



# 'BEING CHURCH'

BOSTON SPA AND CLIFFORD  
METHODIST CHURCHES

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## What is Church to you?

We've just come back from a week in the far north west of Scotland – views across to the Isle of Skye one moment, then couldn't see the other side of the loch; grandkids building sand castles and swimming in the sea; then the wind blowing a hoolie and finally, bitten alive by midges, all on the same day!

During one of the wetter episodes I popped into the local Gairloch Museum and was confronted by this strange construction

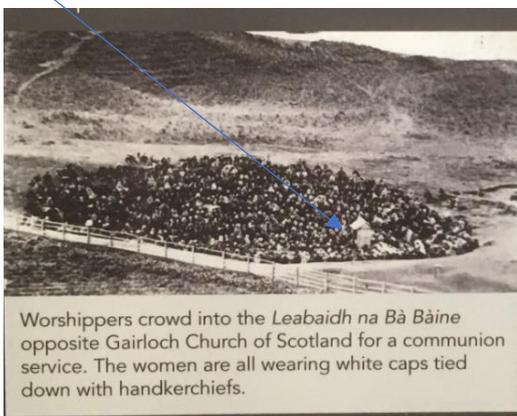


No, it's not a privy, it's an outdoor pulpit. If you look at the photo at the bottom of the page, you can just about make it out in the bottom right corner. The local Free Church congregation met in the open, throughout the year and in all weathers (with midges). Communion was held once every three years and drew a large crowd who would come by foot or boat (no roads) from up to about 60 miles. They would stay for several days, sleeping in barns with the cattle and listen to a range of preachers giving 'fire and brimstone' in Gaelic – unlike the comfy Church of Scotland building across the road, where the Minister was appointed by the local laird and usually spoke only English – which was pretty pointless!



So, all very interesting (hopefully!) – but what has it got to do with us? Well, in this edition of 'Being Church' you'll see updates on the work being done 'behind the scenes' to allow us to re-open the Church buildings for gathered worship, as safely as possible. And I thought the experience of the Gairloch folk put some of our worries into context. Will I be able to sit in my normal place? It's disappointing that I won't be able to sing. Will I have to book a place and queue? I'll miss being able to have a hug or even a chat, after worship.

(Pulpit)



Worshippers crowd into the *Leabaidh na Bà Baine* opposite Gairloch Church of Scotland for a communion service. The women are all wearing white caps tied down with handkerchiefs.

These are all absolutely legitimate concerns – felt by all of us! But think of the Gairloch folk. How can I get my Granny 60 miles across the mountains, on foot, to Communion? Where will we sleep and what will we eat? How can we keep dry through a six hour (!! ) service? In parts of the world today (China, Pakistan and others), just going to Church can mean literally risking your life. But all those folk think that it's worth it! They all know that growing closer to Christ and sharing that good news is more important than anything else. So, please forgive the frustrations and delays and inconveniences we are facing – and, both when we get back to Church and in the meantime, enjoy being a follower of Christ, whatever the situation you find yourself in. God bless!

## CONTACTS

Revd Steve and Sue Jakeman

Phone: 01937 842156

Email: [stephen.jakeman@methodist.org.uk](mailto:stephen.jakeman@methodist.org.uk)

Donald Milne

Phone: 07966 289937

Email: [donaldmilne53@gmail.com](mailto:donaldmilne53@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk](http://bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk)



Follow us on Facebook

## Worshipping together - Online:

This week we have Stephen Spain leading a Circuit Service. As you may remember, Stephen is based in the Circuit as part of his training for Ministry and we look forward to hearing what he has to say. The Service will be available early Sunday morning, on Boston Spa and Tadcaster Circuit websites, as well as Facebook pages.

**Worshipping together – Offline** Service sheet attached – dealing with forgiveness and a chance to belt out ‘Shine Jesus, shine’! Please join us, to feel part of something larger – physically apart, but spiritually together!

**On BBC:** 400 years ago this week, a small ship not much larger than a double decker bus set sail from Plymouth for the New World. Some of the passengers were seeking religious freedom and some just a fresh start in a new land. This is explored by Aled Jones in ‘Songs of Praise’ on BBC1 at 1:15. Earlier, the Bishop of Plymouth leads **Sunday Worship on Radio 4 at 8:10 am**, reflecting on the significance of the voyage for today’s world.

**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. This week we particularly remember the migrants camp in Lesbos and other parts of the world trying to cope with Covid-19 without the resources available to us.



**Dial-a-Sermon:** If you don’t have access to a computer, you can still listen to Stephen’s sermon (available from Sunday)

**Sunday Morning Coffee** : 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? Or do you just fancy a cuppa and a chat?. **Please note that this week, Sunday ‘Morning’ Coffee will be in the afternoon, at 3:00 pm, to allow time for folk to get home from the Boston Spa ‘dress rehearsal’ (see next page)**



**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 16th September at 3:00 pm (Contact Donald for details).

## Especially for families:



Perfect for a rainy day, all the old favourite ‘Tea-Time Church’ and ‘Storytime’ are at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCinmF5gqNsY8Iil108RsZ7w/>



## ROOTS Activity Time:

Every week, on the **Boston Spa Methodist** website, we’re giving a link to children’s (and adults) Activity Sheets, based on each week’s Bible reading. Typically, the children’s sheets might include drawing, crosswords, puzzles and questions designed to be fun but also to help us think about the stories. Give it a go !

<https://www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk/>

## Our Church family news:

### Back to gathered worship – it's been a long time coming ....



It looks as if we can start a form of “coronavirus protected” gathered worship in **Boston Spa** at last – although we thought all our hard work may have been for nothing on Wednesday morning. The government announced a new national lockdown limit of six people at social gatherings; we held our breath for a while and then the message came that religious worship is “a work of God, not a social gathering”. Phew!

We have had the training session for our welcoming team – our photo shows most of our team (suitably masked and socially distanced, of course) hearing from Revd Steve and Jo Vernon in the church sanctuary area. On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September, at 10.30am, we will be holding a ‘dress rehearsal’ run through of the systems and processes put in place, to make sure they work – we would like you to come along, if you feel you are able, to see and experience what we have put in place. It’s also a chance

for you to step inside the church building again! This invitation is not just open to Boston Spa folk.

We will then hold our first gathered act of worship, in the building, at **10.30am on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**. This will last around 30 minutes. Again, all are welcome! See enclosed ‘what to expect’ document. Please arrive for either of these sessions no earlier than 10 o’clock. **(Iain Vernon)**



At **Clifford**, we are hoping to open our church doors at the earliest opportunity in October. As I meet people from our congregation whilst out walking in the village, they are always keen to know when our opening date is. As yet however, our risk assessments haven’t been agreed so no definite date can be given. It’s a case of watch this space!

The only activity being held at Clifford Methodist Church at the moment, is the Foodbank. Donations take place outside the building each Wednesday afternoon between 2 and 4pm. We began collections on April 1<sup>st</sup> and now, 24 weeks later, donations are still coming in. They are all urgently required and very much appreciated so do keep them coming in. **(Kathryn Whalley)**



← Our new Superintendent Minister, Rev Ann Fox had a nice sunny afternoon to introduce herself to some of the folk from around the Circuit (here at Boston Spa).

Meanwhile, maintaining the sunny → theme, Heather and Alan Grant will be celebrating their Ruby Wedding on Sunday 20th September – don’t they look young!



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!

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

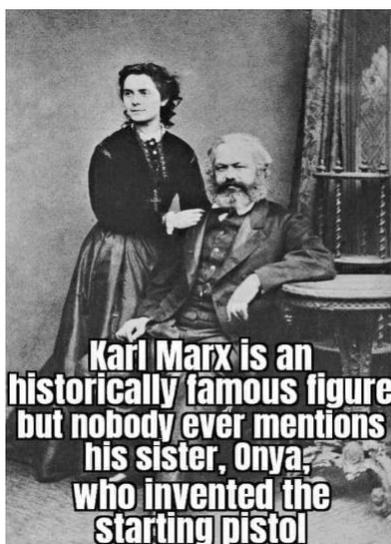
**Steve, Sue and Donald**

# Just for fun

Bob and Wendy Wade found this ..... look carefully \*



*On the subject of books, I've lost my Thesaurus – I can't find the words to explain how upset I am!*



Just bought a book from IKEA



Just finished my 30th Marathon since this lockdown started.  
Still can't bring myself to call them Snickers.

\*The English patient had caught it on the beach. I should have stayed home, she said. Now she was in quarantine in the dark house of splendid isolation. Still, hope springs eternal. With a little luck, common sense and personal hygiene, horror stories must end soon. Always remember clean hands save lives and when in doubt, don't go out.