

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 13

Spring 2017

Every Person's Potential Fulfilled

Do you recognise this 'strapline'?

It is the aim of **All We Can**, Methodist Relief and Development, and we recently heard and saw how they are working to reach this goal.

Tim Baker, the Churches and

Volunteers Officer for **All We Can**, came to the Circuit to present a really interesting afternoon and inspiring evening service. It was an

opportunity for us to learn more of difficult situations, and to see how work with local partnerships improves the quality of life for individuals and communities, bringing long-term positive change.

Many thanks to Brighouse for hosting this Circuit World Church event on Sunday 12th March, and to those who came. Nearly £200 was collected and given to **All We Can**.

Why not go to www.allwecan.org.uk to find out more, to donate to their work, to download super resources for use in services and groups, or to request a speaker.

Cathy Roper



Christian Peacemaking in Manchester

Could any of you reading this publication fail to express a desire for peace? In these days of conflicts and aggression in so many parts of the world, we all pray for peace.

Christ, Himself our Peace (Eph 2:14), went one step further in the Beatitudes when He exhorted us to become peace-makers. Rather than just waiting for the conflict to cease, He expected us to be pro-active in addressing the causes of conflict and injustice and to bring about creative harmony and reconciliation in society.

So, a group of Christian peacemakers from all over the UK came together in Manchester in March to discuss and learn from each other at a conference entitled "The Things that Make for Peace".

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Friends of Malham Chapel

On Sunday 20th November 2016 the Friends of Malham Chapel (FoMC) held their inaugural meeting at the Chapel.

A development group has been appointed to move forward the vision for Malham Chapel, which is to provide an all-age and all-weather space with full access possible for those with disabilities. Improving the aspect at the front of the building to showcase its stunning setting will allow passing tourists a gain a glimpse of the interior of the chapel and may encourage them to take a look inside. Finally, at the centre of the floor, a pictorial representation of Malhamdale as a focus for prayer and conversation.

Moving forward we envisage possible roles for FoMC in these areas:

- Prayer – a network of folk holding the place and people in prayer, and offering the work as a subject for prayer in their fellowships.
- Presence – a number of people willing to spend time offering welcome at the Chapel, particularly at times of high visitor numbers e.g. The Safari, The Show and Bank Holiday weekends.
- Publicity – the possibility of finding people both to produce and to distribute publicity materials and stories, including the good use of social media (e.g. a FoMC Facebook page).
- Skills – the identification of skills needed in the development of the work, and the potential for finding people with these skills from a wider



pool than the local community. If you would like to join us in this exciting new venture, or would simply like to know more about the Friends of Malham Chapel please contact Nick Blundell on 01274 416506 or friendsofmalhamchapel@aol.co.uk.

Nick Blundell - District Mission Enabling Officer



I downloaded them from a cloud!

This Newsletter

Do you have something happening in your church that you want to tell others in the Circuit about. Here's just the place. Check the cut-off date on the back page.

A Season of Concerts at Brighthouse Central Methodist Church

April 29th saw the start of a 'Season of Concerts' being held at Brighthouse Central Methodist Church over the coming months.

The season started off with a One-Man Show featuring Huddersfield born Simeon Wood – an exceptionally talented multi-instrumentalist whose performances have been described as 'exhilarating shows of musical brilliance.'

Just two weeks later, on May 13th, the Calderdale Big Band will be taking to the stage, followed on June 3rd by the Elland Silver Youth Band.

Opera will be represented on July 15th, with a Gilbert & Sullivan concert, and the Brighthouse & Rastrick Band will be making a welcome return on September 16th.

This will be the start of, what is hoped will be, a week of musical events leading up to the Church's Flower Festival over the weekend of 22nd – 25th September, culminating in a Gala Concert planned for Saturday 23rd with something for all musical tastes.

Proceeds from these events will go towards Central's *Open to God/Open to All Project* as well as supporting their long term work.

In a changing society, the church recognises the ever-growing need to serve and reach out to the community, as well as being a place of worship. To do this, it is embarking on various

community-minded initiatives which require funding support.

Acoustically, Central has always been a popular venue for music lovers and, as one of the projects recently launched was the Brighthouse Central Music



Academy, it seems fitting that music plays a part in the fundraising initiatives.

Tickets for all concerts will be available from:

The Ticket Kiosk at Central (Mornings of Thursday – Sunday)

Fawcetts Cards & Gift Shop, Commercial Street Brighthouse;

Rycorns Health Store, Bethel Street Brighthouse;

Treble Clef Music, off Bethel Street, Brighthouse;

and in Huddersfield from: Chooseys Tea and Coffee House, King Street.

As well as the above, on 1st July the church will also be the venue for what have become regular concerts on behalf of the Brighthouse Lions.

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We were variously from Quaker, Anglican and Methodist backgrounds, some lay people, some clergy.

David Walker, Bishop of Manchester, opened the conference, outlining some of his strategies for promoting peace in his community and answering lots of questions from us in a very lively discussion afterwards!

International Peace Service

We heard from a representative of the Christian International Peace Service, which has been working for peace in Cyprus, the Philippines, India, Ghana, etc since 1964, of how they put peacemaking into action with practical agricultural projects, living alongside locals and reconciling previously warring factions. Modern Skype technology also brought us a live interview with Peter Cousins from Colombia on the work of the International Accompaniment Programme – that is, accompanying local humanitarian organisations in their work by creating safe corridors, negotiating with police etc, as independent witnesses.

War Toys

We also heard from Alan Storkey, artist and pacifist, on opposing militarism in our society, which begins with war toys and army recruitment fairs in schools, graduating to the massive war machine whose hub is the arms trade. Alan is also a great advocate of the e-Petition

and has one open at the moment on disarmament. Ray Gaston from Leeds spoke on the theology of inter-faith dialogue and of some of his practical experiences of inter-faith relationships on his “Reconciliation Walks”.

Cities of Sanctuary

Also from Yorkshire, we met the founder of Cities of Sanctuary, Inderjit Singh Bhogal from Sheffield, who had the idea in 2005 of a 10 year plan to make Sheffield a City of Sanctuary and accomplished it in record time in 2007!

Now there are 88 Cities of Sanctuary and one Valley of Sanctuary – Calderdale!

Just a Snap-shot

This is of necessity only a snap-shot of the conference. If any of you readers out there would like to know more about the sessions, about the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship (www.apf.org.uk) or the Fellowship of Reconciliation (ecumenical peace movement-www.for.org.uk) or about our local Calder Valley CND for Peace and Justice Group, please feel free to contact me, Kathy Pitt, via the Circuit office. Tel. 01422 359639 - or email calderdale.methodist@btconnect.com



It is hoped that Issue No. 13 of this Newsletter will come out shortly after the next Circuit Meeting. Please send material to graham.smith@methodist.org.uk
by Monday 10th July 2017

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of the Methodist Church