



'Being Church'

TADCASTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

September 2021



"but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3.15 (Christian Standard Bible)

After a heart attack on October 24th 2016, I was admitted to Harrogate hospital. The problem was too complex for them so about a week later I was transferred to Leeds, where a few days later I had a double heart bypass operation. The transfer from Harrogate to Leeds was by ambulance and they came to the ward to collect me at about 5.00a.m., transferring not just me, but my paperwork. On my paperwork, next to occupation, it said Minister.

But even then, I was surprised, once installed in the back of the ambulance, when the ambulance man with me asked, **"Are you a Christian Minister?"**

When I replied **"Yes"** he immediately started questioning me on the difference between Christianity & Islam. So, for the roughly 40 minutes the transfer took we had a good discussion about the difference between the two religions. I was not at my best, as I has one artery 100% blocked and another 90% blocked, was rather tired after a week in hospital and that conversation was not what I expected!

I hoped my answers to his questions made sense, despite the circumstances, as 1 Peter 3.15 says.

I don't know, because I have never met the ambulance man again, and our discussion finished when the driver parked the ambulance, and then opened the back door when we arrived at the LGI. I was silently praying throughout our conversation for wisdom and guidance, so hopefully I was able to both defend our faith and share the hope that is in us, but was I ready?

If I had chosen the time and place to discuss our faith, it would have been when I was fit and well, feeling really good, over a nice cup of coffee in a relaxed setting.

Yet it is God who chooses the time and place, not us. So, that begs the question, **are we ready to share the reason for the hope that is in us? Can we defend our faith in an increasingly secular world?** Perhaps we would say **Yes**, in the right setting, at the right time when we are full of confidence and belief, but not in the middle of a trial.

But the scripture says **'ready at any time'** so are we? Do we feel well qualified to share our faith in a positive manner whatever our personal circumstances? Do we know our bible well enough to feel comfortable discussing our faith with a complete stranger, at a moment's notice?

Perhaps we should think of the verse in 1 Peter 3.15 as a challenge. Perhaps we should pray that God will put us in the situation where a person does ask us to defend our faith, and give a reason for the hope that is in us?

The Methodist Church, and Methodists, have always been outward looking and wanting to reach out to other people, in love, to share their belief in God.

As we get back to normal in our churches after the last 18 months, wouldn't it be great if we had those type of conversations, and saw new people joining us as a result.

Finally, thanks to God and the wonderful team at the LGI, I have fully recovered. Kind Regards.

Keith

Keith Hartrick – Wetherby MC.



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YEAR OF PRAYER

Wetherby, and Tadcaster Churches are hosting weekly Prayer Meetings



Wetherby: Every Wednesday, 7pm – 7.20pm. All are invited to join us.
Please contact Andrew Marshall (01937 5731670) for the Zoom log on details.

Tadcaster: Every Tuesday, 9.30am – 10am (join from 9.15am)
Again, all are invited to join us.
Please contact Eileen Clarkson for the Zoom log on details.



Worshipping Together

This Sunday there is an online **District Service**,
available from 7:00am
also, **Live-Streamed worship**,
from East Keswick Methodist Church, at 10:30am.



Both will be available from the [Tadcaster Circuit website](#), and Circuit and Church Face-Book pages.

Please see the [Circuit Plan](#) for this Sunday's on-site services.
(NB: some Covid-safe procedures are still in place)



Sunday at 7:10am, **'Sunday'** A look at the ethical and religious issues of the week.

Sunday at 8:10am, Sunday Worship: **'All Good Gifts'**

Harvest Festival live from Holy Trinity Church Westbury on Trym, Bristol.
Preacher: **The Revd Canon Dr Martin Gainsborough**.



Sunday at 1:15pm, Songs of Praise **'Where Songs of Praise Began'**
Aled Jones is in Cardiff, where the first episode of Songs of Praise was recorded,
to introduce some of the most memorable moments from the programme's 60-year history.



All Are Welcome to Join Us!

HARVEST ON THE HILL

"Let Us Give Thanks"
Sunday 26th September
Service at 1pm, followed by BYO* Picnic

Beacon Field, Windmill Hill, Bramham

An opportunity to enjoy an amazing view of our local villages
and join in with community singing of Harvest Hymns.

Parking available on the field.
*Bring Your Own Picnic and SOMETHING TO SIT ON

Worship led by Rev Steve Jakeman

FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE FROM
The Parish Office: 01937 844402

3rd October - 10^{am}
CIRCUIT 'ECO' SERVICE
at Wetherby Methodist Church

Dr Alan Bell & Rev Steve Jakeman

Revive Us, Lord, Again! A study morning led by **District Chair, Revd Leslie Newton**,
as he shares reflections from his recent Sabbatical. Looking afresh at the 18th Century growth
of the Methodist movement and exploring how Wesley's primary message and principal methods
can shape the renewal of the mission of 'the People called Methodists' in the 21st Century

When: Saturday 20 November 2021, 9.45am – 1pm. **Where:** Boston Spa Methodist Church. **Cost:** FREE **Booking:** [here](#)
You must register to attend - if you are unable to book online, please contact Rev Steve, who will register for you



If you have something you wish to highlight/advertise in the October issue of

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Please send to Rev Steve by Sunday 17th October. Thank You. rev.stevejay@gmail.com