

# AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 8

Summer 2015

## **Busoasis Update**

by Sharon Lawrance

We continue to work in the community alongside different organisations such as the police, Food and Support Drop-in, local churches, Christians Together, CiCS, HYP, bus station, Trinity Academy, Abbey Park School, Staying Well Project etc.



We ran a successful 6 week project working with young people, aged 13 to 19, of Illingworth and Calderdale Council detached youth workers. Each week we had around 15 young people, who enjoyed hot and cold drinks and copious amounts of toast and biscuits! We did many activities, during which the youth workers were able to engage with them. We have continued this project due to its success, and now have on average up to 28 young people attending. Some have now started to attend our Church's youth group at Illingworth Moor.

I am now receiving requests to work in other areas, negotiations are ongoing with the Police and the Council.

I also received an award, at the North Halifax Stars award evening recently, for my work in the community with Busoasis in the category of 'contribution to a safer, cleaner, greener environment'. Many thanks to whoever nominated me!

I also deliver basic iPad skills to groups around the area, offer talks and lead worship around the bus's mission work occasionally. I am looking forward to starting work at Clifton Methodist Church shortly.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers, and to our volunteers. If you know of any group that we could support to continue to show God's love around the Circuit, please contact me on [staff.busoasis2013@gmail.com](mailto:staff.busoasis2013@gmail.com), call or text 07770246734/07790978841. Follow us on Facebook or Twitter and [www.busoasis.org.uk](http://www.busoasis.org.uk).

**HELP!**

**Don't leave me on a  
dusty shelf**

**Give Me Out**

**Read Me**

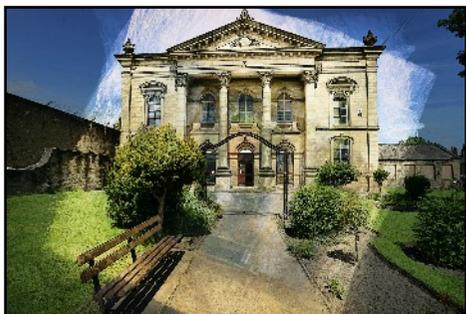
**Pass Me On**

## Moments from the May Synod!

Held at Cornerstones, Bradford South

Circuit on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Synod was, as usual, an interesting and inspiring day of chatting, worshipping, praying, singing, discussing, voting, listening, attending to various business items and sharing fellowship. The 'extras' at this Synod were... informed speakers raising issues and thoughts around Marriage and Relationships, a visit from the new Bishop of Bradford and voting on 2 Memorials.



The **Revds Sam McBratney and Paul Smith**, members of the task force looking at Marriage and Relationships, presented us with informed, balanced information on where the Church is on its thinking about same sex marriage, the path it has taken and the reports presented. This provided a useful background for the discussions to be held in our churches, on the issue of same sex marriage. The government's attitude to same sex marriage has changed, yet the church's definition of marriage has not. 'We are in a confusing place.' There are different issues to be addressed: a ceremony/service, but not a blessing, can be conducted for a same sex couple, if everyone involved is in agreement, local decisions have to be

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made on this. The nature of marriage is changing, in line with social trends... couples living together, divorcees marrying. At what point is a marriage made... from a civil/religious point of view?

One thing is clear, and that is using the authority of Scripture, the divine revelation recorded in Holy Scriptures. But we may hold different views on this... if we take the Bible as our constitution it can be looked at in two ways: discerning what was in the minds of those who wrote it, or taking the principles and applying them to the very different context of today. There is a need to engage with our Bibles, and to think, pray and study the word together, to discern what God is saying. There is unlikely to be a situation where all within the church agree, as we have, as Rev Donald Soper would have said 'a fellowship of controversy'. We need to trust each other, to go beyond the difficulties to a deeper fellowship when having these conversations. It is a process, not an answer, but we need to honour one another's ministries and retain a unity of fellowship.

After lunch we welcomed **Revd Toby Howarth, the Bishop of Bradford**, who moved into the area in January and has since spent his time 'touring' the diocese, staying in different deaneries. He has met with people from different areas and organisations, been on Prayer Walks, talked to people involved with a variety of jobs, concerns etc. He feels one priority is to have healthy, growing churches that can be a blessing to their communities,

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# Stones 200th Sunday School Anniversary

We had a wonderful day celebrating Stones 200th Sunday School Anniversary on Sunday 28th June. We had morning and evening services at which the Sunday School sang a specially commissioned song by Alan Simmons entitled "Stones 200" and also did a presentation celebrating the 200 and



more years of Sunday School life. In the evening the large choir and organ

was augmented by the Halifax Concert Band and the packed church took part in, and witnessed, a marvellous Circuit occasion.

Andrew Smith has written a history of Stones Church including the



Sunday School entitled "Over 200 years of Faith in the Pennines" to celebrate the occasion. The book has 72 pages and over 70 photos and has been printed as a limited edition. It is available at cost price at £10 from Andrew - either contact [pasmith19@hotmail.com](mailto:pasmith19@hotmail.com) or ring 07979-645379.



Are you a World Church enthusiast? Yet?

The Circuit

## World Church Group

are meeting for a catch-up on Saturday **10th October** (please note change of date) at 10am at Crosshills.

*Why not pop along?  
Everyone is welcome!*



The next

## Taizé Service

at Central Methodist Church, Brighouse will be

on Sunday November 22nd at 6.00 pm.

Everyone is welcome to share in this unique style of quiet and contemplative worship.

## A Very Special Day



Our love, prayers and best wishes go to the Revd Christine and Mr Michael Griffiths who became husband and wife on 2 May 2015 during a lovely service at Blackshaw Head.

# Would you Adam and Eve it, a woolly experience !

**Clifton Methodist Church** was full to bursting with over 200 knitted figures that made up the Knitted Bible exhibition in May.

They became familiar friends over a period of a month and worship in the church took on a completely different take over that period of time with one preacher commenting “how do I compete with this”.

## Visited by over eight hundred people

All the worshipping congregation had to find a different place to sit, as often their usual place had been taken up by Noah and his Ark or David and Goliath, but worshipping amongst a visual representation of God’s word was a real privilege and experience.

Over 800 people visited the exhibition over the period of the 4 weeks, many coming from local churches and a variety of denominations. One visitor who was in the area at the time came from Guernsey and another from Liverpool. Many visitors came and sat amongst the figures quietly reflecting,



some wrote prayers that they wished to bring to the Lord on the prayer station and left some amazing comments in our visitors’ book about the experience they had enjoyed.

A number of groups and schools visited the exhibition and the children were excited to look for clues to complete a quiz. It was good to hear about their knowledge of the Bible and its stories, with the exhibition providing a catalyst for their inquisitiveness.

Generous donations were given to support the work of rebuilding people’s lives in Nepal in the aftermath of the earthquake in April 2015.

All in all we had a great time engaging with people through God’s word - the only question we would ask ourselves is HOW DO WE FOLLOW THAT?

*Gill Poole, Clifton Methodist church*



that the church should pray for the welfare/blessing of the city, and be a blessing for the place and its people.

The increasing cuts to benefits that will surely come will cause greater need and stresses, and the church must find a way to reach out to people. His second priority, the welfare of the city, has 2 areas of concern: poverty and diversity.

Poverty is evident in a huge variety of situations – how is God asking us to respond? For diversity issues we need to provide spaces for difficult conversations, to help people to ‘disagree well’, citing Touchstone as a vital place for this. More volunteers will be needed in a variety of roles for the church to be effective!

Synod then listened to presentations for two **Memorials** which led to thoughtful discussions and voting. Both Memorials will be presented to this year’s Conference.

One, in response to the evidence of **climate change**, asks for urgent action from the Central Finance Board to disinvest from companies involved with fossil fuel exploration and extraction, and seek alternative investment in energy efficiency and low carbon renewable energy generation.

The second was to investigate **the use of HSBC bank by the CFB**, in light of recent disclosures about unethical practices uncovered.

We also heard about Pioneering Pathways, 3GENERATE, Touchstone’s new resources, and mission initiatives in schools. What a wonderful day!

## Highgate Methodist Church Celebrating Victory 70 years on

An exhibition of memorabilia is to be held at Highgate Methodist Church from Friday 6th – Mon 9th November 2015 . As part of our Remembrance weekend celebration we are staging an exhibition of



memorabilia from the two world wars, with a special emphasis on 1945.

The church will be open

from 10 am - 12.30 pm on Friday, Saturday and Monday and Kathleen Melling will be leading our Act of Worship and Remembrance at 10.30 on Sunday. Admission is free and you will be offered refreshments. Please call and share this with us.

If you have anything which you could lend us to help us stage a fuller representation of this important time in our history, either from the home front or further afield we would be most grateful. We would especially like war time wedding photos to show how expectations of wedding attire changed during rationing and with so many folk being in uniforms.

*Please carefully label anything you lend us with name & address as we would hate to lose any precious items.*

*More details or arrangements for collection of items for display, from Pauline Edwards or Kathleen Melling (contact details in circuit directory)*

**St. Andrew's Methodist Church**  
Huddersfield Road, Halifax  
50th Celebrations 1965 - 2015



## Celebrations Weekend

**Saturday 17th October**

Open Afternoon 2 pm - 5 pm  
with refreshment  
and organ playing

**Sunday 18th October**

10.30 am Morning Worship  
led by Revd Martin Turner  
6.00 pm Evening Worship  
led by Revd Martin Turner

Martin was our Minister here in 1980,  
and was Superintendent Minister at  
Methodist Central Hall, Westminster  
until his retirement this month.

*All are welcome to come along and join  
in our Celebrations.*



Mrs O'Hara  
told the  
minister  
about her  
operation

 **Mount Zion**  
Methodist Heritage Chapel

Per Lane, Ogden, Halifax HX2 8XG

**Wedding Dress**

**Display**

**10th-13th September**

Friday & Saturday 11 am- 4 pm

Sunday 11 am-1 pm

A display of wedding dresses &  
wedding photos will be on display  
throughout the weekend.

For the bride-to-be there will be some  
new wedding dresses available to buy  
over the weekend.

Refreshments will be on sale.

**Sunday 13th September 2.45pm**

The Vice President of the Methodist  
Conference, Dr Jill Barber, will preach  
at the 200th Anniversary of the  
rebuild of the Chapel.

**Help needed**

Can you spare one hour or more  
over the weekend to help with  
refreshments or welcoming visitors?  
Please contact Paula Prosser if you  
are able to help in any way.

[paulaprosser@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:paulaprosser@blueyonder.co.uk)

0756373314.

It is hoped that Issue No. 9 of this News-  
letter 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 12th October 2015**

**Around the Dale**

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