

Faith in Action

Since 2001 West Burton chapel has run a 'Malawi Packing Group' for the 'Faith in Action' charity (www.faithinaction.com). The group meet regularly in the Sunday School room to pack good as new clothes, shoes, blankets, towels and sheets. Each item is washed, ironed, sized and packed into individual polythene bags bearing a label in Chichewa that the item is being sent through the love of Jesus Christ.

These goods are packed into apple boxes and careful documentation completed. Periodically these are collected by one of the founders of the charity who travels from Sussex to take them to be stored in a container near Maidstone. When this container is full it begins its sea journey to the East coast of Africa and then by land to Malawi. Each item is distributed amongst some of the poorest people in the world living in the Lower Shire valley of southern Malawi by the African pastors working for 'Faith in Action'.

Other churches in the UK have packing groups and so the wonderful work started by the charity in 1987 continues and 133 twenty foot long container consignments have been sent along with 4 part-container consignments. To date West Burton chapel has packed 819 boxes and we feel very humbled and privileged to be part of this work which God has so mightily blessed. This project has involved many members of the community who gladly give of their time to show love and respect for our brothers and sisters in need. Of particular joy is packing a hand knitted blanket or child's jumper of many colours knitted with such care.

These consignments are just one of the many projects 'Faith in Action' has ongoing. Others include sending bibles and studies, many going into the prisons now and having a remarkable life changing effect on the inmates; 67 wells have been sunk; goats are given to families taking in orphan children as an income generating resource; a wind irrigation project guarantees the subsistence farmers regular crops; funds are sent for mosquito nets and bicycle ambulances; loan schemes are set up enabling family businesses such as making eco-stoves to run. We would say at West Burton chapel that by looking beyond ourselves our vision of God grows ever brighter as we seek to do His will. Julie Pledge.

Make it , Buy it, PRAY, and Give it . Part Two

Read on and see what happened when some bakers of Richmond used their loaves.

On Saturday October 17th we made 'Prayer bread' at Richmond. Aged from 3-70ish we gathered in the Kitchen and made bread together. It was delightfully warm; the smell of well over 40 little loaves of bread rising and baking was wonderful; and the prayers and love we poured and kneaded into the bread we made were heartfelt. For a number of weeks before some people had offered money towards the cost; some had thoughtfully given the names of people who they thought particularly needed to know God's love for them. On the day we made the bread, the fellowship we enjoyed was very, very special.

Although we all left tired, we left happy, we left feeling very, very blessed. I'd offered a lift home to one of the bakers , who like most of the others had never made bread before. We'd baked more bread than we had names for, so some of us, knowing we'd be guided to give them to the right people, took extra ones. Eileen had decided to take some to a member of the Chapel who hasn't been at all well and thought that perhaps whilst we were there we could drop some off at the home of another stalwart couple who never miss getting to Church. I too had a spare loaf, but not for long. For, as we went to the car we saw a young family approaching and we offered them the spare loaf. "We've been baking 'Prayer bread' all day in our chapel kitchen and we would like you to have this loaf with our love." Their reaction was amazing, the young mother took the bread gave me a huge hug and they happily went on their way. When we called at the house of the stalwart couple I stayed in the car; Eileen climbed the steps to their door. When the lady of the house answered the door, I saw that her face became wreathed in smiles when Eileen handed her the Prayer bread and then she ran down the steps and hugged us both. In the card she gave me next day she'd written, "Just to say a big thank you for the lovely bread. I was feeling low so whether it was the prayer which was inside the bread or the visit I certainly felt better after seeing you. God bless."

So, if you haven't already- please do: "Make it , Buy it, PRAY, and with love Give it." Eunice Page.

Wensleydale Filling Station

Wensleydale Filling Station has been meeting for the last three years and grew out of a United Service which had been running once a month for 22 years. This was initially set up as a meeting to which Christians could invite their friends and so was essentially evangelistic. Changing to a Filling Station format has helped us to re-focus on this original vision.

We are affiliated to the national Filling Station which was initially established in the South West of England to create a meeting point for Christians from all denominations in rural areas to give a focus for celebration and outreach. The number of Filling Station meetings has grown dramatically around the country in the last two years. More details can be seen on the website: www.thefillingstation.org.uk

The Wensleydale Filling Station meets at the Key Centre in Middleham [DL8 4RA] between 7 and 9 pm on the second Friday each month (except January and August) and over the last year there has been around 60 people attending each evening.

Each Filling Station evening starts with Coffee (or other drinks!) and cakes, with an opportunity to chat and relax. Music and worship is contemporary. Speakers are invited from around the country and there is often the opportunity to discuss some of the issues raised.

Please pray for the work of Filling Station nationally and locally and use the meetings at the Key Centre to invite others to hear God's word in a relaxed and informal way.

Mike and Pauline Hirst (*on behalf of the Filling Station management team*)

Early 2016 speakers are:

February - Lee McDade (Catterick); March - Sue Hope (Shipley); April - Brian Wilson (Sheffield)

Wiggles and Giggles

St Aidan's Church Hall, Catterick Garrison.

After much prayer and consultation with parents and carers Joy Sykes started a toddler church in the Garrison. They meet weekly during term time, on Wednesday afternoons (1.30-2.30pm). They have free play and snack time, a short prayer and a bible story, along with some messy play, and craft. There are between 6-10 children along with 5 or 6 adults regularly attending. Please pray for this venture as it becomes established and for the conversation we are having whilst there. Joy Sykes

Music and Worship Workshop

On the last Saturday in November about 40 people gathered for an uplifting day of music and singing. Rev Ian Worsfold and Rev Paul Wood introduced us to some new hymns and songs. In between they told the story behind 'Singing the Faith' giving a fascinating insight into the publishing world. The afternoon was given over to more singing and exploring different ways to use music, songs and hymns to enhance worship. All in all a great day of worship and practical ideas.

Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 24

6:00pm Holy Communion – Harmby - Rev Janet Park

6:00pm Communion – Richmond - Rev Les Nevin

6:30pm Family Carol Service – Melmerby – Mrs Candy Rogers

8:00pm Holy Communion - West Burton - Rev Janet Park

Christmas Day Services

Friday, December 25

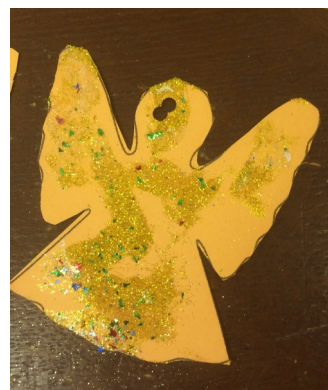
10:30am Christmas Day Service - West Burton Locally Arranged

10:30am Christmas Morning Service – Hunton Locally Arranged

10:30am Family Service – Reeth Led by Mrs Mary Clarke

10:30am Family Service – Leyburn Rev Janet Park

10:30am Family Service – Richmond Rev Les Nevin



The Angel Gabriel
courtesy of the 'Wiggles
and Giggles Group'.

Circuit Team

Superintendent : Rev Janet Park superintendent@nydalesmeth.org.uk - Leyburn, Harmby, Carlton, Middleham, Melmerby (*inc W Scrafton*), Gayle (*inc Hawes*), Aysgarth, Bainbridge, Marsett, West Burton.

Rev Les Nevin richmondrev@nydalesmeth.org.uk - Richmond, Barden, Brompton-on-Swale (*including Colburn*), Hunton, Scorton, Ravensworth, Reeth (*including Arkengarthdale*), Gunnerside .

Deacon Joy Sykes jascmc@aol.com - Catterick Garrison

Circuit Stewards: John Ridley, Tony Simons, Angie Bailey, Jonny Staley, Graham Di Duca

Circuit Treasurer: Pauline Beckett treasurer@nydalesmeth.org.uk

Circuit Admin Asst : Kevin Pellatt, nydcpaperclip@gmail.com

Cumbria Floods We can make a difference

Give — In response to a request from Cumbria District, there is an appeal to Methodist people across the country to do what they can to help. The Cumbria Community Foundation have set up a Cumbria 2015 Flood Appeal to raise funds to support the individuals and communities devastated by the storms and flooding, and supporting this appeal is the best way to get help where it is needed.

The money raised will be distributed to relieve the hardship caused for thousands of people by the disaster helping with costs and materials for cleaning up, emergency repairs, clothing, food and drink, heating and heating equipment, child care equipment and basic furniture.

If you would like to make an online donation, please visit their JustGiving page

Or by text message, by sending FLUD15 £xx to 70070

Alternatively, please make cheques payable to: Cumbria Community Foundation and send by post to the address shown below. Please state that your donation is in response to the **Methodist Church Appeal**, as this will enable us to track the total raised.

CCF

Dovenby Hall

Cockermouth

Cumbria

CA13 0PN

Ofsted and church youth work

Under its extremism policy, the Government is now consulting on giving Ofsted legal power to investigate whether church youth work complies with 'British values'. Any out-of-school setting which provides instruction for more than 6 hours in any week would be covered. The plans would easily include holiday Bible clubs, church weekends and summer camps. In effect, Ofsted would become the state regulator of religion. Please respond to the consultation urgently.

The Government envisages a nationwide registration scheme for all out-of-school settings for those under 19 which provide 'intensive' education – defined as "anything which entails an individual child attending a setting for more than between 6 to 8 hours a week". It would specifically encompass one-off events which, for example, only run during school holidays.

So Ofsted would be able to investigate whether holiday Bible clubs comply with British values. It is possible that individual churches could be targeted if a child's attendance at midweek youth activities and Sunday services adds up to 6 hours in any week.

The consultation closes on Monday 11 January. You can read a highlighted version of the consultation paper on the Christian Institute website. <http://www.christian.org.uk/> The address to reply and tips on what to write are available through the web site.

Diary Dates

The circuit website calendar contains full listings <http://www.nydalesmeth.org.uk/aboutus.htm>

Sunday 31st January 6.30pm LP Accreditation service at West Burton chapel

Wednesday 24th February 7pm for 7.30pm start CLT meeting at Dove Cottage, Leyburn

Monday 7th March 7.30pm Local Preacher Meeting at Harmby chapel

7th March Deadline for submitting plan availability & special service chapel request for JJA plan

Thursday 17th March 7.30pm Circuit Meeting at Richmond

Sunday 17th April Easter Offering Services of Dedication

10.45am Brompton

2pm Songs of Praise service at Tennants, with Leyburn Band

6pm Gayle

Wednesday 8th June 7.30pm Circuit Meeting at Middleham Chapel

Sunday 28th August- Circuit service Day

10.30am Reeth

Please notify amendments to Kevin Pellatt.

Save the Date Conference 'An Effective Rural Christian Presence'; 20th-21st July 2016 at Cliff College. Organised by the URC and Methodist Church with the Arthur Rank Centre.

Syria

Revd Steve Wild and Dr Jill Barber, President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference comment. "The acts of intolerance and hatred carried out in the name of ISIS are wholly abhorrent. As Methodist people we join with others across Britain and the world to pray for the victims of these ongoing terrorist acts. It is clear that measures must be taken to overcome this evil. In doing so we must remain firm to our own values.

Our Response must not be driven by anger or fear, but compassion and longing for peace. A strategy that protects civilians is required to achieve these aims - not simply aerial bombardment. Our understanding must be informed by listening to the voices of Syrians themselves including Christian and other minorities who have suffered greatly.

We continue to pray for all those affected by terrorism and also for our politicians as they consider how the UK might best use its influence in this situation."

Joint church statement (full text on <http://methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases>)

The Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church in Britain and the United Reformed Church have released a joint statement on military action in Syria:

Our churches: -

- Express our abhorrence of the actions of ISIS/Daesh in Syria and their support of terrorist actions elsewhere and bring before God in prayer all victims of recent terrorist attacks and the families and communities affected by these atrocities
- Are grateful for the vital work of the security services in the UK in suppressing acts of terrorism
- Note that regional partners and Syrian factions have differing and contrary interests and welcome the efforts of the Vienna peace process to gain agreement on an approach to countering terrorism and to search for a way forward for the political process in Syria
- Are convinced that Daesh can only be defeated through a comprehensive economic, diplomatic and security strategy that has the involvement of all partners in the region and the full support of the UN Security Council
- Assert that aerial bombing is unlikely to have a decisive role in defeating Daesh and that even the use of precision weaponry is likely to cause civilian casualties and trauma within communities
- Urge the UN Security Council to call to account all parties in Syria who have committed crimes against humanity and call on the UK and its allies to avoid security strategies that are based on a reliance on those same militias
- Suggest that any military support from the UK in Syria be contingent on a clearer endorsement by the UN Security Council that is unambiguous as to the legal basis for intervention
- Call on our members to continue to pray for all who suffer as a consequence of more than four years of conflict, including refugees in the region and in Europe and also for those tasked with negotiating solutions and bringing security
- Call on our members to reach out in love and solidarity to members of other faith communities, to challenge the divisive rhetoric that sets communities apart and to show the love of Christ by building bridges where there are fractures.

The wider context of our opposition to Daesh and others who promote terror

The Christian gospel has at its heart the assurance of a loving God who acts justly and directs all people in the way of peace. Throughout the Middle East, Christians are acutely aware of how difficult it is to maintain physical peace and security when sectarianism is rife and arms are easily acquired. In Syria Christian communities who can trace their histories back through many centuries have been forced out of their villages and are displaced within Syria or have sought refuge in other countries. ISIS/Daesh has destroyed historic Christian and other buildings in an effort to remove symbols of cultural and religious diversity and peaceful co-existence, to which they are opposed.

The tragedy of the attack in Paris is shocking in its scale as is the scale of the suffering in Syria where to date 250,000 have been killed, 7 million internally displaced and a further four million forced to seek refuge in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Our churches eschew all forms of intolerance and hatred and urge that measures taken to overcome the intolerance demonstrated by Daesh must also seek to promote values that we hold dear.

Building a stable Future

The UK Government has provided substantial financial support for refugee programmes in the region. The G20 summit in October 2015 considered a call for the creation of a Regional Growth and Stabilization Plan to help those countries most affected by the refugee crisis to mitigate the impact of the crisis on their economies, health systems, and social services. Such a programme would help to increase stability in the region. Our churches have also called on the Government to increase its commitment to the resettlement in the UK of vulnerable Syrian refugees.
