Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

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

I've been talking with a friend who's Muslim about Islamic mysticism. He said something that has stuck with me. As a summary of the nuances of Islamic mysticism, he said, for him, the core of it is: 'keeping the name of God always on your lips'. I think about this a lot.

If we can do this then

every word will be spoken through the name of God,

every taste will fill our senses with God's presence,

and every breath will have the name of God in it.

As we breathe we take something of the world into our body,

it sustains us,

then we breathe out

adding something of ourselves to the world.

If God is always on our lips, and part of every breath,

then we will breathe in the love, the beauty, and peace of God,

and breathe out praise, and gratitude, and love for God's world.

Message from Esther:

One of my favourite ways to stay fit is with action songs! Who says they're for children?!

If you'd like to give this one a go, you'll find it on YouTube:
https://youtu.be/-PhQtJFS7Ow

Here are the lyrics if you're not online, or you'd rather make up your own tune / actions!

VERSE 1
Easter doesn't stop on Friday,
when Jesus died for you and me,
when he gave his life as a sacrifice:
but Easter doesn't stop there.

VERSE 2
Easter doesn't stop on Saturday,
when Jesus lay dead in his grave,
when the people thought: was he really God?
But Easter doesn't stop there.

CHORUS
So I won't stop either, telling the whole, great story of Easter.
No I won't stop either, living out the true story of Easter.

VERSE 3
Easter doesn't stop on Sunday,
when Jesus walked out of the tomb.
What a great surprise, he was raised to life!
But Easter doesn't stop there.

VERSE 4
Easter is a new beginning
to fix what's broken in this world.
Sing it loud today, Jesus made a way.
Yeah, Easter doesn't stop here.

An Easter Poem:
His love ran wild

On a hill outside Jerusalem

They crucified the Lord

They pierced his hands and feet with nails

His blood for us was poured

But why did he die such cruel death

Upon that cursed tree

He died to bear the sins of men

He died for you and me

It wasn't nails that held him there

As the world turned dark

The crown of thorns upon his brow

Left a cruel mark

His blood poured out, his life he gave

My sin upon his head

It was his love that held him there

As the ground turned red.

When Jesus died upon that tree

he paid the price for me

My sin upon his shoulders

He died to set me free

Such sacrificial love,

so full and so wild

It simply says I love you,

You are my precious child.

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL?

Fond Farewells Rev Brian and Rev Emma are moving on to new positions within the church. Rev Brian's final service with us will be Messy Church on 18th April to which all are very welcome. Rev Emma will be leaving us sometime after this. If anyone would like to make a donation towards a gift from us to them, can they please either send money electronically (identified as Brian or Emma obviously!) or leave money in the plate in an envelope with their name on the front. If you wish to make an anonymous donation that is fine but if you can put your name on a slip of paper inside the envelope this will enable me to claim Gift Aid and add 25% to the gift if you are a taxpayer. Many thanks, Sharron Arnold.









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.

Please note, there is no session in April.

Celebration Services
over the coming months

Celebrating Marsh Methodist Church
2pm, 8th March 2026

Celebrating Ilkley Road Methodist Church
2pm, 10th May 2026

Celebrating Long Lee Methodist Church
10.30am, 7th June 2026

Celebrating Eastburn Methodist Church
10.30am, 28th June 2026

Celebrating Aire Valley Methodist Church and Farewell to Rev. Nel Shallow
2pm, 28th June 2026,
Cullingworth Methodist Church

Retirement Service for Rev. Clare Stainsby
2pm, 19th July 2026
Silsden Methodist Church

Please keep in your prayers those involved in the upcoming changes as we approach these dates.

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)

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
Way of Life meal and conversation, fourth Wednesday each month, 5pm.







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