



'BEING CHURCH'

**Boston Spa and Clifford
Methodist Churches**

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Hope in Darkness – Jesus the light of the world



For the past five years Sue has joined with Bramham CofE Benefice and King's Church to reach out to young people, through the highly successful Holiday Club. However, because of the current ongoing restrictions associated with the

Coronavirus pandemic, this year it's going to be run very differently; a combination of resource provision, and online engagement. Rather than running the holiday club over one week, it will be run over the six-week school holiday period and will be *holidayclub@home*.

In a time when many people have been struggling with loneliness, isolation, anxiety, and fear, the theme of this year's Holiday Club is about Hope; because, as church communities, we want to give our wider communities the opportunity to know that our hope is in Jesus, the light of the world, so this is what the *holidayclub@home* will explore - the hope we can have in Jesus, and the difference that being his friend can make.

One of the sessions talks about the healing of the blind man (Bartimaeus) who, for the purposes of the drama that we are going to be using, is called 'Blind Bob'. In the sketch Blind Bob applies to the local hairdressers for a job. (Hairdressers of course being particularly topical at the moment.) The conversation as you can imagine is one of disbelief, on the part of the salon owner, that Blind Bob is applying for a job in a place which cuts hair and beards. However, Bob had previously encountered Jesus, and 'Bob', as he now wants to be known, explains that he can now see! He goes on to say that he doesn't care how Jesus did it, but the fact is, Jesus did do it! Bob could now see his friends and family, he could see the beauty around him, and he could work; after years of begging, his life was now full of light and hope.

As the drama continues (see John 9: 1-41), Bob bears witness to Jesus more and more strongly, and more and more indignantly. In the end it is clear that there are 'none so blind as those who will not see'. The religious leaders refuse to see that Jesus brings light into the world - they refuse to acknowledge their own blindness.

What, as we emerge from the darkness of the past few months, might we learn from the witness of this blind man? How do we reflect, to others, the light of the world that is shining within us? How do we share the message of hope? And that is the challenge for all of us - how do *we* do that? Not only just to the wider community but also to each other, as we move forward together into a new Connexional year in September.

Steve, Sue and Donald

Worshipping together - Online:

This week we have a Circuit reflection from Revd Ruth Parry, as her last contribution before leaving her temporary role as Circuit Superintendent. Available on Boston Spa and Tadcaster Circuit websites.

Worshipping together – Offline

The attached short Service will be shared by many of us on Sunday, at our normal Service time. Please join us, to feel part of something larger – physically apart, but spiritually together!

On BBC: Sunday at 8:10 am, BBC Radio 4 has 'Great is thy faithfulness', a service preparing for this year's 'Virtually Keswick' convention. At 1:15 pm, on BBC1, Songs of Praise with Revd Kate Bottley on Crosby Beach, Merseyside, meeting Christian artists inspired by Antony Gormley's 'Another place' - 100 statues facing the sea



Prayer Cards: Every Sunday and Wednesday, at 7:00 pm, we remember to place a lit candle in the window and use the Prayer Cards, for a quiet moment with God, including prayers for those groups who would normally meet in the Church rooms over the coming week. Please also remember those of our immediate Church family, who we know are coping with loss of a loved one, their own health problems, loneliness or other worries.



Dial-a-Sermon: If you don't have access to a computer, you can still listen to Revd Ruth Parry's reflection (available from Sunday)

Sunday Morning Coffee 11:15 every Sunday: a chance to use Zoom to catch up on news and discuss aspects of the Sunday service – was there a hymn or prayer that was meaningful? Has it triggered any ideas you'd like to share?



Don't Stew and Fester: don't forget that if you want to catch up with friends, for a chat over virtual coffee, via Zoom (bring your own cake), the next session is on: **Wednesday 29th July at 11:00 am** (Contact Donald for details)

Bible Month 2020

Bible Month is a little different this year!



You are invited to join us for four 'Zoom' sessions throughout July during which we will look at, and have conversation around, the **Book of Ruth**

- Thursday 9th July, 7^{pm}**
Ruth 1 – The Story of Orpah – led by Revd Steve Jakeman
- Thursday 16th July, 7^{pm}**
Ruth 2 – The Story of Boaz – led by Revd Ruth Parry
- Thursday 23rd July, 7^{pm}**
Ruth 3 – The Story of Ruth – led by Heather Shipman
- Thursday 30th July, 7^{pm}**
Ruth 4 – The Story of Naomi – led by Donald Milne

Please contact Donald Milne donaldmilne53@gmail.com to book your place (and to receive the 'zoom link', plus course information)

LAST CHANCE – and we've saved the best till last (says Donald)

Families back catalogue on You Tube (for those rainy 'summer' days)

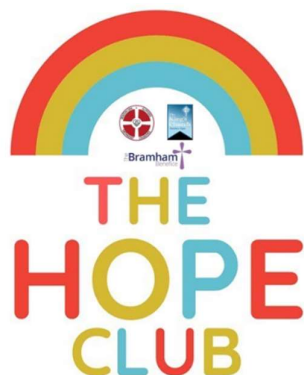


Tea-Time Church at Home: worship for young families

Storytime for toddlers (and over 60s): Donald reading favourite stories – go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCinmF5gqNsY8liI108RsZ7w/>





There will be no Tea-Time Church this week, instead the Opening Service for the **'Hope' Holiday Club** will be available on the Tadcaster Circuit and Boston Spa Websites, plus all the Facebook pages.

This year, along with Bramham Benefice and King's Church, we are running a ***Holiday Club @ Home*** - we hope to provide some fun, challenges, songs, activities and crafts like our usual Holiday Club.

Pick up a Resource Pack each week and complete the activities provided in your own time at home. Join us online each week for a fun 30 minute session - we will send you the YouTube link to watch. Find out how Jesus gives us all **HOPE** with stories, drama, crafts, songs and prayer.

Collect your pack every Monday from 27th July – 24th Aug at St Mary's Church Boston Spa.

To book your place (so you can collect a resource pack) please use this link:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hope-club-boston-spa-holiday-club-2020-tickets-108976282996?fbclid=IwAR25dmaH9xGjWoPMhCtIVBQfHdfowR7vZ3Wx_XDxlqimubVeRjsf9TQVLHk



Weekly Offerings: A note from Anne

We are fast approaching the end of our financial year and I should just like to remind those members who would normally make weekly gifts to the Church through the envelope scheme or cash collection, and who have been unable to since our services have been suspended, that you can still make a gift by either of the following methods:

Send a cheque made payable to 'Boston Spa Methodist Church' to Anne Hovell, Lowstones, Clifford Road, Boston Spa LS23 6DB or contact Anne on 01937 843445 to discuss arrangements for either a cheque or cash to be collected from you.

If a signed and dated note can be included in the envelope stating the number of weeks it relates to, it should mean that I will be able to claim gift aid on the donation. Can I also take this opportunity to thank those members who have sent me cheques over the past few months, it is greatly appreciated!



Foodbank update:

A huge thank you to everyone who has been supporting Wetherby and District Foodbank, over the past months. The feedback received informally from those we support is so positive and is greatly appreciated.

The local community and corporate sponsors continue to be extremely generous with their support in terms of food as well as monetary donations, meaning food stocks remain healthy which, in turn, allows us to continue to support other foodbanks and charities. However, some of this corporate support has been scaled back in recent weeks, which means your donations are even more vital now than ever before.

Just as a reminder about how you can give:

Monetary donations via the website: www.wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Donations of food (non-perishable – see above website for items required)

Clifford Methodist Church – Wednesdays 2pm-4pm

St Mary's Church, Boston Spa – Saturdays 10am-11am

or donations can be left with Jo Vernon in Thorp Arch any time by arrangement – 01937 360016



Our Church family:

This week we're delighted to bring you a photos of Mavis Rodgers, from Clifford, with her granddaughter, Jasmine. Mavis is missing her friends – and we miss her too!

Meanwhile Alexia (also from Clifford) has been visited twice by the tooth fairy – she's (temporarily) missing her teeth and we all miss having her and the family with us at Church.



Please send Donald your news – birthday, anniversary, what the children or grandchildren are doing, new skills learned, whatever you'd normally share. How about a photo (send in your own or ask Donald to come and take one – socially distanced of course) to prove to your friends that you're still alive and kicking!

We're all in this together, so let's share our Church Family news.

A JOURNEY THROUGH COVID-19 (shared by Jeanie Kennedy)

*Oh how long was that list of the things we should do
Long ago way back yonder when Covid was new
Wardrobes of frocks and drawers of socks
Lay in wait to be purged, whole garages too*

*We set off with gusto on our list of good deeds
When out came the sun and up came the weeds
The grass was as high as a wood pigeon's eye
And Monty already was sowing some seeds*

*So we gardened and cleaned to keep boredom at bay
Following government instructions day after day
Please stay in your home, it's madness to roam
As April moved slowly and turned into May*

*Then on travelled time and lockdown was a pain
We tried lots more things to keep ourselves sane
Over shelves did we look for yet another book
And wondered if we'd see our hairdresser again*

*Now the end of the tunnel's finally showing some light
Can we really dare hope that we're winning the fight
We start planning our trips, some fish and some chips
Way down the by the seaside, just picture the sight*

*But please don't be too hasty, for we aren't quite there
As for venturing out, if you really must dare
Remember your gel, your facemask as well
You must keep your distance; take a great deal of care*

*Oh, we long for the day when we'll meet in one room
And hugs from our friends will brighten the gloom
We'll laugh and we'll play, and we'll chase cares away
But until then we'll Skype and we'll FaceTime and Zoom*

Stay safe - remember we love you and, more importantly, Jesus loves you!

Steve, Sue and Donald