



Methodist Post

Boston Spa & Clifford September 2020

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

When I arrived in Tadcaster Circuit in September 2014, I could never in my wildest dreams have imagined that 2020 would be the kind of year that it has been. Since the start of lockdown in March, so much has changed in all of our lives; when I wrote the first letter, for the Methodist Post, I shared one of my favourite passages from the Bible which comes from the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3; 1-8.



"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

*a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace."*

I reflected, at that time, that this sacred list represents the seasons and milestones of life. Some are happy times, others sad; some are productive while others seem wasteful, some inspire peace, and others bring pain.

This year it seems to me that we have been living through a period when we have been thrust into the different seasons completely unexpectedly; and some seasons have come all at the same time. I guess, like me, for you it has not always been easy to come to terms with the season we are living through.



Unfortunately, we are still not able to have this issue printed professionally, but it is available to read on our website:

www.bostonmamethodistchurch.org.uk

Ideas and contributions for future editions of the Methodist Post are always welcome. For the October issue, please send copy by 17th September to: jovernon1@gmail.com
Jo Vernon, Editor (01937 360016)



Cover photograph: Jo Vernon
Harvest flowers at Boston Spa 2019, arranged by Wendy Wade

Happy Birthday

Steve Jakeman
Julie Norman, Peter Norman

Thought for the month

It's better to look back on life and say "I can't believe I did that" than to look back and say "I wish I'd done that!"

It has been so difficult, for example, not to be able to embrace family and friends, not to be able to weep together, mourn together, or to laugh and dance together.

We still have no idea when this season will end, nor when it does what life will be like, apart from the fact that, when we do meet, we will be inevitably older than we were in March, and certainly in my case a bit greyer and heavier!

But we must remember that the flow of life is a process of change, and if we remember that there is a gift in every crisis or challenge - in every transition of life - we will be able to go with, accept, and move on more easily; as we discover the gifts in every season, learning to trust the loving, divine purpose behind it.

My prayer for us all is that, as we come to the start of this new Connexional year, we are stronger in our faith, more united as a Church community, more caring and loving of each other, and accepting of the fact that times will change, and that we will be able to embrace each other, to mourn and weep together, as well as laugh and dance together. We will then be in a position for the stream of life to carry us off to new adventures; more rewarding and exciting than any we may have chosen for ourselves.

Rev Steve

Circuit Welcome Service Revd Ann Fox

On Saturday 5th September, we will be holding a welcome service, led by Chair of District Revd Leslie Newton, for Revd Ann Fox as she comes to join us as Superintendent of Tadcaster Circuit.

The service, which will be pre-recorded, will be broadcast on the Tadcaster Circuit website at 3pm. You will also find the service on the Boston Spa website and across all our Facebook pages.

Please do come and join us and help to make this a special occasion for Ann, and, as the service is going out live via YouTube, you will also be able to make your own welcoming comments to Ann by using the comments box.



No Internet? No Problem

You can listen to a voice you know giving a short reflection* by calling this number (local rate)

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* No more than 10 mins



A welcome from our Superintendent Minister...

Dear Friends

Hello! I am very pleased to be joining you in the Tadcaster Circuit. I am slowly finding my way around and exploring the area. One or two have said that it's a strange time in which to move, and it is going to be rather challenging. I thought I knew what I was coming into, but now I'm not too sure...but at least we will learn and find new ways of being 'Church' together. For instance, I'm not sure yet how

I'm going to be able to meet you. I love going to coffee mornings and getting to know people over tea/coffee and cake and hearing your stories! I'll have to have a re-think....there may be some 'coffee chats by Zoom' coming up!! At least, until the restrictions change and we are able to begin pastoral visiting.

So, what can I tell you? Having come 'over the border' from my last post in the Nidd Valley Circuit, I am originally from Keighley and find myself back in West Yorkshire – but very pleased to still be in the Yorkshire North & East District. I hold a District role as the Presbyteral Synod Secretary, which means I have a seat on the District Probationers Committee and the District Policy Consultation group. It's a privilege to be able to serve the Church in the District.

I am interested in music and play piano, keyboard and organ. I was the keyboard player in a church worship band in Nidd Valley, and sing backing vocals (harmony). During lockdown I learned how to play the cajong (a drum box that you sit on), which was tested in a couple of (socially distanced) street parties!

I also enjoy walking, and am pleased to hear that there are both music groups and walking groups in the Circuit.

Superintendency is obviously a new role for me, and not one that I take lightly (although you may be pleased to know that I do have a sense of humour). I am

conscientious and dedicated to following God's calling on my life and in developing my discipleship – which is a life-long calling for us all. I look forward to serving our Lord alongside our Circuit Leadership Team and within our church communities and am keen to encourage and enable others in their calling.

We have a lot to work out between us over the coming months....the re-opening of our church buildings takes a lot of hard work in the background (and thank you to those who have been working on the practicalities on our behalf). It may seem a bit frustrating to those who want to return to our buildings, and we ask for patience as we follow the Methodist Church and the Government guidelines - we want to make sure that our church families can meet again in an environment that is safe for all. And to those of you who are still self-shielding and feeling anxious, you are not forgotten, we will endeavour to continue to circulate news, prayers, and worship to you and to offer online worship as and when we are able to. We may be 'dispersed', but we are all "united in love" (*Colossians 2:2*), and I know there are some wonderful pastoral connections around the Circuit.

I leave you with these words from the Apostle Paul, and look forward to eventually meeting you.

"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love."

Ephesians 3: 16-17

God bless, Ann

Rev Ann Fox, BA (Hons)
Superintendent Minister (*from 1st September*)

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Supporting



***'Taste and see that the Lord is good'* (Psalm 34 v 8 NIV)**



So, I bought this very large sausage roll, and took the first bite. Oh no, that's not right – instead of flaky pastry and solid sausage meat, whatever was in my mouth was soft, felt slimy, possibly a large globule of fat, possibly something worse. I spat it out (you're not eating at the moment are you?) and saw – a large slice of tomato. I hadn't expected it and my taste buds told my brain that it wasn't right, without saying what it was and my brain misinterpreted the messages it was receiving.

That's the strange thing about taste. We think that we taste things in our mouth, after all, that's where the taste buds are, but in fact they play only a very small part in the overall flavour. Smell is thought to account for around 80%. And even then, it's not through your nose, as you might expect but through the retro-nasal route, connecting to the nose from the back of the mouth (that's why oenophiles swirl wine around in their mouths – that and wanting to show off!). Sound can also affect taste – people who are played crunching noises through headphones rate food as 'fresher tasting'. And, of course sight. A study at the University of Bordeaux (where else!) gave students two glasses of wine, one red and one white. They were actually exactly the same but one had an odourless and flavourless red colouring. You've guessed it – they ascribed the perceived qualities of the 'two' wines completely differently.

Even harder to define is the effect of memory. Do you have a food or drink which brings back good memories? That rosé wine you remember from the sunny Mediterranean never tastes the same on a cold day in Yorkshire – but other foods can transport you back to a precious moment and 'taste'

wonderful, even if objectively they're nothing special.

Which maybe goes part way to explaining Communion, and why I miss it so much. A sip of wine which frankly you would never serve to friends at home and a morsel of bread become a 'feast'. And yet, the act of sharing in Communion engages all of our senses – and again 'taste' is the least important. We have the sights and sounds of others around us – from the innocent children to the old person struggling to get to the altar rail but determined to do so. Usually we can see the cross as a reminder of what it is all about. We hear the words of consecration. We feel, in some way we can't quite define, part of that 2,000 year continuum which connects us to the Last Supper shared by Jesus and his followers. Anyone who has had the privilege of sharing Communion with someone who is ill or dying will tell you how profoundly moving it is, as their memory kicks in.

I think this tells me something important in these strange times. It's a reminder that when we discuss our faith with others and invite them to '*taste and see*', the Christian faith, what we are sharing is an all immersive experience. If you were describing a particularly special meal to someone, you'd describe the food – but also, the setting, the company, the occasion, maybe even the weather! Similarly, our faith involves all of our senses, our reason, our emotions and our memory and puts us in touch, through the Holy Spirit with a different world to just the physical one which we all inhabit. So, sharing our faith isn't about knowing the Bible, it's about sharing that excitement, that whole life experience, that closeness to God, which sustains us even in the hardest of times. Taste and see!

Donald



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How has lockdown affected me?

- January 2020 news of a virus infection from an animal market in remote Wuhan grew.
- In February skiers in Italy were infected and brought the infection to the UK (*not Boston Spa though*)
- Early March things started to change with the increase in cases and the deaths (*no longer remote now*)

On the 16 March Boris Johnson announced that from midnight on the 20 March there was to be a nationwide lockdown of offices restaurants pubs and all non-essential businesses until further notice because of the new unknown virus the Coronavirus or later COVID-19.

We asked three members of our congregations to tell us of their experiences.

First, we hear from a Worker...

We had planned a week's holiday to Spain and had been due to fly on the 17 March but Jet 2 had already cancelled this. As we had planned to be away we both had had haircuts the previous week which proved to be a good move as the lockdown continued turning days into weeks and then months.

I work for a Computer Software company situated at Monks Cross in York. I have worked for this Company for 30 years and I semi-retired in 2011 but continued to work a day a week to maintain the Payroll, Direct Debit System amongst other financial roles. Because several of the systems I use cannot be run from home I was designated a Keyworker and so I continued to work during lockdown in the office.

On Friday 27 March I set off for work a little uncertain as to what might happen. I had my Keyworker letter authorising me but, being over 70, I did wonder if I qualified. The A64 was deserted but I kept thinking will the Police stop and question me perhaps. This never happened all the weeks I continued to go to the office thank

goodness. The Office complex was also deserted: it is usually a very busy area for parking but mine was the only car there. I was the only person in the building too and this continued throughout lockdown.

The furlough arrangements for which I was responsible were very confusing and difficult to manage as the Company furloughed several staff members during the first month and more subsequently. During the months that followed the scheme has changed and takes a considerable amount of my time in the complex calculations every month. This is due to stop at the end of October but then what!

It was certainly different being in the silent office but I did find I could concentrate on the work but it felt strange moving around. Now several staff have returned as the large office is suitable for social distancing. By contrast last week I was caught up in the coastal traffic on the A64 and it took me an extra hour to get to the office.

How times have changed.

Anne Hovell

Thoughts from someone who has been shielding...

How do I feel after being here for four months? Unable to go out with my friends I'm not able to allow them to come in to chat and no hugs. I am sure most people have found life difficult to cope with. However we have survived so far. We have been able to keep in touch with Church by having Weekly Services and general information about church matters and on behalf of everyone I want to say a big "Thank you" to Rev. Steve, Sue and Donald for their thoughtfulness: it has meant so much to all of us

I thought that I would get many things done about the house – drawers tidied and cupboards sorted; alas I didn't manage that one – don't ask me why. I just didn't find the right time! I was determined to do a bit of gardening, but the weather was either too wet or too cold or too hot – well that's my excuse apart from the fact that the ability to bend seems more difficult than ever now. So what did I do?

I phoned friends, some I hadn't spoken to for some time and cheered them up. I found a new hobby in doing jigsaws, and my family made sure there was always a

new one to do. I was introduced to Alexa that wonderful machine that can answer my questions and play all the music I want to listen to and she knows any hymns I like. Alexa could give me the News and also the cricket ball by ball. I tried to take part in Zoom meetings. Sometimes I got sound and no pictures and sometimes I had pictures and no sound, but I will keep trying with the help of Donald and Steve.

It has been hard, and lonely at times, but family and friends have done my shopping and friends have kept in touch by phone and have called and left goodies on my doorstep. I have just received another letter which says that I can go out for a car ride but "No Shops" for at least another month because there may be another high of the virus. I can have friends in the garden but keep 2 metres distance. So no doubt I may be able to get the cupboards and drawers tidied after all. Please don't hold your breath.

Love and blessings to each and every one of you. Let us all try to keep smiling and do the best to think of others who are in need.

Joan Dyer

And lastly, we hear from a young family...

I'll start by introducing myself: I'm Elizabeth Reading, I live in Clifford with my wonderful husband and just turned 3 year old daughter. I have also been shielding due to a medical condition, which has meant that our whole family has been isolated.

Lockdown for us has been a mix of blessings and challenges; working full time while trying to manage childcare was definitely a challenge. We split the day between us so that we could look after Clara then made up the hours by working until 3am – this was somewhat tiring, especially as I was tasked with setting up a Covid Assessment Unit in Wakefield.

My husband also has a full time and demanding job. However, spending more time together has been wonderful, and having 4 months with Clara has been a real gift. We've enjoyed many things including camping in the back garden, going for walks and bike rides (less cars on the road was lovely), and going to fairy school etc. We've also become better friends with more people in our community which has been wonderful. But for those who are isolated, like my Great Aunt in Northumberland, this has been a very difficult time and we have been very worried about her.

One of the hardest things for Clara (and us) was not being able to see her Grandparents for such a long time. Russell and I

have also missed our friends and social life, however, we've found ways to stay connected. I have particularly missed the Church camp that I help run every summer with my best friends (and Clara) where we take about 60 girls away, it is such an inspiring time and we've all found not going incredibly hard.

Since lockdown has eased and a Grandparent has been able to help with childcare, and returning to nursery, things have been much easier. But we do miss spending as much time together, and Clara has found the transitions difficult. Seeing the bond develop between Clara and her Mama has been wonderful, but difficult for other relatives who aren't in our 'bubble'. We are enjoying meeting up with our friends a bit more (socially distanced of course), but are still cautious. The reason that I was shielding hasn't gone away, the risk of complications if I were to contract COVID-19 remain the same – potentially life threatening secondary complications due to being immunosuppressed.

At the same time we also feel blessed that we both still have jobs; I know the impact of COVID-19 for lots of people will be really challenging and pray that those who are affected receive the help and support they need. I hope that lessons are learned from this situation and that hope and comradeship will help us endure the challenges ahead of us.

As we sing at Camp every evening:

*May God's blessings surround you each day
May you trust Him and walk in His way
May his presence within guard and keep you from sin
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.*

Beth Reading

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Notes from a Yorkshire Village

Iain has been amusing himself during Lockdown by writing to far-flung family and friends – a great way to keep in touch. I thought I'd share one of his 'ramblings' below...

Let's hear it for the under-achievers

The media, nowadays, are full of the amazing things people have been up to during lockdown.

If they are to be believed, it appears that most of the populace have been engaged in creative and energetic pursuits – painting, sculpting, baking, running marathons up and down stairs, learning foreign languages, knitting or cooking for NHS workers: you name it, they are doing it.

Even Captain Tom has walked miles and raising £33 million for the NHS, receiving an Hon. Colonelcy and a knighthood in the process. Now he is writing a book – and he is a centenarian!

Just reading all this makes me exhausted. And it also makes me feel rather a failure – I have done none of these things. In fact quite the reverse, I have spent many hours trying to avoid doing anything worthwhile.

It appears that I may be that most scorned of humanity – an under-achiever.

Lockdown has been treated more as a holiday by me – and holidays should be spent lazing around, watching the world go by (although not much of the world goes

by Thorp Arch Mill) and, generally doing as little as possible.

Not that I have been idle, you understand – like Bing Crosby in the old song, I have been “*busy doing nothing, working the whole day through, trying to find lots of things not to do*”.

I have done masses of thinking and planning.

Every day I awake with lots of ideas of things to be looked at, examined in detail, perhaps costed, and then filed thoughtfully away. Why, one day, I sat on our patio for hours considering whether or not our plant pots are arranged in the best possible way.

You may say this is an unprofitable use of time: I say it is advancing my aesthetical understanding no end. It will come in handy one day (this is a guiding principle taught to me by my father, a leading protagonist in the field).

An under-achiever? Yes, and proud of it!

Excuse me, it is now time for my afternoon nap.

Iain Vernon



For families with young children, and the 'young at heart'...
You can watch both via the Boston Spa Methodist Church website...
<https://www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk>

Holiday Club @home



On the first Monday of what officially would have been the start of the school holidays, at 10am the area around St Mary's Church was strangely quite considering that Holiday Club had started. You might have been forgiven for thinking that nothing was happening, but all was not as it seemed for this was holiday club @home.

Within the Church building Kate, Sue and Phil were giving out packs to people who had signed up for the holiday club, all observing the current regulations of course, which contained all that they needed for that week's activities, and this continued to be the pattern throughout August. Whilst the opening and closing services were recorded, as were the weekly half hour sessions which went live every Monday lunchtime, and included a magician, puppets, and well-known faces

from holiday club plus some of the usual silly jokes etc.



The Holiday Club as you can see from the logo above was based around hope, the hope that we have in Jesus, with the first session talking about Jesus the Light of the World. Whilst the second week talked about Jesus the peace bringer with Jesus calming the storm.

We went on to explore, hope in the provider, exploring feeding the 5000, hope in the healer, through the story of Jairus' daughter and hope in the forgiver as we explored Jesus forgiving Peter. During this session, Sue's very

old and much-loved Teddy Bear made an appearance, you can still check them out on Boston Spa's Facebook page.

If you would like more information, please have a word with Sue.

Families Team

Boston Spa Festival Scarecrow Trail



Whilst we were unable to hold the annual Boston Spa Festival this year, the Scarecrows in all sorts of guises came to the villages of Boston Spa, Clifford, and Thorp Arch creating a fantastic display of over 90 'Sporting Legends' scarecrows. This year for the first-time people were able to vote for their favourite. David Watts, aka 'The Scarecrow Master', said that there had wonderful feed-back and £1829 was raised for Martin House.

Details of the winners are now on display in Boston Spa Shops.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped to make such a successful event.

Sue Jakeman



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Locked Down?

The constraints that the attempts to contain the effects of Covid-19 have placed on us all have changed the way we try to live as Christians. I've found myself, again and again, facing and trying to answer one key question. I'm really asking the question of myself, but you can listen in if you like. In my thinking about the church, and about the Kingdom of God, and about my own Christian life, am I locked down by the physical, by buildings, by forms of worship, by what I do, and when and how I do it? Or am I a free spirit, free to be and to do whatever God wants me to be and to do at that time? How do I think most easily about the things of the faith – am I locked down to the things that I can see and touch and understand; in other words am I fettered or free in my thinking? When Jesus talked to Nicodemus in John 3, he drew a clear distinction between the physical and the spiritual. Am I still “born of the flesh”? Or have I found a new freedom of the Spirit?

If someone asked me, “Where’s the church in this village?” it wouldn’t be difficult to answer. St Mary’s? Our own chapel? Deepdale centre? And what of those who belong to the church but are housebound? But for months we’ve not been able to go to church for services and worship other than by Zoom. Now we’re thinking about what we need to do so that, once again, we can. Has “church” been in suspense in recent months? What have we meant by “service”?

How do I see “church”? Are the physical building, its contents and activities crucial to my spiritual comfort? Could I worship just as easily if the building, or the things in it, or the familiar forms or worship, changed? Am I fastened down in the physical, or am I set free by the spirit? Shall we go back to what we knew, or will it have changed?

Dennis



Boston Spa Recycling Up-date

Now that COVID lockdown has been loosened locally, **Yeadons** are now offering to collect the following items again for the Terracycle scheme:

- used crisp packets (min 30)
- writing instruments
- toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes

Joon is collecting writing instruments only.

168 Phoenix Hair Salon is not currently collecting.

Please be mindful that we still need to protect the health of the staff in these businesses, so we recommend you:


- **store your recycling at home until you’ve got a good quantity to drop off, eg minimum 30 crisp packets**
- **hand over in a used plastic bag (which we will recycle)**

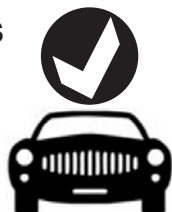
Please read more details on our Boston Spa Community Green Group recycling webpages, including our handy AtoZ guide and a recent post from Leeds City Council too.

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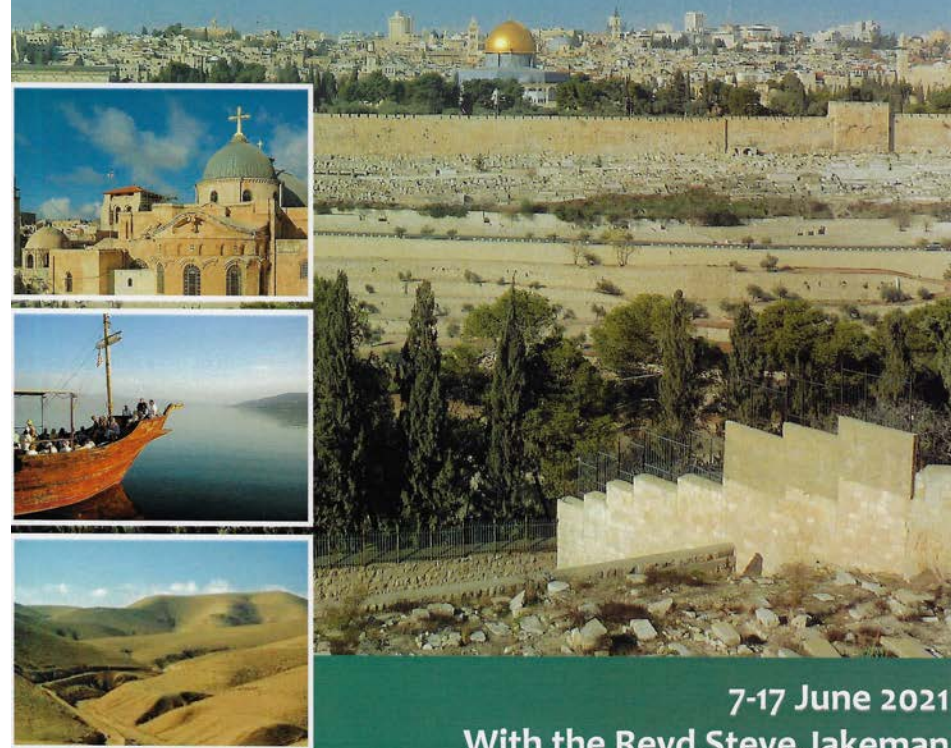
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BIBLE QUIZ

See how many books of the Bible you can spot in this text...

This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his Johnboat. Roy Clarke studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Ramirez ran it in her column once.

One lady judges the job too involving; so she brews a nice cup of tea to calm her nerves. There will be some names that are easy to spot; that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially as the book names are not necessarily capitalised. The truth is, from answers we get, we have been forced to admit that it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them. At the worst, just nine are easy to spot. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown.

One revelation may help. Books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers, and punctuation, or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete.

Remember, there are 26 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this puzzle.



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