

# AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

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Number 3

Autumn 2013

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## Queensbury West End 125 years Celebration

On 6th July 2013, the Church at West End met in celebration of 125 years of the society. The service was led by Rev'd Christine Perry, appropriately dressed in the sombre garb of a Victorian lady-preacher.



Left to right: Edith Holroyd, Edith Calloway, Dorothy Kavanagh, Rita Cromie and Rev. Christine Perry.

On Sunday 7th July there was a much less formal Communion Service, again led by Rev'd Christine Perry to mark the closing of the Church.

Recognising that this too was a service of celebration, she none-the-less handed out packets of tissues to the congregation, with the words "God Bless you" . . .

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## What happened at Synod?

Bright sunshine welcomed members to Brighthouse Central on Saturday 7th September, where a café-style seating arrangement encouraged friendly exchanges and lively discussions. Rev Albert Jewell, formerly of MHA, led the Opening Worship, reminding us that this was the 70th Anniversary of MHA. New staff were welcomed to the District.

### The themes of the day were:

- Conference news
- Forward planning – in the life of circuits and the district
- Dementia – responding to dementia and an ageing population both theologically and pastorally.

### Conference news:

- The idea of a Covenantal relationship between ministers and the Connexion had been taken to the Supreme Court to decide whether ministers were employees or not. The Court agreed that they are held in a life-long relationship of love and trust, confirmed each year.
- It was agreed that as a working party was bringing its report on same-sex marriage to Conference in 2014, there would be an opportunity to discuss this at the May Synod.
- Details of the new modular course for Local Preachers were outlined.
- Rev Justin Welby reaffirmed the close

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relationship of the Methodist and C of E churches, and stated that £50,000 per annum was to be allocated to Fresh Expressions.

- In 2014 events will be organised to mark 40 years since women were first ordained. Concern was expressed that women were still not in sufficient leadership roles in the church, and in 40 years there had only been 4 women presidents.
- The Methodist Missionary Society has been integrated into the Methodist Church in Britain.
- President elect is Rev Kenneth Howcroft and the Vice President Mrs Gill Dascombe.
- Touchstone's request for connexional funding had not been approved, and this concern was taken to Conference, asking how interfaith work was to develop. Queues of people talked of the value of Touchstone's work and funding for 1 year was agreed, but prayers and support are needed as they seek the right way forward.
- We were reminded of the importance of the report: Truth and Lies about Poverty.

### **Forward Planning – in the life of circuits and the District**

Members of Synod had received a copy of the District Development Plan: Step 2, under 9 sections:

1. The District shall provide resources for God's work and mission
2. initiate and support new, ground-breaking mission and ministry initiatives
3. create and maintain a dynamic programme of learning and

development in ministry

4. promote opportunities for growth in Christian discipleship, including faith sharing
5. encourage ecumenical and interfaith relationships
6. nurture prayer, spirituality and the release of gifts and skills in the service of Christ
7. equip and enable people to engage with the issues of justice, equality, peace and the environment
8. inspire and enable information sharing and good practice, to ensure the existence of appropriate, flexible structures, and clear communication channels
9. emphasise the need to be imaginative and innovative in the use of personnel and property.

A Youth Worker will report to each Synod about their work in schools, clubs, groups, Messy Church, camping, and uniformed organisations and from May 2014 the **West Yorkshire Youth Network** will be established, running parallel to the main Synod. Each circuit is asked to send between 4 and 10 reps aged 11 – 21 yrs.

### **Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network**

Michael Noble spoke, in his new role as Co-ordinator of the Yorkshire Plus region. The aim is to nurture, challenge and equip us as disciples and provide training for presbyters, local preachers and circuit stewards.

### **Dementia**

Rev Albert Jewell led 2 sessions:

1. Responding to an ageing population
2. Dementia

# Street Angels eBook Launch

**An exciting new eBook was launched recently which tells the story and history of the Street Angels movement.**

'Street Angels - the amazing story from binge to better' is available on Kindle and as a PDF download from [www.streetangels.org.uk](http://www.streetangels.org.uk). The book tells the story of Halifax Street Angels, which launched in 2005, and the expansion and joining together of projects across the UK and Europe under the 'Christian Nightlife Initiatives Network' (CNI) banner.

Written and compiled by Paul Blakey MBE, founder of Halifax Street Angels and CNI Network, the eBook includes stories and experiences from over thirty projects and shows how the volunteer led initiative is contributing to reduced crime and changed people and communities.

In the foreword, the Bishop of Pontefract, Right Reverend Tony Robinson, says: "Much of the news we hear about night life in our towns and cities is about unsocial behaviour and violence. So it is heartening to be able to read this story which, though not in any way diminishing the impact of harsh realities, tells of faith, hope and love."

Author Paul Blakey commented: "This book is a fascinating history of a movement which started seventeen years ago in Belfast, Northern Ireland, twelve



years ago in Dundee, Scotland and almost eight years ago in Halifax, England. To read of those who have volunteered to invest in our town and cities at night, and the impact this has had, makes a challenging and inspiring read."

*The eBook is priced at £5.00 and all profits will benefit the work of CNI Network.*

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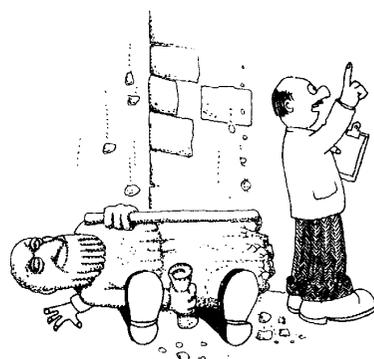
## HOST a Student

Could you make the world a friendlier place by offering an invitation to an international student at a UK university, for just a day, a weekend, or 3 days at Christmas?

Young adults from many countries would love to have a homely break and discover the real life of this country. HOST is a well-established charity which takes care in linking students with volunteer hosts.

[www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org)

or call Anne Ramsden 01484 654994.



*And you see those cracks up there.*

# Queensbury West End Methodist Church

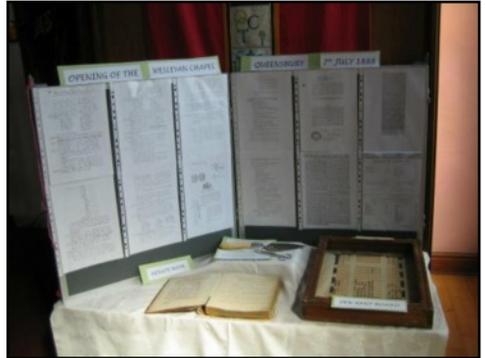
The movement to build a new chapel and school began on 22nd July, 1871. *“This was the beginning of a new era for West End Methodists, and just as dawn dispels the darkness and sunrise streaks the morning with gold and life begins anew, so a new dawn had arisen for the local Wesleyans”*\* The building work began on 27th June, 1887, at an estimated cost of £1,180 and ten shillings! Ever since there has been a continual history of fund raising to maintain and renovate the premises, and those Victorian members and friends would scarcely recognise the interior you see today. All this is due entirely to the faithful generations of worshippers, as they have sought to *“Sing the Gospel... hear and preach the Gospel...and try to live the Gospel.”*\*  
\*from the *Souvenir Jubilee Handbook*  
1888 -1938

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written on the front. We were joined by many friends from near and far, both geographically and in time.

The readings were from 1Kings 19:15&16, 19-21 and Luke 9:51-62, and the questions were posed: *Are we looking for the Elishas to our Elijah-like contributions? Are we ready to believe that we are surrounded by the host of witnesses with whom we need to engage? Are we willing to let go of our sense of aloneness, of being abandoned? Are we going to continue the journey towards the heart of God? Are we listening to God who speaks outside our community, too?*



*This picture show the trowel used for the laying of the foundation stone, along with scissors used to reopen the Sunday School. Also shown are the newspaper articles detailing the opening of the building together with the Pew Rent board and Minute Book.*

The hymns were “God is here, as we his people...”, “Great is thy faithfulness...”, “And can it be...”, “ Be still, for the presence of the Lord...”, “When I survey the wondrous cross...”, and “This, this is the God we adore...”  
And with tears and smiles, we left the chapel for the last time after Sunday Worship.

*’Tis Jesus, the first and the last,  
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;  
We’ll praise him for all that is past,  
And trust him for all that’s to come.*

It is hoped that Issue No. 4 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 7th April 2014

## **Around the Dale**

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Circuit  
of the Methodist Church