

# AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

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Number 11

Summer 2016

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## News from the June 2016 Circuit Meeting

**The Circuit Meeting** held on the 29th June at Highgate Methodist Church began with a consultation regarding the re-shaping of the four Yorkshire Districts into three.

Points of concern were raised regarding the rushed nature of the consultation and further comments on the proposed new Yorkshire West District enlarged area. The new district would comprise all of the present West Yorkshire District and the following circuits from the Leeds District:

Wharfedale and Aireborough, Leeds (South and West), Leeds (North and East), and the Aire and Calder.

The meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of the new district boundary and our points of concern and comments will be forwarded to the Connexional working party.

### Good News Stories

**Police Chaplaincy** – Revd Christine Griffiths explained her new role as a West Yorkshire Police Chaplain.

The police would like to have a chaplain attached to every police station. Christine, complete with High Vis. Jacket and Stab Vest, told the meeting that she volunteers a few hours a week at Todmorden Police Station.

**Central, Brighouse** – Revd Mark Cheetham told the meeting of four good news items from Central.

**1 People:** The appointment of a 'One Programme' Youth Worker funded by the Methodist Church and a Church and Community Development Worker.



*Continued on the back page*

### The Circuit's World Church Group

will be holding their Annual  
Informal Meeting  
on Saturday 8th October  
at Cross Hills.

Everyone is welcome – 10 for  
10.30am, starting with a cuppa!!

## Murmurs from the May Synod

A slightly different feel to the Synod held on the 8th May at Southgate, Elland.

We spent much of the morning with sustained reflection and worship around **The Story of Light**, the West Yorkshire District's Evangelism Initiative. Nick Blundell, the District Mission Enabling Officer, began the launch of this exciting venture, looking at how we share the story of light in our churches, in our activities and in our lives.

It isn't asking us to introduce a raft of new activities, but to 'polish the shine' of the things we are already doing, although you might feel moved to set up a specific **Story of Light** project.

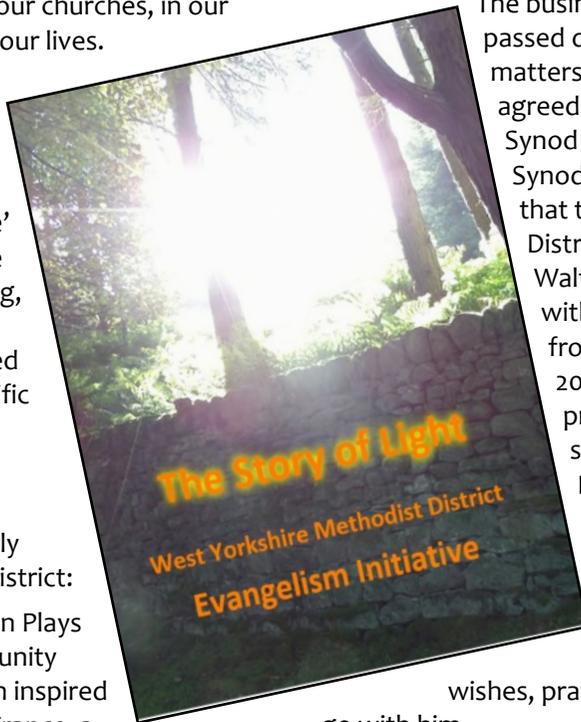
We heard of 5 projects currently running in the District:

Busoasis, Passion Plays in Settle, Community Month in Silsden inspired by the Tour de France, a Scarecrow Festival in Meltham and the Stepping Out programme in Clifton. Hymn 662 was used in the worship:

Have you heard God's voice,  
has your heart been stirred?  
Are you still prepared to follow?  
Have you made a choice  
to remain and serve, though  
the way be rough and narrow?

*Will you walk the path  
that will cost you much  
and embrace the pain and sorrow?  
Will you trust in One  
who entrusts to you  
the disciples of tomorrow?*

An inspiring session – do find time to read the booklet of **The Story of Light**, there should be copies available in your church.



The business session passed quickly, all matters approved/ agreed as stated in the Synod Handbook. Synod was delighted that the Chair of the District, Revd Roger Walton, will stay with us for 2 years from September 2017. He was presented with a stole from the District, as he becomes President at this year's conference, and our good

wishes, prayers and support go with him.

The afternoon session was the inspiring Ordinands' Testimony Service for Revds Jo Brown and Sue Burton, and Deacon Maggie Patchett, led by Revd Roger Walton.

Much to encourage, inspire, challenge and affirm us. A great day.

Cathy Roper (Circuit rep)

# Clifton – one Active Church!

If you thought May and June were hectic up at Clifton, with our first Christian Aid Big Brekkie, cream teas for the village scarecrow festival, miracles at the Sunday School anniversary and a blossoming mums and tots group, wait till you hear what we've got planned for the rest of the year!

August sees the return of our celebrated Clifton International when we embark on a South American adventure, taking in Peru, Mexico, Argentina and ending, where else, in Rio, Brazil. We hope many of our villagers will join us for the usual 'local' food, fun and crafts on each Thursday of August from 1 to 3.30 pm.

October will see the third of our own version of Messy Church, the newly-named Activity Church, this time for autumn. We will welcome back families who enjoyed our Easter Eggcitement and May Musical Madness as well as those who want to try it for the first time.

December? A Christmas Workshop, what else? Make a note in your diary for Sunday 4 December, 2 – 4pm for Christmassy crafts and food.

The back-bone of all our plans is what really matters, of course – serving Christ in our community. We ask for your prayers as we continue with our plans to try to appoint a lay pastor to nurture our church family and to help us support all of the above ventures, as well as further new exciting ones.



The theme for the scarecrow competition was Royalty and as a church we wanted to celebrate Christianity so we based the scarecrow on a book that had been released by the Bible Society, 'The Servant Queen and the King She Serves'.

This book puts the Queen's role as the head of state in a Christian context and shows how her religious beliefs



have been of fundamental importance during her reign. The young people built a scarecrow of the Queen praying at the foot of the cross of Jesus.

This also gave us an opportunity to engage with the village about the Christian message.

## **Good News Stories**

*continued from page 1*

**2 Music Academy:** A new venture for the future.

**3 Soft Play Gym:** to be incorporated in the redevelopment scheme.

**4 Building Alterations:** To make the building more accessible.

**Cross Hills** – A presentation given to the Methodist Church Resourcing Mission Conference was much appreciated with positive comments from a number of delegates about the story of Cross Hills. The church was introduced as “Cross Hills Methodist Church, a little Church with a Big Heart” leading to “From Graveyard to Housing - the Greetland experience”.

### **Evangelism**

Following - **Facing the Challenge:**

**Illingworth** are appointing a Missional Centre Manager. The church is seeking to employ a person to help in its mission to the local community. At Illingworth Moor, we recognise that the building is being used more and more by ‘outside’ user groups and this gives a great opportunity to build on those relationships and to make our building more visible as a Christian presence in the local community. The Manager will be the ‘link’ between church and user groups.

**Clifton** are seeking to employ a Lay Pastor/Worker to carry out and enable mission, outreach, and evangelism, in the name of Christ and the local community and to support the pastoral ministry in the church.

**Rev Paul Welch** shared his vision Pioneer Sports Ministry. Through Pioneering it would be possible to see what God is doing amongst those who engage in sport and to join in and share God’s love and eventually engage in Worship within a Sporting context. A Pioneer Minister is released to engage in new forms of mission and evangelism.

**The Mission and Vision Group** asked for feedback on the Story of Light initiative. Two questions were asked at the last circuit meeting i) name one thing your church shines at ii) name one need that your church needs to respond to. Those churches who have not responded to these questions are asked to discuss them at the next church council and give the responses to circuit office or any member of the Team. Has your church given its feedback?

**An update was given** on the ‘Stepping Out’ programme. The team have been working closely with Clifton Methodist Church and presently with Boothtown & Southowram Methodist Church.

**Any other churches** wishing to engage with The Mission and Vision Team are asked to contact one of their members.

It is hoped that Issue No. 12 of this Newsletter will come out shortly after the next Circuit Meeting. Please send material to [graham.smith@methodist.org.uk](mailto:graham.smith@methodist.org.uk) by **Monday 3rd October 2016**

#### **Around the Dale**

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