

# AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

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Number 16

Spring 2018

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## Thy Kingdom Come

Dear friends,

I want to invite you to pray and come to a Party for Pentecost! Let me explain....

**Thy Kingdom Come** is a simple invitation to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for friends and family to come to faith. Now in its third year, participation has grown every year.

In 2016 – 100,000 Christians pledged to pray. By 2017 – more than half a million had pledged to pray from more than 85 countries including Ghana, Netherlands, Malaysia, Cuba, South Africa, Australia, Korea, Japan and the Philippines to name a few.

In the UK, in 2017 many cathedrals took part, hosting 'beacon' events designed to focus prayers in towns and cities nationwide.

The campaign's broad ecumenical appeal led to more than 50 denominations and traditions being involved last year; including the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church and the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

The positive impact of **Thy Kingdom Come** 2017 continues to unfold as numerous stories of personal and communal transformation pour in



from churches, families and whole communities alike.

This year's **Thy Kingdom Come** is from 10th -20th May, and we, as the Yorkshire West Methodist District, have been asked to host a 'beacon' event.

We were already planning a special Pentecost weekend, with Jill Baker, our Vice President, working and walking with us on a pilgrimage theme.

So that's what the Party's for.

Pentecost comes in! On Sunday 20th May we are taking over the John Charles Arena (aka South Leeds Stadium), and intend to fill it with 2,500 praying, partying, praising pilgrims and their friends.

The plan is to gather by 1.30pm, enjoy a couple of hours of activity and entertainment, before a time of worship at 3.30pm, with National Vice President Jill Baker as speaker and Stuart Townend as worship leader. The event will be ending by 6.00pm.

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# Yarn Bombing in Hipperhome was a real hit!

**This year several people** at Christ Church dug out their knitting needles and set to work knitting Angels to give to our local community at Christmas. A total of 170 angels were knitted and then labelled at a service in early December. The labels had messages of love or hope.

On Thursday 21st December church members met up early in the morning to yarn bomb. The labelled angels were placed on railings or walls around Hipperholme for people to take on their way to work or school. At this point no-one could have anticipated the impact that was about to be made.

A message was put out on Christ Church Facebook page which read: *"Hipperholme Crossroads has been yarn bombed this morning. If you see an Angel on your way to school or work then please take it. It has been knitted by members of Christ Church and labelled with a special message. Please accept this gift for you and your family. Merry Christmas everyone."*

This message reached 19,543 people and 428 people reacted. More moving than these numbers though were the 83 comments, a section of which are shown below:

"How lovely beautiful idea. Thanks for the cheer up this morning, made my day.

"What a lovely idea, there are some fantastic people out there. Well done to everyone who has made this happen, I love where I live. Wonderful thing to do,

they will be treasured. Thank you all so much, I got one this morning, it's beautiful, it put a big smile on my face, Merry Christmas."

One person was so desperate to get one for his fiancée that he offered money for anyone who would get him one. I explained that they were free like the love of God and that I would

get him one. He collected it from me and insisted on giving me a donation for Overgate.

One angel went on a very special journey and we received the following letter (names removed).

*"To all our friends at Christ Church. Christmas was sad for us as a family, as you can imagine, but I wanted to tell you the story of your knitted angels which meant so much for us. We had been told of the knitting project a few days before they were put out. On the Thursday before Christmas we went to tea with my sister who had been shopping at the Co-op when a gust of wind resulted in an angel falling at her feet. She picked it up and the cashier in the shop told her it was a special gift for her- she brought it home and had it on the table when my daughter, my grandchildren and I were having tea with her. My granddaughter said she wanted to get one for their own house and so that evening she and I went to the Co-op for some shopping and brought two home.*



*My granddaughter gave hers to her Mum who put it in her anorak pocket and forgot it was there. I gave mine to my husband and it made him smile. On Christmas Eve he fell on the stairs and suffered a cardiac arrest. I called the ambulance and we went into Calderdale Accident and Emergency. My daughter was with me and they fought for his life for 12 hours from midnight on Christmas Eve to noon on Christmas Day. The paramedics and all the hospital staff were wonderful. In the night as we sat waiting and praying my daughter put her*



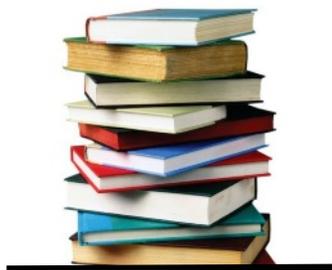
*hand in her pocket and pulled out a pale green angel which she placed on her father's hands. All through that night my husband was removed for tests and dealt with by the*

*medics but every time they did procedures with him they always put the angel of hope back with him. He is with the angels in heaven now and is no longer suffering the pain he had had over the past months.*

*That angel was a symbol of Christ's love for us at a difficult time so thank you to everyone involved in the making and distributing of the Christmas angels.*

When we decide to try to spread the love of God in a new way we can never know what effect it may have. A huge thank you to the knitters for their hard work. Many more than 428 people appreciated the effort and saw a glimpse of God's glory.

## There's a Library at Brighouse Central



**Did you know** that in the vestry at Central Methodist Church, Brighouse, there's a theological library? Anyone can visit - access is available on Friday and Saturday mornings between 10 am and 12 noon when coffee mornings are held. Just ask someone how to get to the vestry where the library is housed. Otherwise phone Graham Smith on 01484 718807 for other times.

The catalogue of books, CDs, and other media is available on the Circuit website. Visit <http://www.calderdalemethodists.org.uk/> (no spaces). look under resources and open up the pdf.

Books can be borrowed and there is a register to fill in if you do.



## This Newsletter

Do you have something happening in your church that you want to tell others in the Circuit about. Here's just the place. Check the cut-off date on the back page.

## Rambling on Again!

A church rambling group (name of church withheld) was hopelessly lost, in spite of being led by a self-assured leader who regularly said he knew the area very well. Some of the people in the group became edgy and mumbled some criticism for being led astray. One of them said, with a touch of sarcasm, "I thought you said you were the best guide in Yorkshire!" He replied, "I am quite sure I am, but I think we are in Lancashire now."



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## Thy Kingdom Come

There is more information on the **Thy Kingdom Come** website on:

[www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

Tickets for the event are free and further details will be updated on our website:

[www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/news-events/events](http://www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/news-events/events), but for now I ask

you to pledge to pray for those ten days, and book the date for the Pentecost Party.

*Blessings, Nick.*

*Rev Nick Blundell, District Mission Enabling Officer*

## Through Children's Eyes



**When I** hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen. My children feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.

**When I** feel wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk. My children close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.



"Mrs O'Hara told the minister about her operation."

It is hoped that Issue No. 17 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 16th July 2018**

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The Newsletter of the Calderdale Circuit of the Methodist Church