

On 17<sup>th</sup> May our District Chair, Rev Kerry Tankard, preached (virtually of course!) in our neighbouring circuit of Skipton & Grassington. He preached on the lectionary reading for the day which was John 14:15-21 and I'd like to share some of his thoughts, as best I remember them, and some of *my* thoughts that his preaching provoked.

Kerry made links between how the disciples' way of life suddenly changed and how *our* lives have suddenly changed. The disciples had been used to working alongside Jesus, having him there to teach, heal, challenge and encourage and then he is arrested and killed; no longer with them. They are bereft. Similarly perhaps, we have been used to gathering as congregations in our buildings, learning and working together, used to meeting each Sunday morning and at other times but now we cannot. We are bereft.

Even those of us who have long proclaimed loudly that "church isn't about buildings, it's about people" have felt, at times, adrift and uncertain; what do we do now? A sudden change in the status quo is difficult for us all.

Over the past weeks, many of us may have experienced a feeling that God is somehow distant or out of reach at the moment. We may feel rather like the disciples did when Jesus was buried in the tomb; wondering what happens next...

Of course the disciples were soon reunited with the risen Jesus. But just as they started to relax perhaps or think things were getting back to normal, Jesus announces that soon he will be leaving them and they will no longer be able to see him. Normal no longer exists! The poor disciples must have been in turmoil.

But Jesus also offers words of comfort; "I will not leave you orphaned." Jesus' physical presence will no longer be available to them, but he promises an advocate, a friend, an advisor, a comforter.... they will not be left alone.

Currently, we may not be able to physically be in our church buildings alongside our church family, but we are not left alone either. Jesus' words are to us too; "I will not leave you orphaned," and his promise of an advocate is his promise to us too.

We know that for those first disciples, this time of sudden change and uncertainty led up to the dramatic events of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out; when those frightened men became empowered and emboldened and began a whole new way of being in relationship with God and sharing God's love with those around them.

Dare we believe that our current time of sudden change and uncertainty may also lead to a dramatic event in the lives of "The Church"? What new thing has God got in store.... for us as individuals.... as small congregations....as a circuit.... as Methodists in the UK.... as his world-wide family?

When normal no longer exists, what is God getting us ready for?

Susanne



## YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENTS DURING LOCKDOWN



Our next Circuit Messy Church for everyone is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 11:00am over Zoom and you can follow it on YouTube on the Airedale Circuit page. For Zoom details please contact Jo Dolman. The task is to make a house out of anything you have, and make a premade obstacle course to use during the time together, the story is overcoming obstacles linked to Jairus daughter



Our Circuit Youth Fellowship, GIFT meets weekly on Tuesday night 6:30pm for anyone who is 11-18 and would learn about God in a fun way. At present we are meeting over Zoom, please contact Jo Dolman for the Zoom details if you are interested in joining our group

Our next meeting is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 6:30pm



Our Next meeting is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 6:00pm (due to some back at school) Our Awesome Kids children's group has become circuit wide, for children ages 7-11-year olds.

At present we are meeting weekly over Zoom, where numbers have grown over this time.



Our Circuit Family Quiz the other Tuesday during half term was fantastic, a great laugh and a very tensed tie break which went on and on and on. We had to all sign back in again to finish off, well done to the 2 Families

### IMPORTANT CIRCUIT QUESTIONNAIRE

You will each receive with the next three service sheets, a questionnaire which will help the Circuit in moving forward. Please could you complete this in one of two ways:

- On-line using the link provided in the email sent to you by a Presbyter, staff member or pastoral visitor. We will automatically receive this in the office.
- Complete the form in writing and return by post or email to myself at the Circuit office – office@airedalemethodists.org or send to Circuit Office, 80 Kirkgate, Silsden BD20 OPA.

**The deadline for all returns is 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020.**

Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Penny Moon

### ACTION FOR CHILDREN—Methodism's own Charity

In March Ilkley Road church were finalising a year of fundraising for Action for Children but it all had to come to a halt, unfinished!

In April we should have had a store Collection at Morrisons - possibly £300 -£400 lost

In May we had been asked to do a Coffee Morning in the Skipton Circuit - could have recruited more people to have had home collecting boxes

Just a few ways where the charity has lost a lot of money -

Please could you consider making even a little of that up, with a donation to their head office so it can be used immediately. Please send to

Action for Children 3 The Boulevard, Watford WD18 8A  
Thank you Maurice & Judith

Please send items for the June newsletter by 1st July 2020 to Penny Moon, Circuit Administrator office@airedalemethodists.org . Please send email to Penny if you wish to receive the Newsletter by email.