



Made for Goodness

Desmond Tutu said "We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human family, God's family." Galatians 3:28 says "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

65 million people are now either a refugee, internally displaced or seeking asylum. That's one in every 113 people. The Joint Public Issues Team is the Baptist Union of Great Britain, Church of Scotland, Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church working together. They have produced a briefing sheet on the refugee situation, there is a one page summary, a glossary of terms and many useful links to enable us to make an informed and faithful response to the situation.

"As Christians, we have a key role to play in the upcoming months and years, highlighting the ongoing plight of refugees and displaced people. We must affirm the case for a human response to the crisis, which recognises that we are all made for goodness, and that the human dignity of refugees is intimately connected to our own."

"There has never been a greater need for Churches to highlight the plight of refugees and support those already resident within our communities." Download the report from www.jointpublicissues.org.uk

Changing the Refugee Story

'Change the Story' is a campaign by Christian Aid to challenge the often negative portrayal of refugees in the media. Change the Story encourages people to write to their local newspapers and highlight the damaging impact of such coverage. We want to tell a story that upholds those escaping injustice and war, and that celebrates those who offer a welcome. They write on their website:

"We believe we are all created equal with the image of God within us. We stand for a UK that refuses to turn a blind eye to the suffering of people seeking sanctuary.

While many communities and churches are united in welcoming those seeking refuge, the response of the UK Government has not matched the scale of the crisis.

Through sharing stories of hospitality, and the positive contributions that refugees make in our communities, we demonstrate our commitment to a United Kingdom that refuses to turn a blind eye to suffering and affirms that everyone deserves a safe place to call home."

You can read more about how to take part go to <http://www2.christianaid.org.uk/change-the-story?>

New Year New Website

The North Yorkshire Dales Circuit begins the new Methodist year with a brand new website. We hope you like the new look! Much from the previous site is still there, along with new material and an overall fresh presentation.

To help keep the site up-to-date, Kevin Pellatt will be delighted to receive calendar dates and news stories from the churches. And don't forget pictures! Websites are looked at, not just read, and the circuit contains beautiful views, iconic buildings and wonderful people.

We've been helped in building the site by ThenMedia, a Cheshire based media company with strong Methodist connections. For a few years now, they've provided the software that helps us make the Plan; from now on they'll be supporting us in our web work too.

Circuit Team

Superintendent : Rev Janet Park revjanetp@gmail.com - Leyburn, Harmby, Carlton, Middleham, Melmerby, Gayle (*inc Hawes*), Aysgarth, Bainbridge, Marsett, West Burton.

Rev Les Nevin lesnevin@icloud.com - 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 pal.wegber@outlook.com

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

Walk with Jesus...

Witness to Others...

Worship the Lord

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

Sunday 20th November Circuit service day

10.30am Richmond morning service- preaching service led by Rev David Wood

6pm Gayle Communion service led by Rev Janet Park

6.30pm Richmond service led by Rev Les Nevin.

Monday 21st November 7pm for 7.30pm start- Circuit Leadership Team meeting @ Dove Cottage

Tuesday 6th December 7.30pm Local Preachers meeting, Middleham.

Monday 12th December 7.30pm Circuit meeting (Leyburn)

King's Club 2016

The first week in August saw almost 80 children and young people engaged in a variety of fast moving activities centered around the theme 'The Promise'. This meant we explored some of the promises that God has made to us over the centuries. Starting with Abraham, we learned of how God declared to him that he would have descendants as numerous as the 'stars in the sky' or 'as grains of sand on the sea-shore'. By the end of the week we were talking about Jesus who promised to be with his followers 'to the end of the age'.

The 6 -10 year olds were based at Askrigg School and each day were taken back in time by two young presenter time-travelers 'Anita and Lou' (ask the children what their surnames were). They introduced us to the people and events of between 4000 and 2000 years ago, each day bringing us back to Askrigg 2016 at the end of the afternoon – just in time for the children to go home!. A large range of craft activities and games helped demonstrate the meaning behind, among other things, the Passover meal that the Israelite people made before they escaped from Egypt and the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples before he was crucified by the Romans the next day. Throughout the week the older children worked on making a felt collage depicting the coming of the Holy Spirit into people's lives just as Jesus promised he would after his resurrection.

One child aged 7 wrote 'King's Club is good because you get to play games and learn about God and Jesus'

The 11 – 16 year old young people used the Low Mill Centre as their base and were able to investigate and discuss the nature of God's love and grace shown throughout time. A large number of activities were put on which included canoeing, gorge scrambling, abseiling, high ropes, a colour run demonstrating the title theme of the week and a waterslide with related activities on the Friday afternoon.

The BBQ on the Friday saw over 100 people sharing in some of the experiences of the week with a live band and a presentation of activities and events from the young people and leaders.

This year a group of leaders and young people visited Wensleydale from Pilsen in the Czech Republic to share in the week. Having spent two days in London they appreciated the peace and quiet of the dales (in between the full and busy activities at King's Club!). Two weeks later five of our young leaders went to share in the King's Camp in the Czech Republic – now in its third year having been initially inspired by our own Wensleydale King's Club in 2013.

We are very grateful to all those people who have supported King's Club this year. Those who have worked hard in the background throughout the year, those who gave money, prayer support and help by providing food, and of course the team of leaders from the local area and further afield, running the activities during the actual week.

Next Year (2017) King's Club is again the first full week in August – Monday 7th to Friday 11th with a Family BBQ on the Friday at 6pm. Please hold these dates in your diary. Mike Hirst

West Burton Tuesday Team

Tuesday Club starts at 3.20pm every Tuesday (the clue is in the name) and it lasts an hour. It re-starts after the summer holidays on 13th Sept and continues until 29th November with a break for half-term on both 18th and 25th October. Then after Christmas it runs from 10th January until 28th March 2017 with days off for half term on 14th and 21st February.

Filling Station

A typical evening at the Key Centre, Middleham, begins with good coffee, cakes and time to chat. Lively and informal worship is followed by an opportunity to hear of how God is working through the lives of local people. The speaker, each evening presents some of the challenges that God lays before us as we seek to know Him and live out his values in today's society.

Coming on the second Friday of the month 7-9pm in the next three months:

Oct — Andy Peace, Yorkshire Camps, Netherside Hall.

Nov — Chris Edmondson, Bishop of Bolton (at Thornborough Hall, Leyburn)

Dec — Glen Marshall, Co-Principal, N. Baptist College

Local contact: Pauline Hirst 01969 667841 mikehirst@tiscali.co.uk

Letters from the Adriatic

Rev Les Nevin looks back on his sabbatical sojourn "I will lift up my eyes to the hills. Where will my help come from?" A wonderful, yet often misunderstood extract from Psalm 121. It is often read as a statement rather than the question it clearly is. As I walked the streets of Pompeii in the blazing sunshine considering how fortunate I am to be here another misunderstood text comes to mind: 'the sun shines on the righteous'. It is misunderstood because of our tendency towards selective reading..... The fuller text from Matthew 5.45 is: "He makes the sun rise on the righteous and the unrighteousness alike and sends rain on the just and the unjust"

On a sunny 24th August day in AD 79, as the people of Pompeii went about their business among the many statues of pagan gods, in the shadow of mount Vesuvius, the summit of the mountain exploded and they were buried in ash for over 1700 years.

The answer to the Psalmist's question is, of course, our help comes from The Lord, He is the maker of the heavens and the earth and, in all circumstances, he makes the sun to shine on the righteous and the unrighteousness alike.

Iona 2018

David and Kathleen Wood are taking a group to Bishop's House on Iona week beginning Saturday 26th May 2018 (yes, 2018!) We have booked the whole house (23 places- 8 twin rooms and 7 singles) and it will cost £495 pp plus transport there. I am pleased to say that Nigel Wright is willing to drive a minibus again for some who prefer to travel together that way. Obviously there will be ways of saving for this week – details later – so please do make a note of the dates, and prayerfully consider whether this might be a visit you would like to make.

There will be the opportunity for worship and reflection/maybe study during the week, which David and Kathleen will be leading, but none of that is obligatory- you might just prefer to go for a quiet week on a beautiful Scottish Island!

If you are sure you would like to go, then please speak to me (Kathleen Wood kathleen.wood@methodist.org.uk or David david.wood4@btinternet.com 01677 424486) any time- we will start taking definite bookings after Christmas.

The adventure continues

Someone said that the only thing that doesn't change is the fact that things change; progressing involves remembering people and learning lessons from the past to inform the future. So it was that with the words "remember the former things" and "remember not the former things" from the book of Isaiah that Rev David and Rev Kathleen Wood led Reeth Methodist Community at the final service in the building that has been home since 1797.

David and Kathleen reminded us that they have always felt at home with the people of Reeth Methodist and that the closure of the building is a sad moment for those who experienced significant events held there; and these were remembered in the first part of the service.

Members of the church offered prayers and chose the hymns that included 'Love divine all loves excelling' and 'The Lord's my shepherd' with the chorus of "I will trust in you alone"; allowing all present to re-affirm their faith and their confidence that "...your goodness will lead me home."

The all but full church heard David Wood say that "God has not finished with you yet". God was present in Reeth before the building was there and will be for the future. One door may be closing and others will open.

The service closed with Kathleen sharing the Celtic blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

The journey of faith is just that, a journey, from one place to another, like the apostles in the Bible story meeting in their houses and John Wesley travelling the country to share his message, so the community that met in the building, mainly hidden at the top of Reeth green, will continue their journey sharing their love with those they meet along the way. Kevin Pellatt

World Wide Web news

Launched at conference was The President and Vice-President's Facebook page, with updates and insights from their journeys this year. Also on Facebook - The new Darlington District facebook page has launched. Go to Facebook and search for 'Darlington Methodist District.'

I want justice—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That's what I want. That's all I want. Amos 5:24

Speak out

The Methodist Conference of 2016 unanimously passed a resolution calling for respect and tolerance in our national life in the wake of the divisive EU Referendum Campaign. It asked that the statement below be sent to MPs and others in positions of leadership.

The Methodist Conference believes that the British Isles are enriched by diversity and celebrates the contribution made by those who have come from other parts of the world.

The Christian tradition calls for respect, tolerance, love of neighbour and hospitality to the stranger. All bear the responsibility of speaking and acting for healing, reconciliation, and mutual respect.

The Methodist Conference abhors and deeply regrets those actions and words which incite hatred and lead to the victimisation of groups within society and notes with concern that such actions and words have been normalised in recent public discourse. Believing that racism is a denial of the gospel and that to stay silent when others are abused is to collude with those who seek to promote hatred and division, the Methodist Conference calls:

- on the Methodist people to challenge racism and discrimination.
- for a political debate which neither demonises any nor leaves the vulnerable (the foreigner, the immigrant and refugee) in danger of victimisation.
- on political leaders to work together for the good of the whole community putting the needs of the nation before party politics.
- on all those in positions of power and authority to hear the voices of those who have been marginalised and alienated and to respond to them in ways which offer real hope for the future.

The Conference now urges all Methodists to contact their MPs. Ask them to support these aims, and ask how Christians within your constituency can help them in this important task.

Visit <http://methodist.org.uk/mission/public-issues/national-life> where you can simply E-Mail your MP or if you prefer the paper postal system you can download a word document to send as a letter.

Sharing the Love

On Saturday 10 September at the Darlington District Synod Rev Janet Park presented a banner to Debs Coggrove who is the District link to Miathene Synod in Kenya. The banner was created by a group of people collectively known as TOTs, 'Talent On Tuesdays', who meet at Bainbridge regularly and it is to be presented to the people of Miathene Synod. The banner is a combination of embroidery and fabric collage and depicts seasonal scenes from Wensleydale. You can see pictures on the circuit website.

There is usually a number of gifts from Miathene on view when Darlington District Synod meets and they serve to remind us of the work that goes on there. This banner will I'm sure be much appreciated by the community there and help build stronger links.

The purpose of the partnership with Miathene Synod is to encourage, support and learn from each other in our mission and ministry as members of the body of Christ in God's kingdom. Miathene Synod has a total of 152 churches and is under Meru County, covering Tigania East, Tigania West and Isiolo. It also has a mission in Mwamba.

Creating an impression.

Have you got your wristband yet? This fashion accessory supports the theme this year of 'Holiness and Justice' chosen by Dr Roger Walton and Rachel Lampard, President and Vice President of Conference. They bear the words of Micah 6:8; 'Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly'. Some explanations of what this means can be found on-line and in the booklet 'Holiness and Justice'; I though, as a dedicated follower of fashion, will recount my experience of wearing one.

They come in seven bright colours and can be used one a day for the week; or worn to match what you are wearing. I have found the idea of wearing a bible verse on my wrist has become somewhat challenging as the days go by; they catch the eye and friends start to comment; as well as asking "What's that on your wrist?" "What does it say?" Then I'm asked 'What does that mean?' and 'Where is that from?' and I'm launched into an explanation of what the Lord does and does not require of us.

Then maybe an incident occurs where I would prefer to walk on by; but the visibility of the wristband is such that there is an obligation to act in the manner of the 'Good Samaritan' instead.

Of course I see the words there on my arm regularly, it serves as a constant reminder of how I should live on a day by day basis and that this lifestyle is the one God really wants to see.

For some it maybe that the wristbands are a fashion item; for me they prompt discussion and they challenge me to Do Justice, Love Kindness and Walk Humbly.

One artist who made good use of colour said this, "Great things are done by a series of small things brought together." The small act of wearing this colourful item may lead to greater things, who knows? The name of the artist? Vincent Van Gogh, he sold one painting in his lifetime he wasn't to know how popular his paintings were to become. Wearing the wristband could well bring more than colour to your life.