

The Methodist Church Airedale Circuit

www.airedalemethodists.org

Circuit News No 16 September – November 2013

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Airedale Methodist Circuit will welcome all and serve all in the name of Christ, by increasing an awareness of God and declaring His love.

O Breath of Life come sweeping through us,

Revive Your Church with life and power.

O Breath of Life come, cleanse, renew us,

and fit Your Church to meet this hour.

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! Well the new Methodist Connexional Year that is.

Doesn't time fly? Or maybe as some of you read this it seems an age since last September? So whether time has dragged or flown, whether we hope this year is better than the last, we have arrived at the beginning of a new year and we have said hello and waved goodbye to old friends and new.

My prayer, like that of many, is echoed in the words of the familiar hymn quoted above, may we continue to pray for God's Breath of Life to sweep through us, to revive us and renew us that we may be a

Circuit that serves willingly in Christ's Footsteps.

New Years remind me of resolutions, and all ministers have to undertake a yearly Ministerial Development Review in which we review our work over the past year and set targets and focuses for the forthcoming year. Although it may sound rather managerial it is a useful process to enable reflection on how things have gone, what might be different in the future, what have we learnt from the experience; and it is this process that I would encourage all of us to undertake in relation to our spiritual lives as we begin a new Methodist year. As a member of an Order of Ministry and a religious order all deacons adhere to a Rule of Life, which is not meant to be a bind but to hold together the dispersed community – this may be something you haven't considered before, but what is your Rule of Life? Do you set aside time each day to pray? To ask God for guidance or patience? Are there things you need to let go of and place in God's hands?

You may already have a set form of prayer or model of reflection which enables you to draw closer to God, and in turn helps to create a prayerful community, but perhaps at the beginning of this year you would like to try something new, so I offer an extract from the Diaconal Daily Prayer.

Eternal God,

You are the source of all life, the font of all Wisdom, the wellspring of all grace.

Your days are without end, your loving mercies without number. I depend on you and remember your goodness to me, and to those who have gone before.

You are my God, ahead of me, leading me, guiding me and calling me; You are the Lord God, the all-wise, the all-compassionate. And I lift my heart in worship today and forever. Amen.

Take time to reflect and pray for the world, which God made and loves, for those amongst whom you live and work and for yourself. For situations in the news today, for the church, local and worldwide.

Creator God,

As with all Your creation, I offer you the life of this day. Give me grace to love and serve you to the praise of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God continue to Guide us, challenge us, comfort and heal us.

Every blessing. Claire

**A message from Rev. Ruth Crompton,
our new Superintendent Minister**

Dear Friends,

When Maurice and his wife came to visit us shortly after our move here, I suggested I might write a piece to introduce myself and my family. As this is a large Circuit I fear it may take me a while to get to know you all and to get around the Circuit so what better way to say hello than through the pages of this publication.



I am entering my 13th year of ministry, having served in Castleford in the Leeds District, and Beverley in the York and Hull District. Prior to my calling to the Church I worked as a nurse both in hospital and community. I spent some time practising as a midwife until our two boys Alistair (24) and Duncan (23) came along. Gerald, my husband, worked at the same company since leaving University. Last January sadly the firm transferred business to India. Gerald has found a small part-time job at Leeds University, but hopes to find extra work, not an easy task in the present age.

When time permits I have a number of interests. I like to be creative either writing or artistically working with various materials. I love the countryside, (good job!) and enjoy rest and relaxation with friends. I have a passion for God and love to share it with others, be that through conversation, worship or writing. I love people of all types, shapes and sizes and am looking forward to hearing your stories.

Jesus was a brilliant storyteller. He could draw a picture in a person's mind that was vivid and tangible and held their attention. All human stories both traumatic, extraordinary, mundane and ordinary are important for it is through stories, encounters and relationships that we begin to learn about each other and the communities in which we live. Every chapel, every congregation, every individual has their own tale to tell.

I look forward to hearing yours with excitement and anticipation.

With every blessing until we meet face to face.

Ruth

WORSHIP

CIRCUIT WELCOME SERVICE

By the time this Newsletter goes to print the Welcome Service for Ruth and Gerald will have taken place, but it is hoped that this joint act of Worship will have inspired us all to want to go forward together with new hope and trust in the God we worship and serve. That together as a Circuit we may find ourselves more fit for Mission, more caring of each other, and caring for those around us who, for whatever reason, are finding the going hard.

*Take me as your disciple, Lord;
Teach me the things I need to know;
Give me that self-forgetfulness
From which unselfish actions flow.
Yours is the only way of life
That leads me where I ought to go;
Take me as your disciple, Lord;
Teach me the things I ought to know.*

*Make me your firm disciple, Lord;
Give me the strength I need today,
You never taught us to believe
Yours is a cheap or easy way.
When I am tempted, off my guard,
If I should want to run away;
Make me your firm disciple, Lord
Give me the strength I need today.*

Fred Pratt Green

SONGS OF PRAISE – A CELEBRATION OF GREAT ENGLISH HYMNS

Let us all join together to sing God's praises – where and when?

At St Peter's Church at Cross Hills

On Saturday 21st September at 7pm

Rev Kanu has organised this and Ian Horsman will be at the organ.

Let the Circuit use this as an opportunity of once again coming together, of having a real good sing, and learning something more about those who have given us our much loved hymns. Make it a date – mark it now in your diary now! Let's fill St Peter's, let's show how much we love one another, but more so how much we love OUR GOD.

THEY LIKE THEIR SINGING AT LONG LEE METHODISTS

They want YOU to join them to make a great noise to the Lord!

Two more occasions to raise your voices, and another one to follow elsewhere in the Circuit.

LONG LEE Sunday evening @ 6.00pm 1st September

Singing CLIFF CHORUSES with Rev Alan Raine

LONG LEE Sunday evening @ 6.00pm 1st December

Singing SANKEY & MOODY with John Hopkinson

AND EVEN MORE SINGING – AT ST ANDREW’S, COWLING

Come along and support our friends at Cowling as they hold a

SANKEY BIG SING on Saturday 26th October @ 7.00pm

Let’s support one another, let’s show how we enjoy being Methodists!

LONG LEE METHODIST CHURCH

The Airedale Male Voice Choir are giving a concert at Long Lee on:

Saturday 28th September at 7.30pm

Tickets from Elaine Webber TEL 667472

‘SILSDEN METHODIST ODE’

In the last issue we printed the above, and attributed them to Doris Rogers – Doris, a long standing Local Preacher, now living in Harrogate, sends us all her very best wishes. However Doris assures us that she did not write them (our apologies) but wonders who did write about such ‘a momentous occasion in Silsdén Methodism’? Does anyone know?

IN THESE BUSY TIMES

Take time to think – it is a source of power.

Take time to be quiet – it is the opportunity to seek God.

Take time to be friendly – it is the road to happiness.

Take time to be aware – it is the opportunity to help others.

Take time to pray – it is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to play – it is the secret of staying young.

LEARNING AND CARING

PASTORAL CARE OF THE MINISTRY

We very much hope that the ministry will take care of those in the Churches under their care, and of course others who become known to us through outreach into the community. However the Circuit Stewards believe that we also have a responsibility towards the ministers and their needs. Therefore we are linking up in the following manner, and where it applies that partnership will also extend to attending the Church Councils of their churches:

Eileen to Sandie – Shared Church, Oakworth, Exley Head, and Lees
Maurice to Ruth – Silsden, Farnhill, Marsh, and Haworth
Steve to Tanya – Long Lee, and Oxenhope
Peter to Rosemary – Bingley, Ilkley Road, and Steeton
Phil to Neville/Kanu – Cowling, Cross Hills, Eastburn, and Steeton
Graham to Claire

It is also hoped that it will be possible to include in the Circuit News each quarter a report on some of the issues that are being considered at the meetings of the Circuit Leadership Team and the meetings of the Circuit Stewards so that there is good open communication across the Circuit, although of course some confidential matters may have to be reserved items.

MAKING THE MOST OF GIFT AID

Have you noticed that some charity shops now use Gift Aid as an extra way of raising vital funds. They give you a 'tag number' to attach to carrier bags, etc on each visit you make. They keep a record of what the items raise, and although we did not realise what these were likely to have raised over the past year Oxfam recently sent us a letter saying they had raised just over £200, and from this had gained a further £50 from the Government. Cancer Research offer a similar scheme. Every penny counts, each £1 helps them to help someone. MB

AIREDALE HOSPITAL A&E REBUILDING FUND

Steeton Methodist Church – Coffee Morning, cake stall, etc

Saturday 16th September from 10am – 12 noon.

All are welcome – please come along and support this event, your Local Hospital, it needs our help, just as we might need its services!

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

On the 9th/10th August 19 people from across 9 churches (and including 6 people who had volunteered for the first time) within the Circuit gave time to collect for Action for Children at Morrisons Supermarket in Keighley. The grand total at the end of the two days was £509.50.

Thank you so much to those who gave of their time, those who gave, and particularly to Morrisons for allowing us to use their store to help Action for Children, and through the charity many thousands of children and young people across Britain.



Our next planned collection is at Sainsburys Supermarket on 13/14th December – do please let us know if you can help.

Some of our churches put giving envelopes on the seats in church on Action for Children Sunday – so far we have raised a further £176 in this way. Thank you. Other churches help by members and friends having Home Collecting boxes in their homes, one church gives as part of a tithe it uses to support good causes, one still does the House to House collection, and others support by money from coffee mornings – however you help, may we say a very big THANK YOU.

Judith & Maurice Baren

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‘As long as it takes’ – is the strap line for Action for Children – in earlier days the charity was known as the National Children’s Home and Orphanage, and later NCH, and also NCH Action for Children.

In the ‘Keighley Wesleyan Magazine’ for 1910 we read :

‘A street collection was held in Keighley on behalf of the National Children’s Home and Orphanage. A net amount of £28.18s.6d. was remitted to headquarters. It appears this was the first occasion such a collection was made in Keighley and it was felt that the money raised compared well with other towns of a similar size. “The first two turns were taken by young ladies connected with our chapels, with assistance from members of other churches, and the evening turn was by members of the Brotherhoods. Many interesting incidents were reported. One collector visited the cricket-field and soon filled his box. Now and again a word was dropped that was evangelistic. From time to time the ill-clad came and dropped their mite, perhaps their ‘two mites’ into the box.”

A DIFFERENT DRUM – Riding Lights Theatre Company

Riding Lights are the leading Christian drama group in this country, and as part of their autumn tour are appearing at Keighley Shared Church on Wednesday 30th October at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.

The play **A Different Drum** tells the story of the how the blood of a flea nests in a bundle of French silk, bringing the plague to the Derbyshire village of Eyam. With it came the need to choose the bold path of sacrifice, from its starting point in the 17th century – the play traces through history how similar men and women dared to break the boundaries of self-interest. Through its stirring music and powerful story-telling it portrays these stories of resistance and sacrifice, of love in action. Throughout the stories ask the question “What would I do in this situation?” The play demands us to consider how different our community would be if we plant the seeds of Christ’s revolutionary love. Suitable for those aged over 11 years
Box office 01904 655317 www.ridinglights.org or Rev Peter Mott

QUOTATIONS YOU MAY FIND USEFUL – ednaquotes.co.uk

Edna Smith from Cowling has compiled a list of quotes, suitable for use in sermons or speeches. There are 1440 quotes listed under various categories, such as faith, love, family, success, etc. Also listed are the authors e.g. Abraham Lincoln, C.S.Lewis, Mahatma Gandhi, Helen Keller and others. It may help when others fail! ES

BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)

You may recall how Rev. Rosemary Nash told us about BEACON and asked for our support. BEACON are now launching an appeal for financial help. After 8 years of working they have now almost used up the generous donations that were made to them at that time.

“Since those early days and with thanks to the tireless work of volunteers, and the generous support of Churches, community groups and individuals we have been able to develop our work in various projects with asylum seekers, and with charitable trusts very hard pressed in these difficult times, BEACON is now facing a severe financial crisis.

Any donations will be gratefully received, or any offers of organising an event would be appreciated. They can also provide a speaker for Church groups. Please discuss with Rev. Rosemary Nash or contact Rev Rita Armitage on 01943 603886 or Kezia Rooke on 01274 727525

COFFEE MORNINGS ACROSS THE CIRCUIT

Eldwick – holds a coffee, cake and chat session on a Tuesday from 9.30am to 12 noon. All very welcome.

Bingley – Bingley Methodists have a coffee morning each Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon, followed by lunches from 12 noon – 1pm. There are also coffee mornings each Saturday from 10am – 12 noon. Anyone passing through Bingley, or who would like a trip out is most welcome.

Silsden – Chatterbox Coffee on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.30am – 12 noon – serving coffee, tea, hot chocolate, fruit juice, toasted teacakes crumpets or scones. Friday coffee from 9.30 – 11.30am.

Ilkley Road – a very popular one here every Tuesday morning.

Farnhill – here they meet on the second Saturday of each month in the lower hall, from 10 – 11.30am. Give it a try, support a small cause.

Lees – A very popular one, each one with a different theme. Always on the 1st Saturday of each month, from 10. – 11.30am.

Shared Church – on Friday mornings after the Shoppers' service. During the summer months why not make an 'excursion' – see how many you can cover, see how many new friends you might make, visit some of the churches you have never previously been to, give them your encouragement!

Cullingworth – every Saturday morning from 10 – 12 noon. The first one of each month is on behalf on a chosen charity. Good parking!

Exley Head – another midweek one – every Wednesday morning from 10.30 – 12noon. Parking – go down the side of the church.

Cowling – on a Friday morning in the Bancroft Room from 10–11am

Cross Hills – There is a prayer time on Fridays at 9.30am until 10am, and coffee follows from 10 –11am. As with all of the above sessions, you will be very welcome.

Have fun! Visit some where new!

LARGE ENVELOPES

Edward at the Circuit Office will be glad to have your used A4 envelopes – it's good to reuse – and it saves the Circuit money!

ST. BENEDICT WROTE:

“Those who plant kindness harvest love” – are we planting kindness?

SERVICE

A SPONSORED WALK WITH A DIFFERENCE!

Joyce Hartley and Janet Clark from Silsden are travelling to Israel again in January 2014. During the visit they will be going to Galilee, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem and making visits to various projects run by the McCabe Educational Trust such as the Al Shurooq Blind School and Jeel al Amal Boys' Home. The holiday is arranged by McCabe Pilgrimages who will be celebrating their 30th birthday in 2014, and the main focus of the holiday is a sponsored walk which will take us around the Old City walls of Jerusalem and into the city itself and will feature visits to key places of pilgrimage. The distance is in the region of five to seven miles.

The challenge is for all participants (i.e. those going on the trip) to raise a minimum of £300 sponsorship. All the sponsorship money will go in full to projects supported by the McCabe Education Trust and thus help celebrate 30 years of McCabe involvement in the life of the Christian community of the Holy Land. We emphasize that ALL money raised will go to the projects that help needy children.

If any of our friends in the Circuit would like to sponsor us please get in touch with Joyce or Janet. We will also be sending sponsorship forms out to each church. If anybody would like any more information about the projects that McCabe support details can be found on their website. With thanks in anticipation. Joyce & Janet

SAFEGUARDING WEEK – It's Everybody's Business

30th September – 4th October 2013

Launch Event – Bradford City Hall & City Park on 30th Sept. from 10am

Speakers, stalls, workshops – see Bradford.sch.org.uk or

bsctraining@bradford.gov.uk

Throughout the week there are a wide variety of issues covered including young people and social media, background checks briefing, hate crime awareness, scams and fraud training, etc, etc
For further information contact 01274 433582

SAFEGUARDING OUR COMMUNITIES

Everyday on the news programme there are unfortunately incidents of abuse reported somewhere in the UK. The Airedale Circuit Churches are committed to ensuring that our communities are as safe as possible. The Methodist Church and the Church of England are now working in partnership to ensure the safeguarding and protection of children, young people and adults, part of which is to produce joint policy statements and procedures.

Following the introduction of the 'Protection of Freedoms Act 2012' we have now received a new 'Recruiting Safely Document' which outlines the steps to be taken by the Leadership when recruiting both paid workers and volunteers. This procedure includes the new Criminal Records Check under the umbrella of the Disclosure and Barring Service - DBS - previously a CRB check. Whilst we work through all these changes we ask for your support and patience. One of the positives of the change is that Criminal Record Checks will now be portable (transferable between roles) if certain criteria are met.

Whilst the Criminal Record Checks are important the diligence of the general public is key to identifying an area of concern. Please could I therefore draw your attention to the creating Safer Space training Course session that Debbie Ashton and I are running again in September/October. There is no exam, all are welcome, just come along and we hope at the end of the session you will feel more confident in recognising and dealing with any issues. None of us know when we will come across a situation that is of concern to us.

Thank you for all the work that goes on and for your continued support in this very important role within our churches.

METHODIST CHURCH SAFEGUARD AWARENESS TRAINING

CREATING SAFER SPACE FOUNDATION COURSE

Thurs 26th Sept or Tues 1st Oct 7 - 9.30pm in Eldwick Church Hall

Contact Eileen Jowitt (01535 657256) or

Debbie Ashton (01274 561045) to book a place. All are welcome.

GO FORWARD! leave behind things that are past.

LOOK UPWARD! never mind skies overcast.

MOVE ONWARD! in the way Jesus trod

RISE HEAVENWARD! day by day, from earth to God

SERVICE

SALVATION ARMY APPEAL

The Salvation Army carry out a tremendous social work programme, which is vital in the current economic climate. They have had to run their food/welfare programme throughout the whole of the summer, for the first time, and are called upon to give out regular food parcels to people referred to them by various agencies. Over many years churches have collected food for this work, work we would find it hard to do. They desperately need tins of milk pudding, ready to serve custard, corned beef, fish, baked beans, Big Soup, and packets of pasta, noodles or rice with sauce (ones only requiring hot water to make a meal; biscuits and chocolate bars. There is no demand for tinned vegetables, fruit or fresh produce. thank you.

O God, to those who have hunger give bread,
And to those of us who have bread give a hunger for justice.

METHODIST DAY CENTRES

For almost twenty years Day Centres for the elderly have been run at Haworth, Lees and Oxenhope providing a caring environment and a hot meal on a regular basis – something which has been much appreciated by the various folk who have attended and have found companionship and a sense of belonging.

It has regrettably been decided that we can no longer manage this provision, mainly due to the increasing burden of administration. We have been involved in discussions with Bradford Social Services, who provide the funding, to find a new provider who will use our premises and hopefully take on the staff which the clients feel are such an important part of the service. We are glad to have been able to provide this service. We hope it will continue under new management

EVANGELISM

KEIGHLEY AGRICULTURAL SHOW – SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

The show will be held at Marley, and the Circuit will provide a Christian presence. In a marquee there will be a Harvest based display with free tea, coffee and biscuits, as well as things for children to do.

Offers of fruit, vegetables and biscuits are needed, as well as volunteers to help serve the teas and coffees. If you can offer an hour or two please let Rev. Sandie Exley-Watts know by phone/email, Please bring biscuits to Circuit Welcome Service and put in the box. Material for next newsletter to Maurice Baren by 7th October please