



Methodist Post

Boston Spa & Clifford
October 2020



A message to our readers...

The last six months have been difficult for us all as we have tried to find new methods of maintaining links with our church family and friends. The weekly “Being Church” has been a major part of keeping in touch, and we thank Steve, Sue and Donald for the tremendous amount of time and effort that has gone into this.

Early on in lockdown, the role of the monthly magazine was discussed, but at that time it was felt that it still had a useful part to play in communication, despite the fact that we were unable to have it printed professionally. Six months on, with the pandemic continuing to have a severe impact on our lives, and without much sign of it abating, it has been decided to suspend production of the Methodist Post for the time being.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank our advertisers for their loyal support over the years, our regular contributors, and you, our readers.

Hopefully we’ll be back at some stage in the future, but maybe in a different format.

*Jo Vernon
Editor, Methodist Post*

Happy Birthday

Women’s Friendship Group:
Mary Ibbotson, Audrey Owers

Clifford Birthdays:
Jason Turner, Jonathan Barrow,
Renee Ieronymakis, Tasha Ainstey

Minister’s Letter



Dear friends,

In 2016 Sue and I spent our holiday touring Italy. During that time we had the opportunity to visit several churches; some very modern and some, like the Pantheon, dating back to pre-Christian times. In some of these buildings it was easy to feel that God dwelt there; there was something tangible in the air.

As our Church buildings start to open across the Circuit, I am sure that many of us have or will experience these kinds of feelings about our buildings too.

The question as to where God dwells is one that has interested religious minded people since the dawn of time. The belief that God dwells in places, and especially certain buildings, like temples or churches, has been important to many.

But most sophisticated religions go further and say that God not only dwells in certain places, but he is also to be found within us. Most religions also hold that God not only dwells within the individual, but also in the group; in community. The spiritual concept of community is a vitally important religious idea found in many of the great faiths of the world and most of them say, one way or another, that God is to be

found within the community of the faithful.

Christianity certainly says this, and St. Paul speaks of the community of Christians, the Church, as the focal point of God’s presence. In the letters to the Corinthians he is responding to various problems that have arisen in the Church. In 1 Corinthians Chapter 3 he focuses on the problem of partisanship. Failing to see the bigger picture, the Corinthians had formed cliques and allegiances to various ministers (1 Cor. 3:3-4). To counteract their divisiveness, Paul argued that God called the community together and helped it grow. Seeing the local church as a missionary field, Paul saw himself, Apollos, and others as farm workers who seeded and harvested the field (1 Cor. 3:5-9a).

As well as using agricultural imagery, Paul also used masonry images for the Church (9c). The community was a building with Christ as the foundation (11) and with Paul, Apollos, and others as brick masons laying different levels (10). The quality of the work may differ; God would reveal their work in time and would reward the workers accordingly (1 Cor. 3:12-15). Paul finished the

discussion with a rhetorical question to bring the divided Corinthians back to the point. As the Temple of the Spirit they belonged to God, not to their own little turf wars (16). Anyone, whether ordained or lay, who led them away from that fact would suffer God’s wrath (17).

In the Christian Church we believe that God may be encountered in our buildings. It is for that reason that we sometimes refer to a church building as the House of God. But we also believe that God is with us, and in us, as individuals. He is also to be found in other people. Christians also strongly believe that he is present within the Church community in a very special way.

As we start to return to our buildings, let us not forget that, although God may be encountered within them, he is also to be encountered within each other and our community. If you don’t feel ready, or confident, to return just yet, there’s no need to rush back to the building. As precious as our buildings are to us, you are as precious, if not more so, to him; our God who is always present with you wherever you may be.

With every blessing

Rev Steve



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01937 228811

** No more than 10 mins*

A message of thanks...

Dear friends

Once again I'd like to thank you dearly for all your kind enquiries and prayers. After more than 80 doses of chemotherapy and 40 transfusions, I am now in remission. I'm approaching the end of my major treatment and should be finished by the end of September. After that, I begin a 2-year Maintenance Therapy programme with chemotherapy pills and monthly check ups. I'm lucky to be cared for in such a good cancer research hospital which has continued my treatment during the Covid crisis.

All your kind messages have been invaluable and helped keep up my morale during this long arduous path.

Thank you all for your concern.

Alison Powell (Faulkner)

The mind of Christ...

The various levels of lockdown in response to COVID 19, with their restrictions on physical contact, have led to a surge in other means of contact, of meeting and of sharing activities, even times of worship.

Facilities like Zoom, YouTube, Facebook and streaming have made it possible for us to share with others around the world in meetings and other activities, without actually being there with them. Who would have thought, 50 years ago, that that would be possible?

Someone did! In the early 1930s the French paleontologist and Jesuit priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote an essay "The phenomenon of man" which he developed into a book finally published posthumously in 1955. It was essentially about evolution, and Teilhard argued that human evolution had not yet reached its full potential. The time would come when, in spite of the increasing complexity of human life, a common consciousness

would evolve, to which all humanity would have access and in which all would share.

But wait! Someone had already got there long before Teilhard. Long ago, the apostle Paul wrote to the early Christians about a shared mind and a common consciousness. This was not the eventual outcome of human evolution but the immediate outcome of any person's response to what God has done for us in Jesus. In giving our lives to Jesus, in love and thankfulness and discipleship, we become part of the body of Christ in the world. We receive the Holy Spirit. We are all different but Christ lives in us through the Holy Spirit. As his body in the world – his hands, his feet, his voice – we are all led by his mind and his thinking in the activities and attitudes that God wants us to follow. And this is true whoever and whenever and wherever we are.

When you have a moment, look for example at 1 Corinthians 2 or Ephesians 4.

Dennis

Thought for the month

Ultimately, the greatest lesson Covid-19 can teach humanity is that we are all in this together. *Kiran Maxumdar-Shaw*

As church re-opens "One more step along the world I go..."

The words of this hymn came into my mind when thinking about the reopening of our church building for worship. For more than six months we have been adjusting to a 'virtual' church where we share God's love in our homes but in quite different ways. Now that we can experience a 'live' act of worship in our church, what will it feel like?



Our first socially distanced Act of Worship back in our church since March

Now, we have the opportunity to take small steps back to what I think will be our new 'normal' for some time to come. Much work has been done behind the scenes to make our building compliant with the Methodist Church risk assessments and you may well think these are over the top, but they have been put in place to keep us all safe. This is clearly not church as we know it, and regrettably it won't be for the foreseeable future. As I write this, there are increased cases of coronavirus being reported in many places.

However, I still believe that it is the right thing to do, our worship will be different, and I particularly will miss singing along with the hymns and music. We are fortunate that we can listen to music and song via our excellent video projection facility. Sydney Carter expresses it well in the hymn, 'where I see no way to go, you'll be telling me the way, I know'.

I have heard it said, 'why bother, is it really worth it, all this effort', and although at times I too may feel like that, on balance we

need to give it a go, and with the support of our leadership team, we can adjust to new ways of 'Being church', that isn't relying entirely on watching 'Youtube' services. To be able to come together to pray with each other and to share God's word is such an important part of worship.

I am thankful that we are served so well by Steve, Sue and Donald in leading us in such trying times. So, let's move on:

*'and it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you'.*

Footnote: On 20th September, the first act of worship was held since the lockdown, and on a personal level it was really good to experience prayers and reflections again. Congratulations to our minister Steve for putting together such meaningful worship with excellent supporting video and music. So despite the measures to keep us safe and not being able to sing, I hope you will all be encouraged to join us on 11th October for the next 'live' service in church.

Jim Murison

The Payling Kneeler Saga

Those of you who have been fortunate enough to visit Boston Spa Methodist Church's building, or seen recent photographs, couldn't fail to notice the appearance of a new set of kneelers that have appeared during lockdown. The twists and turns of the story behind these kneelers are worthy of an Agatha Christie novel, or perhaps more of a Brian Rix farce...

When Gerald Payling died, in September 2017, he left a bequest to the Church; his family wanted to use it to purchase something useful that would be a visible, and lasting, legacy. There were plans, originally, for a set of kneelers, around the Communion dais that hadn't come to fruition; Rev Steve suggested to Gerald's family that perhaps his bequest could be used to purchase a bespoke set, and they agreed.

It was decided that tapestry kneelers would be the best option and Jacksons of Hebden Bridge were approached for a quote – Jackson's being well known for their tapestry kits, and the only company in the country that made tapestry kneelers and hassocks.

The quote was accepted, and Rev Steve designed the pattern, to include the Yorkshire Rose and the Methodist Orb, which was approved by the family; the kneelers were ordered.

Although the kneelers could have been supplied in kit form, we decided to pay the extra and have them made – Jackson's used outworkers to do this.

To cut a long story short, there were several delays but eventually we were told

that the kneelers would arrive late November 2018 some twelve months after the order was placed; just in time for the Christmas Tree Festival. The kneelers were

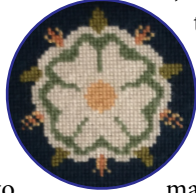
duly delivered, but when Rev Steve went down to the church to see them, they were still in kit form!

It transpired that the owner of the company, Malcolm Jackson, had been taken ill so his wife had been looking after him; and taken her eye off the ball. This was frustrating but understandable; arrangements were made for the kits to be collected for return to Jackson's to be made up. Even this took several attempts, with couriers letting us down on several occasions!

Nothing seemed to be happening for quite a long time; many phone calls to Kath Jackson ensued. In the meantime, Mr Jackson's health had deteriorated, and the decision had been made to wind down the business. Our kneelers were to be their last big commission.

By July 2019 it was clear that something was amiss. Kath Jackson contacted Rev Steve to say that the kneelers were completed but that she was not happy with the finish of them and didn't want to let us have them as they were well below the standard expected. She offered a refund. What now?

Jackson's had sold the business to Hayes and Finch, the large church furnishing, and vestments company, who purchased the business to add to their portfolio. Kath Jackson spoke to Andrew Ware, the Director, who agreed to fulfil the order.



This of course meant starting again from scratch, with a company for whom this was a new venture. After some deliberation, Gerald's family decided to go ahead.

Andrew Ware took personal charge of the project and, it was back on track – by the time new patterns had been created, and approved it was now now early 2020. Then the Coronavirus lockdown hit the country!

Despite this Andrew Ware managed to outsource the making up of the kneelers to a couple of young upholsterers, in Merseyside who were willing to do the work. Because of the backstory Dave and

Stacey, the upholsterers, were keen to deliver the kneelers themselves as they wanted to ensure they fitted properly and that we were happy.

So it was, at 10am on Thursday 25th June, that Dave and Stacey arrived and, suitably socially distanced, installed the kneelers.

And so, some two-and three-quarter years after he died, we now have a fitting tribute to Gerald Payling, in the form of a set of beautiful tapestry kneelers.

We will remember him every time we see them and use them in worship.

Sue Jakeman



*Gerald Payling
1934 - 2017*

Words of Wisdom (author unknown)

If a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:
When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
Take naps.
Stretch before rising.
Run, romp, and play daily.
Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
Be loyal.
Never pretend to be something you're not.
If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

With thanks to Jim Murison for submitting this

Wearing another hat!

It was my privilege, with my Darlington District Lay Employment Advisor hat on, to attend the Induction Day for new staff to that District, both ordained and lay in the middle of September. It was a pleasure to meet everyone, via ZOOM of course, who had joined the District during this strange time; discussing with them the difficulties that they are facing, as is our own Superintendent, Rev Ann Fox, in working out how to be Church, bringing about the Kingdom in Darlington District.

We are in a position here in Tadcaster Circuit where some churches have opened, albeit only recently, whilst others are still doing the paperwork. But worship, in those that are open, does not come anywhere near to what most of us think about worship being like. Perhaps leaving you, like me, to wonder how on earth we can in these times spread the message as we are called to do, with such limited contact and opportunity.

I am sure that over the past few months we have all struggled with feelings of inadequacy, when we could not be as

Christ to those whom we knew were in need, or felt frustrated not being able to share the good news of God's unconditional and unfailing love for each and every one of us.

I guess, as I went to that Induction Meeting, I certainly felt in that place; yet I came away feeling lighter and having one of those 'lightbulb' moments.

The prayer opposite, which I am sure I have heard before, and perhaps many of you have too, was used as an opening meditation, and it hit me in a very powerful way, and came as a great reminder that we do need to remember that, despite everything, no matter how busy, no matter what we put in place, no matter how much of ourselves we give, as the prayer says, we cannot do everything; only God can do that.

So whether you have read it before or are reading it for the first time, sit quietly and read the words carefully, let them speak to your heart, and take courage from what the prayer on the next page expresses.

Blessings

Sue

This beautiful photograph of the view towards Clifford was taken by Gail Bowen, who says: "who needs to go to Tuscany or Venice for great sunsets!"



The Romero Prayer – A future not our own

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No programme accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

That is what we are about.
We plant a seed that will one day grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

* This prayer was composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, drafted for a homily by Cardinal John Dearden in Nov. 1979 for a celebration of departed priests. As a reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Romero, Bishop Untener included in a reflection book a passage titled "The mystery of the Romero Prayer." The mystery is that the words of the prayer are attributed to Oscar Romero, but they were never spoken by him.

A good haul!



The Clifford Wednesday afternoon Foodbank collection has been going on for 25 weeks and still donations are coming in. The car boot is usually crammed with bags and boxes at the end of the two-hour session. They arrive at the Thorp Arch warehouse on Thursday afternoon and are quickly distributed to local families in need.

Believe it or not, there have only been two wet Wednesday afternoons since April 1st but our kind donators have continued to walk round to Clifford chapel whatever the weather. We hope to continue into October unless people stop coming to us. Then we can point out that Bramham church will accept donations any day from 10-4pm and St Mary's in Boston Spa are similarly available daily from 9-3pm.

Lorraine and Kathryn have enjoyed meeting folk every week and would like to take this opportunity to thank all donators for their sterling efforts.

Kathryn Whaley

I would like to add my thanks too to all those who have contributed financially. With all the restrictions in place over the past 6 months, many have found it difficult to help with food donations in a physical way, so have given money instead. This really is most welcome, so a very big thank you.

Jo Vernon, on behalf of the Wetherby & District Foodbank

A general update from Wetherby & District Foodbank

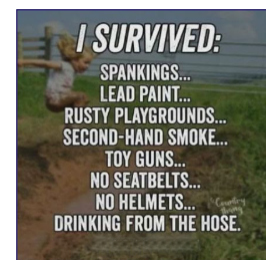


The Foodbank continues to be busy supporting those in food crisis across our community and neighbouring districts.

The Distribution Centre at Barleyfields in Wetherby is now open on Friday mornings to support those clients who are able to take advantage of a 'walk in' service. Full Covid social distancing and hygiene protocols are in place to keep everyone as safe as is reasonably practical. This service complements our home delivery service which we have operated throughout the summer. Demand for home deliveries has remained constant for several weeks. Wherever possible we are now encouraging clients to come to us but I envisage home deliveries continuing at some level for the foreseeable future.

Our food stocks remain very good thanks to our generous public supporters and our corporate donors. These enable us to continue our support of other charities and foodbanks throughout our local district.

I remember...



A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

11 days based in Jerusalem & Galilee
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7-17 June 2021

With the Revd Steve Jakeman

For full details call or email
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