

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 2

Summer 2013

Visit of the President of the Methodist Conference to New Ebenezer 25th March 2013.

As part of a visit to the West Yorkshire District the President (Rev Mark Wakelin), together with the Chair of the West Yorkshire District (Rev. Dr. Roger Walton), visited New Ebenezer in the centre of Halifax to hear about all the innovative and exciting Christian work going on there.

Rev. Alistair Newton (our Superintendent Minister) introduced everybody to him, including – Laura Woodfine and Chris Mason (HYPs detached youth workers) and their line manager Bob Arnold, Mr Maslen (Food and Support Drop-in), Roy Sykes (Circuit Steward), and Elaine Manship (Circuit Steward and newly appointed Administrator of New Ebenezer.)

The President led an intense discussion on the issue of

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Left to right- Bob Arnold (HYPs) Rev. Alistair Newton, Chris Mason (Hyps worker) Roy Sykes (Circuit Steward/NEB management), President, Laura Woodfine (HYPs worker), Mr Maslen, NEB Drop-in Centre)

poverty in Britain the modern world and how the Church is dealing with it. He heard how the Drop-in Centre provides food and other support to people who are really struggling with life in different ways (lack of money, clothes or food, drugs or drink problems), and how they have just reached the amazing total of 20,000 parcels being distributed since they started.

The President told us how he has been to the Labour Party Conference and had a discussion with MPs along similar lines, where they had debated how have poverty and the need for groups like the Food and Support Drop-in have suddenly arisen in our modern society. He also said that we need to look at poverty in a different way, by looking hard at the reasons why people are poor, rather than thinking that they are scroungers or in some way have brought it on themselves.

He recommended that we read a paper called 'Truth and Lies' written by a combination of the Baptist Union, The Methodist Church, The Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church. This paper looks at the many myths surrounding poverty. Copies of this report are available by e-mail from the Circuit Office, and this will be a great source of debate for your meetings, or ideas for your mission projects.

It was pointed out to the President that our Circuit has only recently organised a successful conference on this exact subject.

The Drop-in Centre has also started a 'Gathering' on Saturday evenings where

up to 50 people are coming to spend the evening having a well prepared meal, socialising together and discussing the various issues of modern life, and how Jesus can be an influence in their lives.

Laura and Chris told the President how they are reaching the young people of Halifax by meeting them in town after school and listening to them, and hearing about their difficulties or successes in life.

The President was shown the latest plans for the development of the New Ebenezer building and was presented with a copy of the draft Development Plan.

Before reaching New Ebenezer the President had visited the Busoasis project in Illingworth, and afterwards moved on to visit other places in Huddersfield before returning to London.

Roy Sykes

Circuit Steward

*Member of Christ Church and of the
New Ebenezer Management Group*

The President writes a daily blog (<http://methodist-presandvp.blogspot.co.uk>) so it will be interesting to see what he writes about his visit to our Circuit - do look it up online.

It is hoped that Issue No. 3 of this Newsletter will come out shortly after the next Circuit Meeting. Please send material to graham.smith@methodist.org.uk by Monday 14th October

Greetland and Lindwell become Cross Hills

We became Cross Hills Methodist church on Monday 8th July. We're grateful for support received from so many and, as investors in the scheme, we thought you might like to know a little of our Good News.

The YWT (Youth Worship Team) meet every Sunday and have been planning and leading Liquid Worship throughout the last year as well as the Circuit Service at Southgate. Though there are no liquid worship sessions planned until the new church building is ready, we'll continue to meet, to sing and play together and we're planning to follow a course about worship and worship leading.

JC's/Youthie still averages 25-30 CHYPS every week & make the gospel central to our sessions.

Lunch fellowship (ages from 3 to 97) still can be very busy. It draws on its patrons from a wide area. We want to do more but at present, we can only cater for the up to 30 to 40 who come along every week.

Mother & Toddlers has seen something of a revival. Lots of toddlers have gone off to school / nursery etc, or Mums have gone back to work; now we have a whole load of new Mums and babies, a lot of them old scholars returning to the fold!

Our last Pantomime at Lindwell in March was presented in front of a
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On the 1st and 2nd June, the centre of Brighouse was transported back in time to the 1940's.

There were various event reflecting the war years and the period immediately after. There were stalls down the street, exhibitions, newsreel films showing, a brass band concert and an outdoor Service of Remembrance on Sunday morning.

The Methodist Church played a significant part in all this, putting on an exhibition in the church, hosting the newsreel, providing refreshments on both days and moving the regular worship times so as to be able to form a Procession of Witness to the outdoor service.

This was, for us, the icing on the cake when people parted like the waters of the Red Sea to let us pass between them and as we sung Onward Christian Soldiers – many actually joined in.

The whole weekend was a great success and it's hoped that there will be another themed event in the future.

Graham Smith

total audience of about 450 and it was a time of much friendship and fellowship. At the end of the final performance, Katie, one of our Youthie led us all in the Grace; a fine way to end the family tradition and one that demonstrated its connected-ness to our mission and ministry.

We have a tradition of holding the Harvest Auction in the pub after the Harvest Festival at Lindwell; this year we've been invited to hold both our Harvest festival and Auction in the pub on the first Sunday in September. SATS in the plan means "Service At The Star", not exams!

On June 30th we came together to start to think about and planning for the future. We started with conversations about worship and how we are the body of Christ – beginning to look at how we will come back into the new building, about structures and leadership, our mission and ministry and how we manage its continuing development and support it.

We've met with the folks at St Thomas, both to sort interim arrangements while we're homeless, but also to revisit the question of a joint mission in Greetland and West Vale – looking to set up an interested group from both churches to explore further; to be developed at our next meeting in July.

We've been busy raising money too - we aim to have raised our 60K local funding target by end of July. Having started at £40,000, we raised it to £50,000 and as of tonight we have raised just over £56,500.

We anticipate our new building at Cross

Hills will be completed early in the New Year. We have had to split the scheme into two phases as we've not yet received any firm offers for the proposed housing scheme which utilises an area of the graveyard, and which helps to create our open area and memorial garden which is very much a part of our overall concept. We hope to retain as many gravestones and memorials as possible, and of particular interest are John Hirst, the reported first burial in a Methodist graveyard, who died on 16th May 1778, and Eli Gledhill, who fought in the Peninsular Campaign of 1812 and was at the Battle of Waterloo and those which reflect the social history of the time, such as the high level of mortality of children and infants which we wish to recognise and remember.

Greetland closed for worship on 14th July with worship led by Stuart which also included a time of testimony. The Methodist presence there dates from 1779; and had at least two visits from John Wesley. There is a rich heritage of Methodist worship in Greetland.

A few Sundays ago we were welcomed to worship with our Anglican friends at St Thomas, joining with them for worship once a month, and having a Methodist service in their church hall the other Sundays.

We move forward, recognising the achievements of the past and rising to the challenges of the future in the furtherance of Gods Kingdom.

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of the Methodist Church