Airedale Methodist Circuit
in the Yorkshire West District

NEWSLETTER MAY 2026

This month's reflection is from Rev. Tracy Birks:

Dear Friends

I am feeling blessed as I have warm sun pouring in through window as I write this letter. I hope the signs of Spring as it moves in to Summer have cheered and uplifted you. I have miniature daffodils in my garden as I write to you, a little gift from nature.

Soon the daffodils will have had their time, and the garden will be renewed with the flowers of Summer. Each flower recognising its season, knowing when the time for renewal comes.

Looking back to Easter we recognise it represents an opportunity for us as Christians to experience a transformative renewal through Jesus Christ as we celebrate and recognise the fresh start, and hope that Jesus' death and resurrection brings. Embrace this, flourishing, growth and renewal come - in a similar way to our Spring garden renewing itself through growth for the next season.

But in May we turn to look for the coming of Pentecost - a different sort of new beginning. The disciples fearfully but faithfully gather waiting until the Holy Spirit comes and blesses them; they go out and share the Good News, bringing about the beginning of the church.

We were chatting in the Circuit office about church bells last week and how they draw us into gather and worship, When I worked for an Anglican Church in a village, if I was still at home on the far side of the village and I heard the bells on their second round of ringing, I knew I would be late. So, on a day I wasn't preaching, at the first round of ringing my children and I put on our coats and quickly made our way to the church arriving perfectly on time to gather with a surprisingly large congregation just as the robed choir entered.
Being called and gathered felt special.

Of course, in this Methodist Circuit, we have no bells to call us to gather for worship. However, still we gather. Still we are called together, and still it is special. And, as we go forward with less buildings, even more people will gather in each of our buildings, sharing and worshipping faithfully; gathered waiting for the next steps and that too feels special. Just as nature is offering renewal and flourishing, our Circuit is changing and flourishing as we put energy and prayer into being a visible and missional presence.

As Rev Clare Stainsby and Rev Nel Shallow prepare to move on this summer we pray for their new beginnings and for smooth transitions. We also pray for those who have joined and those who will join our staff team over the coming months, to work with us as we seek God's mission in this place we call home.

Change and new beginnings - even small ones - can feel unsettling, but we know it can also bring flourishing, growth and new life.

"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin."

Zechariah 4:10a NLT

I hope you feel the joy of Spring and the expectation of Summer as we enjoy the flourishing and faithfully and eagerly await more of God's renewal and grace in the coming months.

Love and blessing, Rev. Tracy

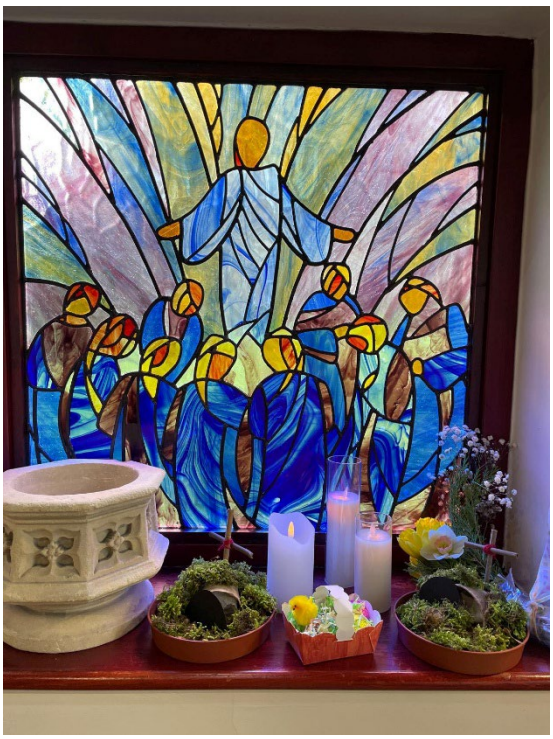
A brief photo re-visit to some of the churches in the Circuit over the Easter celebrations – definite signs of Spring and new life (and renewed joy!): Cullingworth, Bingley, Eldwick, Silsden, Oxenhope, Eastburn, Lees















WELCOME TO KIM AND KARA!

Kim Brown (left) and Kara Horrix (right) started working for the Circuit mid-April as Project Pioneers!
You can contact them using these email addresses: Kim@airedalemethodists.org Karahorrix@airedalemethodists.org

Next month, Kara will say hi, but here's a short message from Kim:
Hi, my name is Kim Brown. I've worked as a pioneer and mission enabler in the Church of England since 2008, in the Dioceses of Gloucester and Worcester.

My family have lived in this area for almost 40 years, and I moved back last year.

I have a son and a daughter who both live in London and visit often, and a black Labrador called Bailey who loves to walk in the hills with me.

I'm very excited to have started this role and look forward to seeing what God has planned to build his Kingdom in Cross Hills. I would appreciate your prayers as this work gets underway.
With love, Kim



WHAT'S ON IN MAY?





The New Place
WELCOME

WE'RE NOW FULLY OPEN!

We're reopening... and it's our 2nd BIRTHDAY PARTY! We've been open for two years, and we want to share the party with YOU!

On the May 2nd & 4th There will be food, craft, face painting, games, and lots more fun!

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.

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.

@ 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

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



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