

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 12

Autumn 2016

Holiday at Home - Christ Church - August 2016

Twenty older holiday-makers visited Blackpool, Llandudno and Harrogate last week without leaving Hipperholme. Christ Church at the crossroads ran for the first time a three-day Holiday at Home for locals now unable to holiday elsewhere.



Each day they arrived for coffee then had an hour of games, quizzes, puzzles and creative activities. After a thought for the day there was a substantial lunch. In the afternoon after a quiet time there was entertainment of various kinds, including on the middle day a concert given by the Savile Singers. The day ended with afternoon tea and a take-home goody bag!

Each day was themed on a particular resort and its particular specialities so the Blackpool lunch was fish and chips and the Llandudno lunch was

shepherds' pie. On the Harrogate day it was beef and Yorkshire pudding and at tea time the church hall was set out like a famous café there.

Earlier in the year the organisers had visited the resorts to obtain posters, brochures and souvenirs. The leaders were Cathy Roper and Thelma Taylor who nobly acknowledged the help they received from the dozen other volunteers who worked so hard as well. 'It was exhausting but well worth it' one said.

One of the holiday-makers wrote in a thank you card 'I really feel as if I have been away on holiday this week'. Another wondered where they'd be going next year!

St. Paul's Sowerby Bridge

Live Nativity

this Christmas.

Saturday 17th December,
11am to 4pm.

There are no charges
and everyone is welcome.

Children will love to see the animals,
and all youngsters receive free
nativity gifts.

Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with our God notes from the Autumn Synod

The first verses from Micah chapter 6 reflect the Presidential theme for this year, and were read in the Opening Worship at Synod when it met on Saturday, 10th September at Long Causeway LEP Church in Dewsbury. The day focused on district matters, plus news and experiences from Conference.

Doing justice

Conference this year, held in London, was in the centre of political turmoil... with the Somme anniversary, Brexit, NUT march and the Chilcot enquiry being marked in very vocal ways around Westminster Central Hall. Delegates started wearing open safety pins to show solidarity against racism, and a statement was published and read out in all the churches that Sunday.

Youth Network: Locally, there are events for young people – a weekend away in April, a celebration of Messy Church in March and training sessions this autumn.

At Conference 3Generate manifestos were launched, after discussions noting what the children and young people wanted to focus on this year. To download these go to www.methodistchurch.org.uk/3Generate. Young people were very much in evidence at Conference - talking and being listened to.

We heard of the valuable work done by *Action for Children* – organising new ways to deliver their services and a new look coming soon! 390,000 children/young people/families were helped in 2015 – 2016. Locally they are raising funds to provide a better outdoor play space for babies and toddlers in Wakefield Prison, and

continue with their centres in

Dewsbury and
Mirfield.

The Vice President, Rachel Lampard, is part of the *Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)*, who research and publish reports on social issues, successfully getting messages into the public media concerning these. A regional group is being set up, launching in Leeds on Saturday 4th March -

Chris tian advocacy with vision for the region.

Love mercy

Safeguarding: the Past Cases Review was presented to Conference a year ago. ‘Saying sorry isn’t enough’ we need to ensure it never happens again and that church is a safe place for all. A Task Group is preparing resources to go to the circuits, where further conversations will be held this year. In the district, Dr Susan Wishart advises on matters involving Vulnerable Adults and Barbara Hutchinson on Children and Young People.

SEEK
JUSTICE
LOVE
MERCY
WALK
HUMBLY

Fiona Fidgin of the *Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network (DMLN)* commended the toolkit: Equality Diversity and Inclusion, which could be used as an Advent/Lent course and will be available on the website from 1st October.

The new *MWiB* president, Jean Delaney, introduced her project: Let the music do the talking – working with MHA for provision of music therapy in dementia care.

Reshaping Yorkshire

– John Robinson brought four recommendations, three of which were agreed, concerning the formation of 3 Yorkshire districts and their increased opportunities to work together, although a consensus could not be reached on their new names!! We shall wait and see.

Communication is vital – and how we do it. *Social media* is the way many people receive their news nowadays, and we have to know about it and use it to be effective. John Wilson, the person responsible for Media and Communications, would be happy to come and advise you/run workshops in an effort to make 2016-2017 a year for better communication. jdwilson761@gmail.com

Walking humbly with our God

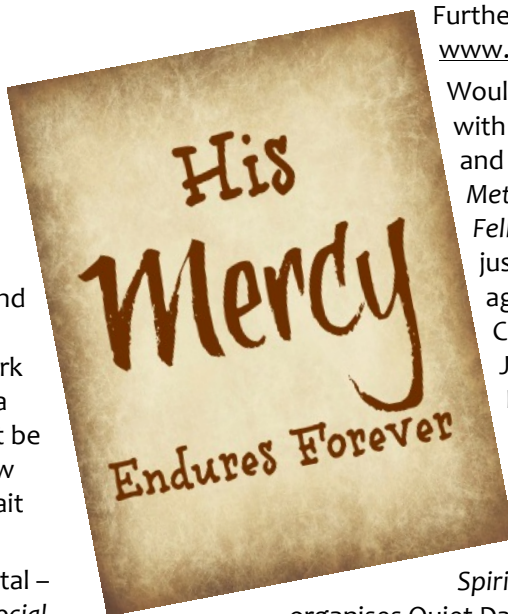
Rev'd Jo Brown recounted her memories

of her ordination at Conference, remembering very moving moments and experiences.

There was to be a District Development Day on 8th October at Woodhouse Grove School, 10am – 3pm. The *PeerTalk* project (Facing Depression Together) is seeking to recruit and train Volunteer Peer Support Group Facilitators, and recently held two events in Preston and Bradford.

Further information at www.peertalk.org.uk

Would you like to join in with a week of faith, fun and friendship? The *Methodist Summer Fellowship* is organising just such a week for all ages at The Hayes Conference Centre, 29 July – 4 August 2017. Phone 01676 533157 for more details.



The District Spirituality Group

organises Quiet Days to encourage us to become more spiritual; or could put you in touch with a Spiritual Director. Contact Rev Sarah Jemison revsaj8@gmail.com or Katharine Cheney cheney@uwclub.net *Touchstone* – Geoff Butler (Project Manager) brought us up to date with the plans, which are all in place. Building could begin in January if there were sufficient funding.

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Notes from the Synod

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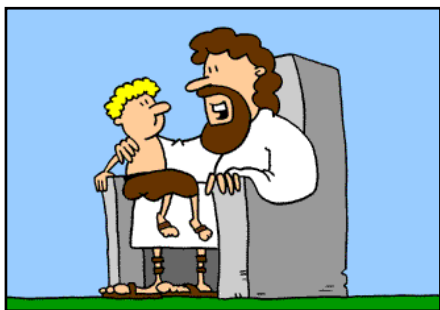
Worship – the day included the Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Memorial Service.

It's not all sitting and listening

Throughout the day we stopped to have 5-minute conversations with those around us, which proved interesting and helpful. These are the questions we considered – I wonder what your responses are?

- How are we affected by the things going on around us?
- If there was one thing you could change, what would it be?
- What is the one thing your church could do to be a more loving community?
- What one thing am I going to do differently?

Cathy Roper (Circuit rep)



How about if, instead of giving you everything you want for Christmas, I give you everything you need?

Taizé Service

**at Central Methodist Church
Brighouse**

Sunday 13th November 2016 at 6 pm



We Will Remember Them

**A Service of Remembering
those we have loved and lost**

based on the music of
the Taizé Community
in southern France

Everyone is welcome to come
and share
in this act of worship

For more details ring 01484 718807

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 3rd April 2017**

Around the Dale

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Circuit
of the Methodist Church

AROUND THE DALE EXTRA

Number 12

Autumn 2016

From the District Make a difference in Malham?

Many of us will have known the village of Malham, with Cove and Tarn, Gordale Scar and Janet's Foss, from childhood. For me it is a place which connects me with both my grandparents and my grandchildren, having played there as a child and now watching my grandchildren enjoy the place in their turn. It's one of those special places.

The Chapel at Malham sits right by the National Park Visitor Centre and car park, with thousands of visitors passing it to visit, walk, climb, bird-watch. There are a faithful few members who have ensured worship continues, but who have recognised they are getting tired.

The Circuit (Skipton and Grassington) and the District have recognised the strategic significance of the Chapel, and the potential outreach to visitors, and have enabled the Chapel to come under the trusteeship of the Circuit Meeting, whilst the local members continue to worship.

There are exciting plans for refurbishment and development, and a developing vision of what can be possible in providing a place through which "to tell tourists the tale of the one who pitched his tent amongst us; to introduce walkers to the one who leads us beside quiet waters; to remind the shepherds to lift their eyes to the heavens."



We see an all-weather space, with a large pictorial map of the dale inlaid into the floor, able to welcome all kinds of people and complement and deepen their experience of Malhamdale.

But we need help. Help staffing the place on high days and holidays. Help resourcing the work with time and skills. Help dreaming the dream and, with God's help, making it reality.

If you are one of those for whom Malham is a special place, or if it might become one for you, we'd like you to become a Friend of Malham Chapel. If you are interested, please come to the inaugural meeting of the Friends of Malham Chapel, at the Chapel at 1pm on Sunday November 20th (you might like to bring a picnic) or, if you can't come, express an interest by contacting me at 01274 416506 or friendsofmalhamchapel@aol.co.uk.

*Thank you - Nick Blundell
District Mission Enabling Officer*

I don't know what to say . . .

Social chit-chat is easy – we enjoy talking about the weather, our families, holidays, TV programmes etc . . .

But talking about our faith is a different matter and many people feel they lack confidence in sharing their faith.

Help is at hand!!

Talking of God

is a new faith sharing course, designed to help individuals and congregations talk about their faith journey.

It's being run at Christ Church on four **Wednesdays** this autumn, from **6.30 – 8.30 pm**, on **26th October and 2nd, 9th and 16th November**.

Each week focuses on a different theme:

- Starting the conversation – each of us has a story to share
- Conversation Stoppers – conversations can be hard
- Conversations in Context – how our world can frame our conversations
- Living the Conversation – conversations are more than just words

The course is being led by Rev Alistair Newton, and is a Circuit event.

This could really inspire and encourage us in our mission in Calderdale!

Your Circuit Newsletter needs YOU

Published three times a year, this Newsletter aims to inform local congregations about what's happening around the Circuit. So we need **YOU** to let us know what's happening in your neck of the woods.

The cut-off date for items to be included in the next issue is on the back page of this issue.

Please make it easy for the editor and send your news in good time.

Graham



Hipperholme Crossroads!

Often a place of frustration and heavy traffic, but for one magical evening, on Friday 25th November, there will be a brass band, carols, mince pies and Christmas trees.

Come and share in the lighting of both the village and Christ Church's

tree at 6pm.

All welcome!