

As the current Methodist Church year draws to a close at the end of this month so we might be thinking that it's been quite a year! As we began last September, marking 10 years of the Airedale Circuit we perhaps had some idea of what the year would bring for each of us and for our churches – those regular activities and events; those special celebrations; those joys and challenges we might experience. None of us could have envisaged our current situation and that we would have 5 months (to date) of not meeting for worship in our buildings; that we would all experience 'lockdown' unable to meet with family and friends.

We've risen to the challenges and found different ways of 'meeting' together and continuing to share as God's people, recognising as we've always known that the church is the people not the building. It has not been easy and currently we are beginning to look at the way forward, taking with us what we've learnt in these last months, trying to discern what we want to keep and what we perhaps need to let go. It is a real challenge but also a great opportunity to discover again who we are and what our mission and ministry will become in these changed times.

Change is all around us and as you know for me that means a change of Circuit appointment. Last September that was not even on the horizon and certainly I did not expect to be moving this summer. However, I was asked to move to fill an appointment in the Driffeld-Hornsea Circuit where I will be serving alongside the Revd Richard Teal who is currently President of Methodist Conference. The Presidential theme this year is the final words of John Wesley – 'The best of all is, God is with us.' Through all these last trying times and as we look to the future words which bring assurance hope and confidence in our faithful God who is with each of us in all the changing circumstances of our lives.

I share the following prayer which I discovered again in my sorting to move. I think it speaks of this time in which we all find ourselves, wondering what the future will be.

Every blessing  
Jackie

God does not always lead by the shortest route,  
because some things are best learned on longer journeys.  
God sometimes leads us into the wilderness,  
as well as by still waters,  
because some destinations are reached with scars  
as well as smiles.  
God urges us to travel light,  
but also to take things of our precious past with us,  
because some things remind us where we've come from  
and bring hope of a future.  
God guides in different ways,  
sometimes half-hidden, as in grey cloud,  
sometimes blazingly clear  
because God's people are called to travel  
as God guides them,  
and there is never a time  
when God's guidance fails or ceases.  
As Jesus said, 'I am with you always'. Amen.

*(Revd Martyn Atkins)*

#### THANKS

As I move to my new Circuit, living in Hornsea, by the seaside, I will miss the hills and the moors so much but have the consolation of the sea albeit that windy East Yorkshire coast! It is challenging to move in these times as, of course, there cannot be those physical gatherings to say goodbye and offer thanks but nevertheless I need to do both. I will have many happy memories of my time here in the Airedale Circuit, enjoying shared times of worship, friendship and fellowship. So, thank you for all we have shared. I especially want to say thank you for the messages and cards I've received in recent days, for the service in which we shared on Sunday 26th July and for your most generous gifts. God Bless. Jackie

#### DEACON JACKIE FOWLER

A big thank you to Jackie for all she has done in the Airedale Circuit over the last few years. I know she will be missed by all and especially those churches she has worked alongside and those to whom she has served food and drinks at the Keighley Shared Welcome Café.

We all wish you a fond farewell and good luck in your new home.

## DISTRICT YOUTH VIRTUAL WEEKEND 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

### Reflection from our Circuit Youth

#### Niamh's:

From 17th to 19th July young people like myself took part in a virtual youth weekend. We played games, did escape rooms, worshipped together, people came to talk to us about justice and who we really are and, most importantly, we had lots of fun! Even though we were supposed to go to Thirsk for the youth weekend, I still really enjoyed doing it virtually. I met lots of new people and I think it is a great way to socialise and interact with others. I hope that more children my age have read this and are wanting to go to a youth weekend themselves or are wanting to find out more information about this. Remember, there is a first time for everything!

#### Isla's:

It was great fun! 😊

We played games, did escape rooms, had worship time and we had some online visitors.

I liked this weekend because I got to know different people. I think it is important that you stay in contact. I loved it all especially the talk with Sharon, the escape rooms and the games.

I think it was fun!

#### Matthew's:

The weekend was fun we did many fun activities, and games, like a few escape rooms, bingo, a quiz, and many more. I got to see some friends that I haven't seen in so long. The weekend was busy but lots of fun.

Photo of the group all with permission



Dear Friends

I would like to thank all the people who have prepared and sent the worship sheets for us since our churches and chapels have been closed through the Covid 19 "lockdown". It takes a lot of time and thought to present these I'm sure, and not being on zoom etc, I have appreciated them during "lockdown". Although I have been in touch with our friends at Long Lee Chapel by phone I am looking forward to when we can go back to having services in our churches etc. and meet our friends again.

Thank you all very much.

Elaine Webber ((Long Lee Chapel)

There will be a couple of Zoom family funs/ games/quizzes in the month of August,

Please look out for dates on the Airedale Circuit Youth Children Family Facebook page and in your emails



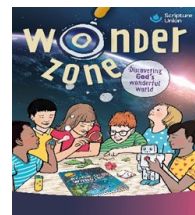
#### **MID WEEK WORSHIP**

Please join other circuit members for our mid-week zoom worship fortnightly on Wednesdays at 7.00 pm.

The next meetings dates are as follows. Zoom details will be emailed out prior to each meeting.

12 <sup>th</sup> August	Susanne Platt
26 <sup>th</sup> August	Rev David McAloon

Thank you for those who were involved in the making of the Wonderzone holiday club and those who participated in any way they could. Just a reminder that you can watch it over again on our Airedale Circuit Youth Children Family facebook page or on our Circuit Youtube channel.



Please send items for the September newsletter by 24 August 2020 to Penny Moon, Circuit Administrator office@airedalemethodists.org . Please send email to Penny if you wish to receive the Newsletter by email.