This year we also as a Circuit got to celebrate the ordination of Rev. Tracy as she continues in her path of Presbyteral ministry, and what a joy that was!

Every year the President and Vice President give a talk which focuses on their theme for the year. This year the presidential theme is 'Our Story, Our Song', which is about the People called Methodists rediscovering and telling the story that they are part of.

The President and Vice President reminded us that every story matters, each of our own personal stories of faith matter and our wider Methodist story matters. What may seem ordinary to us, is actually an extraordinary story of how God has worked in our lives and through us.

We are encouraged to reflect on not just our own story of faith, but the story of faith in our place, the story that we have been part of as Christians and Methodists in this area, and what it means to be part of a connexional Church. For a lot of us it feels like maybe this story is changing right now. It may sometimes feel like our story is coming to an end, things are not how they 'used to be' therefore the book is closing.

The Vice president encourages us by saying "Our story is not stuck in the past. Our song is for us to sing now. It is being written, being sung anew, by the spirit who makes all things new." He reminds us that in order to move forward we have to lay things down, things that are heavy, things that aren't necessary for the next chapter of our story, this is a necessity not a failing.

What I would reflect on in this to us in Airedale, is that the closing of buildings in our circuit does not mean that our story is over. It does not mean that the story of Methodism in these places is over. It purely means that we have chosen to start a new chapter, an exciting new chapter. We have chosen to lay down the heavy things and so that we are willing and ready to pick up something better. Whilst we remain and we tell our story, whether it be in a Church building or in a supermarket, whether it be to a room full of people or just to a friend over coffee, then the Kingdom of God can continue to grow in this place.

Over my time in the Airedale Circuit one of the things I have learnt is that sharing your story is one of the most powerful acts of evangelism, it is also one of the best ways to encourage other people to do the same.

I would encourage you to share your story, to also share the story of faith in this place, but still to continue to pray for the next chapter, be prepared and excited for the story to continue even if it's not unfolding the way you might have envisaged it. It will still be an extraordinary story because God remains a vital part of it. I also encourage you to remember that all of this makes up part of a whole giant story of Methodism across the country, and that story is flourishing!

Every blessing, Pippa

WHAT'S ON?



Silsden Repair Cafe is on the 16th of August.

Did you know…

60 items were brought into July's Silsden Repair Café! 42 were repaired, 9 were unrepairable, 5 were partially repaired, and 4 were retained by a repairer for further work to be done!













Thank you to everyone who helped at Lees 42nd Village Gala in July!

Grateful thanks to all who made items for the stall and for all those who bought and supported Lees Methodist Church, Methodist Morsbags - Lees, and Crafty Chatters of Cross Roads. Did you buy a CROGGIE? (A Cross Roads Hoggie/Hedgehog) - we look forward to seeing them around the village!

Dates for the diary from the District Office…

Dear all,

In September the District will be hosting the Methodist Collection of Modern Art as part of Bradford 2025.

The Revd Richard Andrew will be visiting the District as part of the launch of the exhibition, and there will 2 opportunities to share time with him. Both opportunities require booking as numbers are strictly limited.

FRIDAY 5th September

10:00am – 12:30pm (registration/refreshments 9:30am)

Lakeside Creative Arts Centre, WF2 6QQ, Gallery 1 & 2 (upstairs)

This workshop is free, but tickets must be booked in advance.

"Our Story, Our Song" A session led on the Presidential theme by Revd Richard Andrew

Join us for a morning of reflection led by the President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Richard Andrew, as we journey together through this year's presidential theme: "Our Story, Our Song". Discover how our lives as Methodists are shaped by those who accompany us on our journey, and the experiences that form our shared story of faith.



Booking is available via this link: (please call the Circuit office if you would like help booking!)

https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lakeside-creative-arts-centre/our-story-our-song/e-jojxra

SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

10 – 2.30 The Bradford Faith Trail.

You can share in the Bradford Faith Trail in the company of the President. The trail leaves St. Peters Catholic Church, **651 Leeds Road, Bradford, BD3 8EL** at 10 a.m. and then visits Abu Bakar Masjid (11.15), Shree Lakshmi Narayam Hindu Temple (12.15), and Guru Gobind Singh Ji Gudwara (1.15) where a vegetarian lunch is provided, before moving to Bradford Cathedral (2.45).

While at the Cathedral, the part of the Methodist Collection of Modern Art there will be formally opened.

If you wish to book, please contact Lesley on admin@ywmethodist.org.uk

Places are extremely limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you book, and are unable to attend, it is essential you inform Lesley so place you have taken can be reallocated.

Kerry

Revd Kerry Tankard, BA (Hons), MA

District Chair

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

@ The New Place
Methodist Way of Life Quiet Reflection, fourth Wednesday each month, 6pm
Evening Cafe Service, third Sunday each month, 5pm

@ 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

At St James' Church in SILSDEN

Messy Church

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

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



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