NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Apologies for the late arrival of this mailing. Illness hindered it getting to you!

I am very sorry if your envelope did not reach you by the 1st Sunday,
Esther

……

This month's reflection is by Adam Denno, Pioneer Minister at The New Place:

In this time between the festive season and spring it can feel very drab, and long, and cold, and dark and wet. It can feel like nature has given up on beauty and settled for colourless decay via offensive weather.

While planning for our recent Cafe Church at the New Place, I felt I was being reminded to seek, and appreciate, the beauty of this season. And of how, perhaps, we can experience and even draw closer to God through the cold, the wind and the wet.

So where is God in winter? The leaves and flowers stripped by the, often dramatic, wind and rain, far from merely discarded, now enrich the futile soil, they become food. Being humbled by the often restrictive weather reminds me that we (humans) are not God's sole priority, we are part of an interdependent ecosystem. Creation needs the wind and the rain, and we need creation. Currently, nature is taking its time to nourish and replenish itself. It is taking stock, and preparing for what's ahead. The colour and the vibrance of summer is now feeding the earth, which in turn, will feed the new life that comes in spring. Under our feet, and all around us God moves in Creation.

In this season, we can take the opportunity to allow God to nourish and replenish ourselves. We can allow God to move in our lives and show us that there may be something to learn from Creation in winter.

The Circuit is going through a Visioning process, discerning the next steps.

If you would like a reminder of where this process has been and is heading, all the 'Bright Hope for Tomorrow' updates are available on the website:

https://www.airedalemethodists.org/brighthope/

<u>Staffing update:</u>

In case you missed it, or don't receive weekly emailed mailings, there have been some staffing changes in the Circuit. Please see the attached Bright Hope Update.

Welcome to Samuel Philip!

Pippa, Neal and baby are all well and adapting wonderfully to being a family of 3 (humans, that is – we must not forget to include cats…)





Stationing News:

As you may know by now, Airedale Circuit has not been successful in the 2nd round of stationing. However, the process is ongoing, so please do keep all involved in your prayers.

Here is a message from Kerry Tankard, Chair of the District:

Dear Friends,

We often feel most hopeful when we are in control, when we know all the answers, and when we can see what is going to happen next. In many ways that seems a normal human response, but in what way is the holy, Christian, faith-filled response? Is faith more about embracing the unexpected than controlling everything before us?

There was a hymn I discovered as part of a Lent Collection in the year 2000. It was, at the time, over 150 years old but I had never come across it. The hymn is, "We Walk by Faith" and its first line is "We walk by faith, and not by sight . . " It is written as an Easter hymn and I have put the full words below, but in this moment I offer it as an encouragement. The way of faith is one we walk not seeing or controlling everything before us. As Hebrews 11.1 puts it: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

I am crucially aware, at this point in the stationing process, I still do not have the name of a new minister for you to come and serve as Superintendent. I realise that in a time of change that that can cause some concern for you, and for me. This will feel demoralising if we are people defined by the worldly need to control, rather than the faithful need to trust in God.

You are a Circuit committed to a Bright Hope, one filled with encounters with God, one filled with an openness to the possibilities of God, and one that orientates itself to faith rather than to human control. To turn from today to tomorrow knowing you are not in control is costly. The loss of what is being given up and left behind is added to the uncertainty of what will be. However, I want to suggest to you that that is everything the Gospel is about. Fishermen and tax-collectors leaving their lives to follow Christ; Paul leaving his persecution of the Christians to become one of them; God, emptying himself in Jesus, becoming human, and dying, only then to reveal the possibility of resurrection his disciples could not imagine.

There is uncertainty before us in what will happen, but there is the certainty that God is with us, and in that we can trust. If the right person does not emerge in stationing for us this year, we will trust God in that. I will work with the Circuit more closely for a year as we wait on God together to see what he is longing to give us.

Yours,

Kerry

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none ne'er spoke,
But we believe him near.

2. We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice,
And cry, "My Lord and God!"

3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound,
To call on you when you are near,
And seek where you are found.

4. That when our lives of faith are done,
In realms of clearer light,
We may behold you as you are,
With full and endless sight.

Henry Alford (1844)

Notice concerning the funeral service of Rev. Jennifer Lunn

Thursday 5th February 12.00

Parking at Eastburn Methodist Church is extremely limited, and there is also little street parking on account of Airedale Hospital being close by. Therefore we have made the following arrangements: -

There is parking at two nearby churches:

- St. Peter's Cross Hills, Main Street, Cross Hills BD20 8TF (1.1 miles) - in the rear car park.
- Steeton Methodist Church, Skipton Road, Steeton BD20 6PD (0.6 miles) - car park in front of the church.

Members of the local churches have volunteered to taxi people to Eastburn, (and back), and there will also be a steward at each church to give information.

We are assuming that it will be mainly family travelling to the committal at Skipton Crematorium. On Jennifer's explicit instruction, refreshments will be served immediately after the church service for those who do not go to the crematorium, so we hope that people will stay. There will be plenty for the Crematorium party when we return!

Rev. Clare

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY?

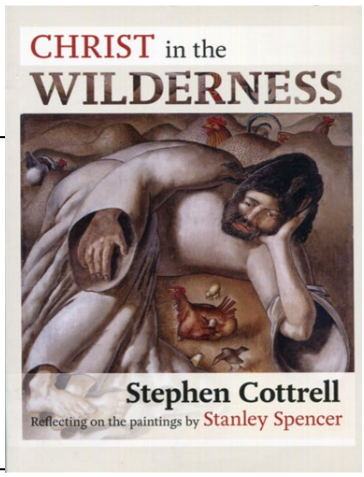




Lent Study Group led Rev Peter Sheasby

5 Tuesday evenings through Lent
Starting on Tuesday 24th February to 24th March 7.30 to 9.00pm
At Steeton Methodist Church
No knowledge of art (or even the Bible) is necessary to join in!

Christ in the Wilderness: based on a book by Archbishop of York, Rev Stephen Cottrell.
Looking at a series of pictures by the artist Stanley Spencer, and their related gospel stories.



Explore Sessions:
All are welcome: Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, and all members of Airedale congregations!

2nd Monday of each month, 7pm on Zoom. Please let Rev Nel know if you're hoping to attend and she will email the Zoom link to you.

The next is on: 9th February
P.S. If you're wondering what an Explore session is, and whether it's for you, here's the description from the website:

*Learning together with others is a vital and engaging part of learning as a Worship Leader or Local Preacher. That's why the **Explore** sessions are so central to the course - opportunities for students to get together with their tutor to talk through the insights they've gained from their learning, and the challenges they've come across*

The New Place Update:

January and February 2026

As you may be aware our roof leaks! We are hoping the builders will be coming to fix the problem during January and February. This is good news! However, having the builders in will obviously limit our activities. Therefore we will only be opening for our family friendly session on a Tuesday* morning, 10am-12pm, during January and February.

We plan to reopen with more regular sessions on **Sunday 1st March.**

*please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

CULLINGWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

invites you to a

FAMILY FILM SHOW

and Fish and Chip Supper



on Friday 27th February

at 6.30 pm

(Fish and Chips supplied by Wilsden Fisheries)

Everybody welcome

Yorkshire West Methodist District

Are you a busy volunteer? Have you always got things to do for Church? Would you like to nurture your own faith more?

Then read on as this is for you ...

A Retreat for

(Busy)Volunteers

across the Yorkshire West District

Saturday 21st February
2026 9:30am to 1pm
Lakeside Creative Arts Centre
New Millerdam

Led by
Revd Dr Julian Pursehouse
take a morning out for you, a space to connect with God, to be, to reflect on your journey of faith



Rest, Relax and Renew

Venue Details:
- *Address: 693 Barnsley Rd, Newmillerdam,*
- *Wakefield WF2 6QQ*

Bookings:
- Please email Caroline Stead (synodsec@ywmethodist.org.uk) to book.
- Please include any accessibility or other needs you have in your email so we can ensure you are fully able to enjoy the retreat.

Timings:
- Coffee from 9:30am for a 10am start
- Finishing at 1pm. Feel free to bring a packed lunch to eat together at 12:30pm before you depart

For More Information:
- Please contact Caroline Stead by email (synodsec@ywmethodist.org.uk) or phone (01274 442670)

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





Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District