

Hello Everyone,

What a different Easter that was for us. For me personally I found it hard not being around anyone, especially living alone. I missed being with my family and close friends but am thankful for technology. We were in touch and had a great family quiz on Easter Sunday evening and I did not come last!!

Throughout this pandemic time, we seem to be closer through technology and phone calls and seeing more of each other, although that personal touch is missing.

Looking back at the Holy week and Easter Sunday services, it was encouraging to see so many of our circuit congregations coming together either through Zoom, on YouTube or reading the material that was posted out. I found them all very moving even through a screen and reading them on my own.

The Youth, Children and Family sector of our Circuit has been busier than ever, throughout this time. We have been using technology to have Zoom meetings, making phone calls, sending texts and emails, sharing through the new Facebook pages 'Airedale circuit Youth children family page' and the new toddler page for Silsden Moms (set up by one of the mums) and many more. On a personal note, the support of these groups has been amazing, thank you to those involved. I have also been meeting with other youth and children and family leaders across Bradford, from different denominations, connexional and within our district.

We have and still are enjoying having fun sharing Bible stories, making crafts, and playing games all together from our own homes. I feel it is still important to keep the contact going, the honest conversations we have shared from leaders, children, youth and even the parents have been overwhelming. The prayers are still needed, as some are finding this time really hard. We will continue to meet during this time and who knows how and what it will look like, when we are all back in our buildings.

When this is all over, I am hoping to plan a Circuit youth, children, and family party.

We are the Church without walls, and there is so much outreach going to each one of us and beyond, we are all doing Ministry in a different way, but WOW what an impact it is having. As we look forward to Pentecost in June, where the first church birthday began and where the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, let us continue to be filled with the Spirit and continue to reach out.

You are all doing amazingly – God's disciples, God's work. Keep it up even after this time and be blessed.

God bless, Jo Dolman, Youth Children Family Worker

From the Wall family

Hello everyone My 3 children (aged 10, 9 and 9) decided we were going to try climb the equivalent height of Mount Everest on our staircase to raise some much needed funds for Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice who support people with life-limiting conditions, and their families. With the current situation they are struggling with funds. We know Mount Everest is 8848 meters high and our staircase is 2.65 meters high. Therefore, we had to climb the stairs 3,339 times. We also had to descend after each flight, so in effect we climbed and came back down Everest at the same time!



We started on Friday 24th April 2020. To keep us occupied while climbing we started off listening to music and changing the artist every 100 climbs. The next day Xander and Star decided to read books. We also did quizzes and later riddles, jokes and more reading and listening to music, to occupy us.

On day 9 we made it to the top. It was long, it's was hard but we did it. Here are the stats: Mount Everest 8848 m or 3339 climbs up our stairs or 43,407 steps. However, we have not only gone up Everest but we have also come down. Therefore, we have all done 6678 times on the stairs, up and down or 86,814 steps each. This took us 31 hours and 46 minutes over 9 days. We had a lovely little social distancing cheer squad for the final 39 climbs which gave us the final push we needed.. We also had delivery of some flapjack and buns from a friend and people walking by and talking to us. This challenge was inspired by Colonel (Captain) Tom Moore, who we all know what he did, and Margaret Payne, who is climbing her stairs for charity. It was hard, I mean really hard. On the first day we did 6 hours and climbed 665 times. We were broken the day after so slowed our pace, however, we recovered a little and pushed on and completed it in 9 Days. I'm not sure my legs will ever be the same again but we did this to raise money for Manorlands.. If you would like to support our fund you can search Victoria Wall on Just Giving and you will find my page. If I can give you some advice if you are thinking of doing something like this, it would be choose a smaller mountain and train before you start!

### The Eldwick Church Prayer Field & Inspiring Messages

The trustees of the Eldwick Church have been thinking about how to help and support the local community whilst the church is closed due to the coronavirus crisis. Locally there are more volunteers than jobs, so it was decided to focus on spiritual and emotional support.

A **prayer field** has been set up on the church lawn. A container of knitted blooms made by members of the congregation is available, and anyone passing can "plant" a flower as a prayer for themselves, family, or friends. Within two days there were dozens of flowers in the lawn, proof that this has struck a chord with people. Comments on social media confirm this, with some poignant posts by recently bereaved people, unable to attend the funeral of their loved one due to current restrictions.

**Posters with uplifting messages** are also being displayed around the village in gardens or on lampposts, to connect with people out walking. One poster reads, *"Faith is not about everything turning out ok; faith is about being ok no matter how things turn out."* The posters also invite people to submit prayer requests via email to the church office at [eldwickchurchprayer@gmail.com](mailto:eldwickchurchprayer@gmail.com). All requests are then forwarded anonymously to the prayer team.

Rev Peter Mayo-Smith comments, *"In these strange times, we've been finding new ways to be relevant and helpful to our local community. The Church has always been about more than the physical building, and our efforts have been welcomed in the heartfelt and grateful response we have had to the prayer field and posters."*



We think you might be interested to hear that Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) is working with Bradford Council to support older people across the district whose get-togethers have been halted due to corona-virus. Prior to the Covid-19 lock-down, MHA's five community connection hubs across Bradford were a regular meeting point for more than 1,000 pensioners. The hubs were a place of support and friendship with activities such as exercise classes, gardening groups, craft clubs and coffee mornings clubs enjoyed by members.

But with people no longer able to attend the hubs, the hubs have moved to support people remotely. Staff and volunteers have been providing practical help, such as arranging food deliveries to members, as well as organising activities aimed at keeping spirits high while people isolate at home.



Julie Maude, MHA's Bradford Manager, said: "At the start of the lock-down period we contacted all the people who attend the hubs and ensured that they were able to get food. We arranged food parcels through donations from FoodShare and worked with the council to use shopping cards to purchase food for people. We also set up priority food deliveries with supermarkets such as Morrisons' to ensure that everyone had the essentials they needed. In the first 48 hours, 371 food parcels were delivered.

"In the last couple of weeks we have started taking activities to the people. We have started the 3 Bs project – book, brew and bun. People are delivered a book, teabags and a freshly baked bun. Eighty people have received a 3B pack so far. We have also held a socially-distanced exercise class where people were invited to stand outside their homes with a home-made musical instrument, such as a pan and a wooden spoon, and participate in a music and exercise class. We are also planning outside bingo."

Councillor Sarah Ferriby, Bradford Council's Executive Member for Healthy People and Places, said: "They say emergencies bring out the best in people and the people of Bradford District are really proving that.

"The pandemic has changed life for all of us but some older people are among the hardest hit.

"Charities such as MHA are working tirelessly to continue to support people despite the significant difficulties posed by the lock-down.

"The council is proud to be working with such charities and voluntary organisations in our community response to the pandemic, ensuring that vulnerable people across the district are supported through the crisis."

**Please send items for the June newsletter by 1st June 2020 to Penny Moon, Circuit Administrator** [office@airedalemethodists.org](mailto:office@airedalemethodists.org). Please send email to Penny if you wish to receive the Newsletter by email.