



Walking along the shore, in Fife last week, I noticed a number of footprints- some clearly from sturdy walking boots, of varying sizes, several tracks from paws of dogs excited to be at the seaside, and then there appeared a lone set of bare footprints, marking the sand purposefully heading toward the fishing village. Yet the sand was not always smooth and cold, in many places there were pebbles, shells- whether whole or broken with many sharp edges. Certainly not easy walking for bare feet, whose tracks reappeared along the sand, apparently having walked across these rough, uneven surfaces.

I never saw the person making these footprints, whose feet must have been well-used to the mixed terrain on the NE coastline. As we travel through Lent, we shall encounter different challenges in the wilderness through which we walk- a mixed terrain of emotions: joy, sadness, contemplation and revelation, all shot through with the love of God. This is what enables us to continue our journey of faith together-

Stir us, O Lord, to dare more boldly

To venture into wider seas, where storms show your mastery

Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

In the name of Him, who pushed back the horizons of our hopes

And invited the brave to follow. **Amen**

*Revd J Park*

**Norma and Les** would like to thank everybody in the Circuit for cards, cakes, chocolate, flowers, good wishes, visits and prayers over the past few weeks. Les had heart bypass surgery in James Cook Hospital on 31st January. The operation went well. Les is now home and on the slow road to recovery and hopes to be back sometime after Easter.

## Snow White and the Magnificent Seven

What a great success the panto was and congratulations to everyone. The cast played to over 300 hundred people in 3 performances and the amazing amount of £1787 was raised.

Michelle Stonley played Snow White, with new-comer Penny Thompson playing Bill Wideleg. Jonny Staley returned as Sheriff Big Dick Pickett and Michelle Emptage as his wife, Eliza Black.



The pantomime next year is 'Jock and the Beanstalk' - shows taking place on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd February 2019.

---

## **Retreats to Whitcheater Christian Guest House, Hawick and The Sannox Christian Centre on The Isle of Arran**

John and Anne Peters are organising these retreats and would like to hear from any-one who is interested in going to either or both.

The retreat to Whitcheater is from Friday 22nd June to Sunday 24th June. The price for the weekend is £110 per person.

Dates are not yet confirmed for the retreat to Sannox Christian Centre which is on The Isle of Arran but a get together to discuss arrangements is planned.

If you are interested in find out more information please contact John and Anne

---

### **Circuit Leadership Team update:**

'A discipleship movement shaped for mission' was the strap line used by the Methodist Church a few years back, and various changes have evolved within the Leadership team in NYDC during these past few months. It was with sadness that we accepted Kevin's request to step back from his role a Circuit Administrative Assistant, a post he has held for the past five years, during which time he has slowly but surely brought the Circuit into more effective communication & administration methods, through IT systems, website & social media. We are hugely grateful to him for this and thankful that Julie Greenslade has been willing to take on this role, alongside her existing role helping rural chapels with administration, accounts and schedules. This Rural Admin role will continue, though her title has become that of Circuit Administrative Assistant.

We welcome Michelle Stonely as a new Circuit steward- her recent role as Snow White in the Richmond Panto offered us a glimpse of the range of talents she brings to the role as we look forward to leading and serving the Circuit together.

---

### **Middleham Chapel Anniversary**

*Middleham Chapel is celebrating its 221st Chapel Anniversary on Sunday, 13th May with a special weekend. On Friday, 11th May Highside Singers will give a concert at 7.30 p.m. and on Sunday the service is at 6.30 p.m. Rev. David Crouchley of Sedbergh is the visiting preacher and there will be music from Jonathan and Liz Sparey. The Stewards have pleasure in giving an open invitation to everyone to share in the occasion.*

---

### **Swaledale—A Photographic Exhibition By Stephen Collinson LRPS**

Stephen is mounting a photographic exhibition at The Keld Resource Centre from Easter Monday, 2nd April to Friday 6th April 2018. It will consist of 25 photographs of Upper Swaledale. Entry is free, though donations for the work of The Keld Resource Centre would be appreciated.

A photographer since childhood, Stephen appreciated the Yorkshire Dales since Youth Hostelling there as a teenager. He has been a Minister for over 37 years and has been ministering for the last four and a half years in the Tees and Swale Pastorate which includes Low Row and Keld United Reformed Churches in Swaledale. In 2015 he gained the Licentiate distinction of the Royal Photographic Society continuing to develop his approach to landscape and visual art photography. Although this exhibition is a glimpse of Upper Swaledale largely in the landscape genre, he is increasingly combining spirituality and photography. An appreciation of the natural world and reflection upon it, however, can always have a spiritual dimension.

Stephen will be present throughout the exhibition and also Minister in Residence, leading short morning and evening prayers in the Chapel (9am and 6pm) each day. A visit to the exhibition could be combined with a walk in the wonderful countryside of this part of the Yorkshire Dales, enjoying a time to relax and reflect in the Chapel or the Well-being Garden, and joining in the relaxed time of prayer on the Easter theme.

---

## Hope Debt Advice Charity Closed

With dwindling financial support for the last 3 years, the trustees of Hope Debt Advice have had to close the charity, rather than risk insolvency, from 31st January 2018. This was confirmed at a special AGM in Richmond on 23rd January, followed by a celebration of the good work done during the last 7 years. During this time 94 clients have had detailed personal and professional advice to help overcome their overburdening and complex debt problems, amounting to well over £1.2M, and many more had sustained advice without becoming formally full clients. This has been a very worthwhile journey, but it is a great disappointment to have to close at a time when serious debt problems are increasing rather than diminishing. It is our hope and prayer that a new and better based organisation will come into being to fill the void that the closure of HDA leaves. Overburdening debt in our dispersed rural community remains a special problem not replicated in the urban environment where the majority of debt advising centres work.

---

## Winter Warmer lunches at Scorton

It started as “an act of kindness,” a subject that Rev. Les Nevin talked about at a Church Council meeting.

We decided to try and do something over the winter months and began Soup and Pudding lunches in October 2015. At our first lunch we served twelve people.

Two years on and we are serving 30 to 35 lunches each session. Our greatest success is welcoming people who live on their own and look forward to the company also, people who have lived in Scorton all their lives but have never been inside our lovely Chapel and now they come regularly. We are reaching out to people of all ages and in the surrounding villages too, we often have folk from Brompton on Swale, Catterick village and the Cowtons. Everyone stays for a friendly chat. We continue our lunches throughout the year now, it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month and everyone is welcome. We hope to serve you lunch soon!



## Monday Club

There has always been a children's club (or youth club) at Scorton Chapel going back 55 years. Over time it has changed its name day and times, but for the last 17 years we have been meeting on a Monday after school with an age group from 5 to 11 year olds.

Our aim is to teach the children that God cares about people of all ages using bible stories to help them understand our Christian belief. We always try to encourage the children to think about each other's needs, to work and play together whilst having fun learning. The club members enjoy taking part in our Anniversary, Mothers Day and Harvest Services and always perform a brilliant nativity play along with quite a few breakfast services too.

---

Through Christ, in the power of the Spirit, we share God's mission, both to renew the created order and to transform lives, communities and nations. Christians and their neighbours are not only subjects of change but agents of change. Individually and collectively we are both challenged and changed by God's transforming love. The gospel of resurrection celebrates the way all things change shape, bringing to birth a new people and a new society and, on a cosmic scale, all things returning to the perfection of God from whom they took their origins.

---

---

Diary Dates for full listing see: [www.nydalesmeth.org.uk/calendar.html](http://www.nydalesmeth.org.uk/calendar.html)

Adrian Plass celebrates 30 years of writing and performance...

Gunnerside Methodist Chapel will be hosting the first night of the nationwide celebration on Tues 17 April.

'OUT OF HIS HEAD' features Adrian and Bridget Plass with Searchlight Theatre Company . The evening includes readings, poetry and dramatisations from many of Adrian's books including his newly published novel 'The Shadow Doctor'. Lots of memories. Lots of laughs. Lots of chat. Lots to think about.

Start time: 7:15pm

---

The Great 50 Days book will be distributed to Chapels at the March Circuit Meeting, so copies will be available at your local chapel now. At this point we offer a huge thanks to you for your contribution towards it - it is very much appreciated.

We hope that you yourself will be blessed by the book and are able to benefit from it.

Every blessing. James Patterson *on behalf of The Great 50 Days team.*

---

### **Information relating to shared CLPD with Ripon and lower Dales Circuit**

Sat May 12th a.m. (9.30 for coffee session start at 10 a.m.- until 12.30) Rev. Pete Philips (CODEC, Durham, ex Cliff) on Preaching in the Digital age. (this isn't about how to put a Pp together, but how we "preach" the Gospel in the technological age)

Sat July 7th a.m. (9.30 for coffee/bacon butties!!, session start 10 a.m. -12 midday) Rev Helen Bell "Is Worship Theatre?" (Both involve some listening time and some hands on time!).

**The venue is Harrogate Road Methodist Church, Harewood Lane, Ripon. HG4 1TG.**

#### General Data Protection Regulations

*On the 25th May 2018, the new General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR') will come into force. Its aim is to bring the current data protection legislation into the modern digital era as well as harmonise the various data protection laws of member states within the European Union.*

*One of the changes introduced by GDPR surrounds consent, where by the time the next [circuit] directory is produced, it will be necessary to obtain written consent from individuals to their personal data being included in the directory.*

*TMCP have produced an article on their website which provides more information: <http://tmcp.org.uk/news-hub/local-church-circuit-and-district-directories-data-collection> Please keep referring to the TMCP website as more help and guidance will be added before the introduction of the GDPR. [www.tmcp.org.uk](http://www.tmcp.org.uk)*

---

## Fundraising for Shelter

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April The Revd Dr Martin Ramsden will be running the 26.2 miles of the London Marathon. However, before that on 9<sup>th</sup> March, he will be running 27.2 miles (43.52km) on the treadmill at his local 'Lifestyle Fitness' gym.

'Go the extra mile to end homelessness'.

Please support Martin in his fundraising quest.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MartinRamsdenShelter>

The fundraising page includes part of Martin's faith story and will also take every opportunity to talk to people about where the phrase 'extra mile' comes from.

