

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 18

Autumn 2018

St. Paul's Methodist Church

Tower Hill, Sowerby Bridge
HX6 2EQ



Live Nativity

Saturday 15th December 2018
11am to 4pm.

There will be live animals in our stable, and lots of craft activities for children to do. The ground floor of the church is completely transformed. We have a "route" from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Along this "route" are the various gazebos, each housing a different nativity craft activity. There are no charges and all children also get a free nativity story book. On the upper floor we have refreshments - and even these are free! We also have carol singing by the choir of a local primary school.

Catherine Hinton

The Food & Support Drop-In

supporting the
people of Calderdale

In one week the Food & Support Drop-In gave out 85 parcels, 10 to new clients, 15 to families who attended with 23 children, and there were 39 volunteers.

Thank you to all those who give precious time to our guests who value your prayers. We have been lucky enough to see God answering them. Volunteers are always welcome to help at Thursday preparation and especially at the Saturday Drop In between 8.30 am - 12.30 am.

Tinned veg is desperately needed - peas, carrots, sweetcorn, baked beans, potatoes, tomatoes. There is also a need for tinned meats, meals, pies and fish, spaghetti, soups, biscuits, crackers, coffee, washing up liquid and washing powder. Our guests also love to read and we are usually short of books suitable for men and for people who want to know more about Christianity and Jesus.

Snippets from the September Synod

Once again Synod, held at Woodhouse Grove School on the 8th September, was a day of worship, thinking, listening, talking, singing and finding out about Methodist life in Yorkshire West.

Here are some snippets of news:

- MHA celebrates 75 years, caring for 500 people within 20 schemes in the District. Their focus on supporting people's spirituality is much praised.
- Norwood Retreat Centre and Beamsley Project offer ideal accommodation for group visits, retreats and holidays particularly specialising in holidays for people with disabilities.
- Touchstone has moved into its new premises, the official opening was on the 15th September.
- Mission in Leeds is changing, with the closing of Oxford Place to be re-opened as a 70-bed Methodist hotel around Easter 2021. Deacon Merry Evans is now based at the Leeds Church Institute developing mission and ministry in the city centre, exploring retail chaplaincy and other possibilities.
- The One Programme has six participants who started their roles in September.
- The 3 Safeguarding officers are delivering the new advanced training module around the District.



- Revd Dr Barbara Glasson – President elect – told how Christianity was taken to China in 1887 by Revd Samuel Pollard, from Cornwall, who set up a Mission House and a school and re-wrote the Bible for the local people. The story continued through the years – with the Bible being literally buried during the Cultural Revolution, and the Chinese church now being the fastest growing in the world.
- Like many retailers TRAI DCRAFT is struggling and we are asked to support them this autumn and Christmas so they can continue to campaign for justice and bring fairer working practices to many.
- Revd Nick Blundell was thanked for his inspirational work as Mission Enabling Officer, including his organisation of the successful Pentecost Party. He now steps down from this role.
- In June 2019 the Methodist Conference will be producing a report on marriage and relationships that suggests an updated definition of marriage - enabling all people to live as God created them to live. There will then be a consultation period leading to a final decision in 2020.

A Methodist Way of Life

Revd Roger Walton presented Synod with a new initiative 'A Methodist Way of Life', following on from Our Calling, which was re-affirmed at Conference. His stark introduction was that the British Methodist Church is in crisis, we are at a critical point:

- Buildings not fit for purpose
- Insufficient presbyters to fill appointments
- Ministers and lay people stretched thinner
- Bureaucracy – employment laws, safeguarding
- Society is less interested in church life (2 examples – Radio Leeds interviewed Roger who was asked 'Are there any Methodists in West Yorkshire?' and the Yorkshire Post wanted a non-religious quote about the Pentecost Party!!)

A crisis can be a time of judgement, hope and the possibility of transformation. A crisis is not necessarily doom laden as God will be active in it. Roger suggested three practical ways of dealing with this:

1. We need to manage our institution as well as we can, being responsible stewards with smart, creative and imaginative ideas, working in different ways, reconfiguring boundaries/circuits, perhaps having one church on many sites.
2. Mission in each location, be open to the leading of the spirit, new life in the circuit, do new things, discern what God is saying and go with it.

3. Discover, or rediscover, a closer walk with God, a simple rule of life, meeting in small groups, a missionary spirituality.



As far as we are able:

WORSHIP

- We will pray daily
- We will worship regularly
- We will look and listen for God each day

LEARNING AND CARING

- We will seek to learn more of God and God's world
- We will practise friendship and care for others and ourselves
- We will honour creation and tend the environment
- We will practise hospitality and generosity

SERVICE

- We will be good neighbours to those in need
- We will challenge injustice
- We will seek the common good

EVANGELISM

- We will witness to the love of God in Jesus
- We will speak of faith to others
- We will help each other be better disciples

Cathy Roper, Circuit rep to Synod

'Understanding Modern Slavery'

16th March 2019, 10.00-4.00
Leeds Church Institute
20 New Market Street, Leeds

Join the Learning Network, the Salvation Army, All We Can and JPIT for a day exploring modern slavery: what it is; recognising slavery, its perpetrators and its victims; understanding what drives slavery; supporting survivors; and what we can do to stop it. More details soon.

'How to Bring the Arts into Worship'

26 January 2019, 10.00-3.30
Wesley Hall, Crookes, Sheffield

Join the Learning Network for an exciting day exploring the use of the arts in worship through a series of hands-on exploratory workshops. Try out creative ways to worship using singing; drama; painting; needlecraft; or writing psalms, to name a few. More details soon.

How to celebrate Local Arrangements

10th November, 10 am to 4 pm
Methley Methodist Church,
Leeds, LS26 9JE

Wondering what you might do for a Local Arrangement Service? If so, this day is for you! During the day you will have opportunity to hear from experienced worship leaders, explore resources and hone your presentation skills. It promises to be an action-

Taizé Service

at Central Methodist Church
Brighouse

Sunday 18th November at 6 pm



Bless the Lord, My Soul

Songs and prayers from the
Taizé Community
based in southern France

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

For more details ring 01484 718807

packed, interactive and informative day. Lunch will be provided.

To book your place please contact Sian Henderson on 07809 431871 or email:

admin@yorkshirenethodist.org

or for more information contact Revd Carla Quenet on 07772 979670 or email:

quenetc@methodistchurch.org.uk

It is hoped that Issue No. 19 of this Newsletter will come out shortly after the next Circuit Meeting. Please send material to graham.smith@methodist.org.uk by **Monday 25th March 2019**

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of the Methodist Church