



Plum Job...

Would you like a plum? It's going to be a good year for soft fruit, an abundance of fruitfulness was in evidence weighing down the trees in the grounds of Askrigg School, during the August week of King's Club 2017, so the question about plum eating was asked every lunchtime as adults and youngsters alike picnicked in the grounds of the school. The fruit was so ripe some fell to the ground, often splattering messily across the path, others hung together in fat juicy clusters shouting to be picked. All had spent weeks, months, setting and maturing, unnoticed and unremarked upon until this particular week, when one or two volunteers noticed and remarked to others, free fruit for lunch!

During this year weather conditions have been perfect for plums and a bumper crop has appeared, to be used creatively in many households; so many of us may also be on the receiving end of this same question, 'would you like a plum?' preferably more than one!

Over the past few months there have been changes in NY Dales Circuit, hopefully and prayerfully moving towards good conditions for growth. The recent appointment of Julie Greenslade as our Rural Administration Assistant, should enable smaller chapels to focus on mission activities, discovering God at work in your local community (and helping God in the work already begun), rather than using scarce resources on local administration, whether book-keeping or property schedules.

From October, Rachel Pinkney is to become the Schools and Families worker based in Richmond; focussing on strengthening links between the local Methodist Church and Richmond Methodist School. A support group has been appointed to assist her in discerning the best ways to initiate this aim, and our prayer is that many folk in the Circuit will become involved in helping Rachel with the practicalities of implementing the creative ideas she brings to this new and exciting role.

There have been changes too, in the Circuit Stewards currently serving the Circuit: after six years of dedicated service, we say farewell to John Ridley, and thank him for his wisdom, guidance and insatiable optimism about the Methodist mission and ministry in NY Dales. Liz Haythornthwaite was appointed as a Circuit steward in June, and I'm pleased that Eunice Page feels able to offer her name at the September Circuit Meeting, as another new Circuit steward. So, with these two ladies, along with Angie Bailey, Graham Di Duca and Pauline Beckett, we now have a new team of Circuit stewards as we enter our new Connexional Year.

A year in which we are all invited into prayerful reflection and review, focussing on questions like: What are the challenges and changes facing your community? How might we listen more carefully to the promptings of the Spirit, day by day? This is to be a year in which we're encouraged to explore the rhythm of mission and discipleship, day by day as stated on the booklets recently distributed with the latest Circuit plan.

*Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:
to see thee more clearly, to love thee more dearly,
to follow thee more nearly, day by day.*

My prayer is that we shall all be encouraged to seek out the fruit waiting to be picked, without letting it fall to the ground unnoticed and unremarked upon so we can all enjoy a fruitful abundance in our lives, chapels and Circuit as we enter this harvest season.

Janet Park, Superintendent September 2017

King's Club 2017

Mike and Pauline Hirst

Have you ever been on a journey? I guess the answer is yes, but have you been on a journey like the one at King's Club this year? Let me tell you about it.

Seventy children and young people followed the theme of 'The Journey' at Askrigg for a week in August. Lively, exciting, wacky, challenging these are just some of the words you might use to describe it. The two presenters at Askrigg school – Donna Wanderoff and Ida Gonthatway entered to the children clapping along to '500 miles' and were confronted with a camping scene and a signpost. Each day they tried to work out who had been camping there and then make the decision which path to follow – the Broad way or the Narrow way? The Narrow way choice meant they met with people who had journeyed with Jesus and so they could relate 'Jesus events' to the children. Alan and Steve (alias 'the sheep') continually argued about which way to go, lost their map every day but somehow were able to explain something about the people camping by the signpost! These disciples' journeys started with Jesus saying, 'follow me', saw him offering living water to a Samaritan woman, God declaring that Jesus was his beloved Son on a mountain and then ending with Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, his victorious resurrection and the witness of two men meeting him on a journey to Emmaus. The strap line by the end of the week was 'Jesus is our living forever friend'.

Morning and afternoons were packed with lots of crafts and games, most focusing on the journeys with Jesus. There was hardly a moment to spare during the day when the children could catch their breath, apart from lunchtime when they were sitting in small groups talking and eating.

Stones and Pebbles presented a similar programme at Low Mill Activity Centre for the young people. Their wacky approach included jokes that I'm not sure even they understood! A similar journey seeing how Jesus related to his disciples gave good opportunity for the young people to express their interest and doubts, talk openly about their personal convictions and ask questions of their group leaders. All took part in an activity programme run by the Low Mill instructors and this included opportunity to canoe, abseil and gorge scramble. All this alongside team challenges and games. The Friday afternoon included the, now famous, waterslide and 'how to avoid getting wet by the leaders', extravaganza.

Many people came to the BBQ on the Friday – had some good food and conversation as well as seeing a little of what the week had involved. As Jess Holland alias Ida Gonthatway said, it was a privilege to work with the children and young people of Wensleydale.

We are very grateful to the school and Low Mill Centre for the use of their facilities, and to all the leaders who gave their time to work on the King's Club team.

Next year is the 30th year of King's Club. Watch out for celebrations.

The 2018 week will be Monday 6th – Friday 10th August with the BBQ on the Friday at 6pm

2Dales Action for Refugees

Following the very generous donations last Christmas a number of events have taken place in 2017. These have included two walks, both of which brought refugees/asylum seekers from Teesside to the Dales. The most recent event was held at Marrick Priory in August. This involved a number of visitors in craft work and outdoor activities.

As relationships continue to develop we would like to ensure that everyone who has an interest is kept up to date with how the 2Dales Action for Refugees may progress in the future. A meeting has been arranged for **Thursday 26th October at 2.00pm in Reeth Memorial Hall**. It is hoped that some of those working directly with refugees/asylum seekers in Teesside will be present to update us on the current situation. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Details of past events can be found on Facebook (<http://.facebook.com/2Dales-Action-For-Refugees>). Further information concerning the 2Dales Action for Refugees can be obtained from Joan Graveson (01748 886470).

Remember that you were slaves... and the Lord your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this.

When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. Deut 24:18-20

Pulling Teeth in Liberia

Simon & Grace Stretton-Downes report from Liberia

Simon & Grace are in Liberia, now in the middle of the rainy season. Simon is working in the Dental Clinic and is helping Eddie, the Trinity Administrator and lead Dental Nurse Practitioner, to apply to start a five-year course to train as a dentist at a Dental School in Ghana. Simon has seen two cases of patients with fractured mandibles. Eddie has been showing Simon how to splint these and wire the jaws together. Simon is also seeking to arrange major surgery for two young men with large facial swellings.

Grace is working 3 days a week at the ELWA Hospital, which has 100 beds with male, female, paediatric and obstetric wards, an operating suite (OR), and Emergency room (ER) - like Accident and Emergency - where people also stay until they are stable enough to go to the ward. She is really enjoying the varied work.

Prayer Requests:

Pray for Eddie's application to Accra Dental School in Ghana to be successful.

For Simon as he will then assume a greater role at the Clinic.

For a good Liberian Dental Nurse Practitioner to be appointed.

That nursing staff would see Grace as a friend and supporter rather than a threat.

We still have not found a quiet local church.

We look forward to getting more settled in our new home here.

A peaceful period of Liberian elections (10. October - 07. November) and transfer of power.

Mission Possible in Rwanda

Latest News from Rwanda

Richard Wallis of Mission Possible has just returned from a mission trip to Rwanda and has visited projects described to us by Bishop Nathan last year. You can hear Richard speaking at 'Filling Station' in Middleham Key Centre on 10 November.

Star School

Star School was launched in 2007 to help with the post-genocide restoration process in a small way. The old mud steps were replaced with new concrete steps in June, and a ramp was built to make the school disability-friendly. Next, Mission Possible has started to replace the 90 rickety wooden bunk beds with metal framed beds (costing £85 each).

Red Zone Community on Nkombo Island

For the past year, Mission Possible has been feeding the Red Zone children on Nkombo Island on Lake Kivu in Rwanda. The reduction of malnutrition is easy to see and this programme is continuing. Diarrhoea remains a life-threatening condition on the island and the main cause of the high mortality rate in children under five. In May, a WASH programme (WASH = clean water, hygiene and sanitation) has begun with the supply of basic water filters (for £20). Mission Possible is also supporting a nursery school in this community for 350 children with only four volunteer teachers. They hope to buy a plot of land near the church for £4,000, so that a nine classroom primary school can be built nearby. Once the school has been built and open for a short period of time, the government will assist with salaries for the teachers. That is something worth aiming for!

New church on Iswha Island

Four people who visited Iswha, a small island just north of Nkombo Island, earlier this year made gifts to MPUK, which have been used to fund a new church building on the island. The church is now built and soon there will be water harvesting from the roof, which is all part of the project. The hope is that the church building will become a community centre and be used for a nursery school, feeding programme and more. As the other buildings on the island are low level mud brick constructions, the visual impact of this building must be similar to how medieval cathedrals looked centuries ago!

If you want to contribute or just know more about World Mission work in this circuit Ruth Poultney is our representative and if you want to know about Methodist World Mission nationally then try visiting this link:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/world-church/resources/the-world-mission-fund>

Diary Dates for full listing see: www.nydalesmeth.org.uk/calendar.html

Sunday 15th October, 3pm Circuit Songs of Praise at Richmond, with Richmond Orchestra

Thursday 16th November, 7.30pm Circuit Property Meeting@ Dove Cottage

Monday 20th November, 7.30pm CLT meeting at Dove Cottage

W/C 4th December, Local Preachers Meeting Venue to be confirmed

Monday 11th December, 7.30pm Circuit Meeting, Leyburn

Sunday 11th February, 10.30am Circuit Service, Leyburn, preaching service with Rev Ruth Gee

Tuesday 17th April evening Adrian Plass at Gunnerside

Sunday 27th May, 2.30pm Songs of Praise, Tennant's Garden Rooms, with Leyburn band

Sunday 15th July, 10.30am Richmond, preaching service with Rev Canon Gareth Powell

& 2pm Gayle Camp meeting with Hawes Band & Rev Canon Gareth Powell

See www.nydalesmeth.org.uk for details of all forthcoming events in and around the circuit.

If you want your event advertising send details to nydcpaperclip@gmail.com or by post to:

Circuit Administrative Assistant, Angram Cottage, Angram, Richmond, DL11 6DT

Welcome to Julie

In the last edition we welcomed Julie Greenslade and hoped to bring you a bit more of her story. Julie writes... I moved to Wensleydale with my parents and sisters when I was small and I love music, probably singing in most of the chapels in the dale at one time or another when I was growing up!

I am married to Simon and have four lovely children (two girls and two boys) and two gorgeous grandsons. I am a member of Hawes Band playing tenor horn; and I sing with The Wensleydale Chorus and Aysgarth Singers; and I have been a member of The Wensleydale Tournament of Speech and Song committee for 21 years; helping to organise this important local festival. In the last year, with the support of Revd Janet Park and the lovely people of West Burton Chapel we have set up 'The Songbirds', a community choir and we meet to rehearse on a Friday afternoon at 3.30pm. The adults and children that are a part of the choir enjoy singing together and our rehearsals are great fun.

Family and community are very important to me and I am very grateful that we have been able to continue to live and work and raise our children in this wonderful part of the world.

Midsummer Numbers

The Gunnerside Methodist Chapel midsummer festival was an appropriate occasion to mark Mrs Mary Clarke's 50 years as a Local Preacher. The service began with Community Hymn singing led by Mr Andy Souter and the Gunnerside Choir. The Rev David Wood led the service and reminded us that 50 years ago the first ATMs appeared in the UK, the first colour TV broadcast came to our screens and the Beatles released 'Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' album, which by my reckoning made it 90 years ago that Sgt Pepper taught us how to play.

150 years ago, back in 1867, the existing chapel building was opened as we were reminded by Andy Souter reading from Margaret Batty's book. Back in those days congregations were numbered in hundreds, sadly a hundred or so is now only reached on 'special' occasions.

So, it seemed pertinent that David Wood should pick up on the call of all Christians to ask people we know to come and meet Christ; to "gossip the gospel". We need to see beyond the buildings, systems and finances of a chapel to find the person of Christ. So, he suggested, we also need to think about our own walk with Christ, those encounters with him that have shaped our lives.

He went on to ask in this digital age is there still a place for preaching? Yes, he claimed, when three factors are present; a God who loves; a preacher alert to the spirit of God; and an attentive listener; only then will preaching have relevance to our situations.

Mary Clarke was presented with a certificate and went on to tell her story of how she became a preacher and some anecdotes from her time as a Local Preacher.

We finished with the hymn 'Go Forth and Tell' a challenge for us to tell our stories to those around us. As the Beatles said, "I get by with a little help from my friends", who knows what will happen over the next 50 years by being a friend to those around us.

Church on Show at the Wensleydale Show 2017. Michael Hepper passes his sincere thanks on to everyone involved for their contribution to another successful 'Church on Show'.
