



**Copmanthorpe Methodist Church**  
**[www.copmanthorpemethodist.org.uk](http://www.copmanthorpemethodist.org.uk)**  
**Churches Together in Copmanthorpe LEP**

**Newsletter – April 2016**



In the last week or so the tree outside my study window, which seemed so bare for so long, has thickened with lush green leaves providing a cover for the hundreds of birds that stop for sustenance from the feeders we hang there. Whilst I can't see them so well, and that disappoints me, it is now also more difficult for the huge pigeons to find their way in through the growth and eat the bulk of the food before the other tiny birds get a look in, and I notice the more unusual birds are much braver to be in such close proximity to the house and also know they are safe from the over bearing proximity of the pigeons.

Like the birds, people too can be intimidated by what is going on around them, sometimes it is a real threat and at others just perceived. The difficulty is in discerning the difference and being careful not to find cover because they have got it wrong, Since Easter Sunday we have heard how the disciples felt about their own reactions to the risen Jesus, knowing how they had treated him before his death. Some guilty, some ashamed and some disbelieving, all the emotions we too have today. Even though we all speak the same language, we don't all speak the same emotional language, we don't always understand the needs of those around us and we get things wrong, make assumptions we shouldn't or simply don't make any at all. Communication is so complicated, we have so many different ways to communicate and yet we still have misunderstandings, some which cause irreparable damage. Easter is very much a time for people to face these emotions, some having been treated as Jesus was, some realising they treat others as Jesus was treated. Let us hang on to that as we deal in our relationships, remembering also that we can drive people under cover, like the tiny birds, when they feel threatened even if there is no threat. As we approach Pentecost we will recall the

Holy Spirit's work of restoring language so that everyone could understand each other. Let us remember that it is not always the language of our country, the careful explanation in our emails, the wide circulation of the calendar dates, which makes us understand, but the language of love. I pray that the Holy Spirit will give us that language to repair broken relationships, repair misunderstandings and make a community which understands each other, breaks down the cover and lets the less confident people show their beauty.

Love  
Rev. Julia

## Financial Matters

### Monthly Donations, March 2016

The total Church donations for the month of March are listed below.

06-Mar-16	£69.00
13-Mar-16	£191.42
20-Mar-16	£183.01
27-Mar-16	£134.37
Standing Orders	£1,850.00
Benevolent Fund	£0.00
<b>March Total</b>	<b>£2,427.80</b>

## Reflections on Holy Week

So often we go straight from the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his agony on the cross on Good Friday, and we miss the bits inbetween. I welcome the opportunity to think about the events between those two days, and this is my personal journey through Holy Week.

Sunday – morning worship when Rev. Julia reminded us of what happened on that first Palm Sunday. In the afternoon, rehearsed for a performance at the evening's Circuit service of "The Crucifixion" by John Stainer. We used to sing this every other year at Ocean Road Congregational Church, South Shields, when I was a teenager, and a few years ago we performed a semi-dramatised version of the work on two occasions at Christ Church, Braintree. It tells the Passion story between the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus crucified at Calvary. For me, the most powerful parts of the work are Jesus' plea from the Cross, "Is it nothing to you, all ye who pass by?" and his invitation to us, "O come unto me, this awful price, redemption's tremendous sacrifice, is paid for you." And, especially, the hymn setting out the mystery of intercession, following Jesus' words "Father, forgive me, for they know not what they do":

Jesus, the Crucified, pleads for me,  
While He is nailed to the shameful tree,  
Scorned and forsaken, derided and curst,  
See how His enemies do their worst!  
Yet, in the midst of the torture and shame,  
Jesus, the Crucified breathes my name!  
Wonder of wonder, oh How can it be?  
Jesus, the Crucified, pleads for me.

Monday – at Bishopthorpe, Carol led our thoughts on Jesus driving out the money-changers from the temple, followed by his healing those who were in need. We were invited to consider a picture of a railway station and think about where we would fit into that picture. If, for example, the train represents our Christian faith, are we comfortably sitting inside it? Or running to catch it? Or have just missed it? Or trying to get on but our large overfull rucksack is preventing us getting through the door? Or looking at the railway network map to see where we should go? And so on Thomas Merton's poem "Thoughts in Solitude" seemed appropriate –

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end .....

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

Tuesday – at Copmanthorpe a showing of the complete film "The Way", which had been used for the Lent study group. It told the story of Tom, walking the 474 miles from St. Jean Pied de Port to the Cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, following in the footsteps of his son, Daniel, who had died during the walk. Tom's "pilgrimage" enabled him to deal with his grief and to be ready to begin life again. The Lent course had given us the opportunity of travelling "Our Way" and thinking about how we are helped not only by God but also by others whom we meet along the road. The film was followed by Andy speaking about Jesus cursing the fig tree. The tree, and the old order of things, die, but the seeds of new life are also there. Andy had set up a prayer labyrinth for us, following the ideas of the ability to do, to accept and to bear. With Jesus' help, we can cope with whatever comes our way.

Wednesday – at Acaster Malbis, Rev Julia gave us the opportunity to think about Judas. Was he misguided, beset by doubts and torn loyalties? Was he any worse than the other disciples who failed to understand what Jesus had to do, fled and denied knowing him? Was he only trying to force Jesus' hand was therefore distraught when he realised what he had done and that Jesus was condemned? Whether we feel that Judas was the blackest traitor ever, or we have a certain amount of sympathy with him, we can be sure that there is no-one who is beyond the love and redemption of Jesus.

Thursday – readings and drama of the events of the event surrounding the Last Supper, followed by foot and hand washing, then sharing together the Jewish Passover meal, the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples. We ate lamb and unleavened bread, as did the Israelites in preparation for their exodus from Egypt, and tasted vegetables and herbs symbolic

of the events that took place so many years ago in Exodus. Then the bread and wine were shared, following Jesus' example at the Last Supper, the origin of our Holy Communion. And finally, with dimmed lighting, we shared Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday – a simple service, sitting in one circle in the upper hall. The subdued lighting helped us to concentrate on the central cross, giving more meaning to the song “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” Most of those present joined the walk through the village, with various people taking it in turns to carry the cross, and an opportunity to pray at different venues on a rather long way round walking from the Methodist Church to St. Giles. In the evening, five of us from Copmanthorpe took part in the ecumenical walk of witness organised by Churches Together in York. In St Helen’s Square, a busker offered to accompany us with the singing of “When I survey the wondrous cross” – that hymn had been sung at his wedding so he knew the tune! The service which followed at the Minster was a fitting occasion to help us think about the events of that first “good” Friday, about God saying “I love the world so much that I am sending my only Son”. In the cross we have solidarity with God and with each other, and it is now our responsibility to go out and share this with others.

Easter Sunday – the sunrise service at 6.30 (or, in reality following the hour change, 5.30!). Sixteen of us gathered at the end of Moor Lane to greet the sunrise and celebrate the glorious victory of Jesus in the resurrection. This was followed by a welcome breakfast at the Manse, thanks to the kind hospitality of Julia and Andy. For me, the most meaningful part of the morning service led by Rev David Archer was the decoration of the cross, transforming it from a symbol of torture and pain to one of new life and hope, covered with so many beautiful spring flowers.

Jean Haywood

## **Have you heard of the Methodist Quadrilateral?**

Have you heard of the Methodist Quadrilateral? No, neither had I until I started on the Worship Leader’s Course last October. I hadn’t done any serious studying since university and doing a Maths degree meant that I avoided essays and doing much reading. However, last autumn finding myself with a little bit more time on my hands as both Hannah and Huw are now away at University I decided the time had come to commit myself to finding out more about worship and take an opportunity to challenge myself and to grow in faith. I bought a nice colourful note book and got started.

The WL course is very flexible and can be done at my own pace. All the study modules are accessed online from the Methodist elearning site. There are articles and passages from books to read as well as video clips and links to other materials. I have completed the first module entitled ‘Encountering God’: Groundwork. Doing this module I have been asked to reflect on my Christian journey so far and my sense of calling. My service in the church over the years has been as Leader of Sunday school and then more recently being part of the All Age Worship team and as a Steward. In getting involved in each of these roles I always felt

that there was a job to do and with God's help I would try to offer my best. I was particularly drawn to these words.

'No one else can speak my message or sing my song, or offer my act of love. They are entrusted to me'

Francis Dewar, Called or collared

I found the introduction to theology really interesting. I have always been in awe of others doing theology courses or reading theology books and thought maybe I didn't have the literary capacity for that kind of study. However through simple activities and reading short passages from books I have found out that theology is simply a conversation about God. I have studied theology in hymns and found meaning in images from the Methodist Art collection.

My mentor is Local Preacher, Hilary Blake and I have a tutor who will mark my portfolio work. Hilary and I have met over coffee in the Spurriergate Centre to plan a couple of services. I also attended a day in Norton Methodist church to explore the themes of the courses with others from the District.

So to the Methodist Quadrilateral. This is a model to explain Methodist theology based on four elements that John Wesley considered important.

- **Scripture** –the Bible
- **Tradition** – what the Church has taught over the centuries
- **Reason** – using thinking and reasoning to interpret both the Bible and tradition.
- **Experience** -the witness of the Holy Spirit speaking to us and the church and guiding us now.

I found this model a good starting point for planning services and for our work in the local church. Although this is a very fixed way of considering ideas I think we always have to remember that God's word is dynamic and has the power to change things.

There are four modules on the Worship Leader's course so I am a quarter of the way through. I'll keep you informed of my progress. Please talk to me if you'd like to know more.

Ann Smallwood

## Archbishop of York's Pilgrimage

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, began last year a six-month pilgrimage around the North East, spending six days in each of the 21 deaneries of the Diocese of York and walking "a sizeable distance" through them all. The pilgrimage started with a visit to Whitby, which is in the Archdeaconry of Cleveland and will finish at York Minster on 22 May.

Below are the dates when he will pass through the places which are part of Rev Geoff Mumford's benefice and other local villages.

Tuesday 26 April – Rufforth, Long Marston and Poppleton  
Wednesday 27 April – Copmanthorpe and Askham Bryan  
Thursday 28 April – Tadcaster  
Friday 29 April – Bilbrough and Askham Richard  
Saturday 30 April – Healaugh  
Sunday 1 May – Colton, Acaster Selby and Acaster Malbis.

The Archbishop said, "My prayers have led me to this pilgrimage. I want to pray with people and I want to bless all that is fantastic and all that is wonderful."

Anyone is welcome to join the Archbishop in his pilgrimage, both at services and on the walk. For further information, see the printed copy of his itinerary on the noticeboard.

## **An Address to the Bishop of Rome**

The Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Rev. Gareth J. Powell, with other senior Methodist representatives from around the world, was received by Pope Francis in a private audience at the Vatican on 7 April. The audience was followed by a meeting with members of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU). During the audience, Rev Gareth Powell gave the following presentation to Pope Francis:

Your Holiness,

We bring you the greetings of the Methodist people. It is a particular pleasure to greet you in the year when the English speaking Methodist community, here in Rome, celebrates 60 years of worship and ministry at Ponte Sant' Angelo Church. The work of that local church, and the ecumenical commitment of its ministers, has led to important exchanges of insights and wisdom as together we seek to proclaim the love of God. The dialogue between Methodists and Catholics continues to enrich our understanding of the breadth of God's creation. That churches in this city and in a whole variety of local communities give expression to our common faith in Christ is vital to our faithful search for deeper unity. We are grateful to you for the encouragement you give that together we must strive to be one in faithfulness to Christ and the mission of the Church. Your Holiness's declaration of a Year of Mercy is one in which the Methodist people take a most particular interest. The proclamation of the mercy of a loving God stands at the heart of all that John Wesley, our founder, stood for. ... We are grateful to your Holiness for offering us fresh understandings of the Mercy of God. Your call to a renewed understanding of God's mercy is one that must surely find expression in our common endeavours and in the way that we live out our mission and shape our ecclesial communities.

In this gift of a copy of the Hymns on the Lord's Supper by John and Charles Wesley you will find something of the Methodist emphasis on the depth of God's loving purposes. We pray that together we may find a deeper sense of our share calling. Through our sharing in the celebration of the victory of love over death may we have a more dynamic and

urgent sense of our mission. In these hymns and in all that we do as followers of the risen Christ, let us raise our voices in the proclamation of our common gospel and the offer of mercy.

These events followed a dedication of the new Methodist Ecumenical Office at Rome (MEOR) held at Ponte Sant'Angelo. The MEOR initiative is aimed at promoting greater understanding of the worldwide communion through education programmes. Rev Dr Tim Macquiban, Director of MEO, said, "We ask all to hold the ecumenical work of the office in your prayers at this important stage of its development. This initiative gives Methodists worldwide the opportunity to contribute in a continuing ecumenical dialogue, promoting ecumenical understanding through the likes of education programmes."

(Contributed by Bev Duffy)

## **Martin Luther King**

Although we live on an island, we are not unaffected by events in other places, nor are we unable to learn from them.

In April 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. died at age 39, struck down by a sniper's bullet. Dr. King had originally planned a Poor People's March on Washington, but interrupted those plans to show his support for striking sanitation workers in Memphis. In a speech the night before his assassination, he almost seemed to have a premonition about what was to come:

"I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land."

News of his death shocked the world, and riots broke out in dozens of American cities. In a broadcast the next day, commentator Eric Sevareid piggy-backed on the title of a Eugene O'Neill play when he said about King:

"The label on his life must not be a long day's journey into night.  
It must be a long night's journey into day."

Dr. King was inspired by the success of Mohandas Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent resistance in colonial India, and he carried that philosophy to new heights in America's grand civil rights struggle. In his book "Why We Can't Wait" (1964), he described the approach in a memorable way:

"Non-violence is a powerful and just weapon . . . which cuts without wounding and enables the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals."

While often hailed for his oratorical skills, Dr. King was also an excellent writer, skilfully employing all of the major figurative devices (metaphor, paradox, chiasmus, etc.) in his writings and speeches. Here's a sampling of his best:

"A riot is at bottom the language of the unheard."

"Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows."

"We must constantly build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear."

"Our problem is not to be rid of fear but rather to harness and master it."

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

"If a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

"Segregation is the adultery of an illicit intercourse between injustice and immorality."

"Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity."

"It is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of high maturity, to rise to the level of self-criticism."

"Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill-will."

"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state."

"Life's piano can only produce the melodies of brotherhood when it is recognized that the black keys are as basic, necessary, and beautiful as the white keys."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

"Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true."

"If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper in life, sweep streets like Raphael painted pictures. Sweep streets like Michelangelo carved marble. Sweep streets like Beethoven composed music. Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry."

(Contributed by David Withers)



## Quiz

The following appeared last week in St. Giles' pew sheet and we couldn't resist copying it for our newsletter. How many correct answers can you give?

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?

Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?

Wrong Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant and close the door.

Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your actions.

3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?

Correct Answer: The elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. This tests your memory.

OK, even if you didn't answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your abilities.

4. There is a river you must cross. But it is inhabited by crocodiles. How do you manage it?

Correct Answer: You swim across. All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Conference. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

The next newsletter will be issued on Sunday 15 May. Please send articles, photographs, reports of events etc. to the church office by Thursday evening 12 May.