

AROUND THE DALE

The Newsletter of the Calderdale Methodist Circuit

Number 9

Autumn 2015

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH, BRIGHOUSE

in conjunction with
Brighouse Victorian Festival,
presents

'CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH CAROLS AND CONIFERS'

Dazzling Christmas tree displays
depicting favourite carols.

OPENING SERVICE – 7.00 pm
on Friday, 27th November



Viewing times:

Friday, 27th November
7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.

Saturday, 28th November
10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Sunday, 29th November
12 noon – 4.00 p.m.

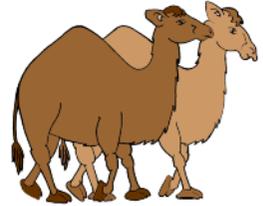
Monday, 30th November
10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT SATURDAY & SUNDAY

In support of the following charities:
Overgate Hospice, Hollybank Trust
and Forget-me-not Trust

The Camels are Back

Last year, camels visited Brighouse, reminding us that Christmas was not far away, and left their mark (this was soon cleared away with a brush and shovel).



Well, they're back again this year on Saturday 28th November. The following day, Sunday, there will be donkeys (they leave their mark too).

Complementing the animals, there will be face painting, an outdoor Nativity Scene and a visit from Busoasis.

All this alongside the 'Carols and Conifers' event in the church.

BE THERE!

**We need your news
for the next issue of
"Around the Dale"**

**What's happening in your
Church or Circuit group?**

Deadline - Monday 4th April 2016

Clifton goes international!

Following our first, exciting visit from Busoasis on 17 July, we embarked on a series of weekly outreach afternoons, entitled Clifton International. Each week we 'visited' a different country: Italy, Spain, Greece, France, England and Australia.

The short-term aim was to attract new people of all ages through our gates. In the long-term, we hope some of those who came will join on-going activities. One specific 'vision' was to see our outside area in front of church fully utilised, to make ourselves more visible and colourful, to push ourselves 'out there' rather than withdrawing into a dark, set-back building.

Praying for every street

Before Busoasis came, there were two or three intense weeks of advertising and praying. We took flyers into our local primary school, put up a bright new banner with flags round the border, got an article in the Echo and an advert in Grapevine. We also hand delivered flyers to parts of the village, sometimes incorporating that on the prayer walks we carried out. Encouraged by Sharon, we walked round the whole village over three weeks, praying for every street/area.

When Busoasis came, we also started a prayer railing outside chapel, which has had some use. Prayers from the ribbons have been taken to the intercessions in chapel on Sundays.

Each week included food and activities fitted to the country but the common elements were: food, crafts, games and

quizzes. A member of our planning team of six took charge of the organisation of each of the six weeks, supported by a team of helpers. We were blessed to have two of our younger members, in their late teens/early twenties, in charge of two of the weeks and to have in our support team members of the church in their 70s and 80s.



In terms of those who came, we found that word-of-mouth played a big part: with very positive feedback going round the village, numbers snow-balled so that we had 60, 75, and 75 on the last three weeks. This included a number of returnees. Of the 200 + who came, a good number had never walked through our gates before.

We feel God answered our prayers richly, both in terms of people coming during the summer and in how it has drawn us together as a team and proved what we can do when we pull together.

No charge was made for any part of this outreach - it was agreed with our treasurer that this outreach would be

a gift to our community; an expression of God's love. Donations were not accepted, apart from a generous contribution from a member of the church.

We were blessed to have a second visit from Busoasis in August, whose team persisted in coming even following a flat battery! We are indebted to the help and encouragement of Sharon and her team and Paula Prosser throughout this summer.

The future

As a result of the summer, a few mums and tots have started to meet for a coffee as part of our Open Door on a Monday morning.

At half-term, 29 October, Clifton goes both international and back in time when we visit Nazareth to explore how Jesus lived. The local out-of-school club has already booked in and we will be inviting back all those who came during the summer.

We hope to follow this up with a visit to Bethlehem at the start of Advent, and our prayer is that some of the children will take part in our Knitvity service on 20 December. Please pray with us.



The shepherds put the final touch to their traditional scene

Circuit Conversations on MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS



Following the government's change in the law regarding marriage and the report to the Methodist Conference 2015, we are asked to discuss the Methodist Church's understanding of marriage and relationships.

You are invited to attend one of three meetings this November.

Wednesday 11th November - 7.30 pm
New Ebenezer, Halifax

Saturday 21st November - 10.00 am
Central, Brighouse

Tuesday 24th November - 7.30 pm
Todmorden

The two main questions that we will discuss are:

1. whether the 1992 Conference Statement 'A Christian Understanding of Family Life, the Single Person and Marriage' should be updated.
2. whether to revisit the question of embarking upon a process of revising the Methodist Church's definition of marriage.

Background papers will be available in each church prior to our meetings to discuss the above questions.

We hope you will be able to attend one of the discussions.

St. Paul's Methodist Church

Tower Hill, Sowerby Bridge, HX6 2EQ

Why not visit the animals in our

Live Nativity Stable

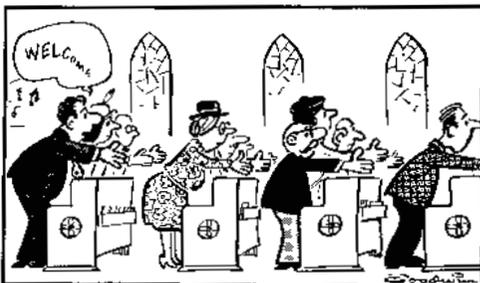


Craft and activity stalls -
a small gift for all children.

Play a role - shepherd, angel, king!

Admission is free - and there are
free refreshments too!

Saturday 12th December
11am to 4pm



Taizé Service

at Central Methodist Church
Brighouse

Sunday 22nd November 2015 at 6 pm



On the Sunday before Advent begins

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

It is hoped that Issue No. 10 of this Newsletter will come out shortly after the next Circuit Meeting. Please send material to graham.smith@methodist.org.uk by **Monday 4th April 2016**

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of the Methodist Church