



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

**Newsletter – January 2017**



The end of January is here almost without us noticing, perhaps because at CMC the month has been busy. Two new housegroups emerged from the Alpha course and the Horsley/Perrott House Group found themselves revitalised after joining in with the entire course. So this month they all began both for the first time and anew.

We were encouraged and inspired on Sunday last as Laura Gallery gave her testimony in a joint service of Covenant and Confirmation when we all reminded ourselves of the promises we made at our own confirmation and reception into membership as Laura and Sue made theirs. We welcome Laura into full membership of the Methodist Church and of Copmanthorpe Methodist Church and thank God for her.

We now have four housegroups that meet on a Wednesday and the Men's housegroup on a Tuesday, so we may need to find another evening which suits those of you for whom Wednesday is impossible. We grow in knowledge and love of Christ better in small groups, where we are also supported by and accountable to those who journey

with us in our discipleship. Methodism grew up out of these groups and they remain vital to our nurture and faith. Each month our Housegroups will be invited to contribute to the newsletter to give you a flavour of what they do. I would encourage those who do not currently attend, to consider joining one of the many offered as Churches Together. If you would like to think about starting one I would be delighted to talk to you about it and to help enable it.

This year the circuit will become more diverse as we make changes to adapt to the cultural, social and religious conditions that change around us, I encourage you to read the newsletter that comes out with the plan, to join in with Circuit Services, then next of which is on 26th February at Acomb, and to keep abreast of some of the exciting developments over the next few months.

As always, I am available at The Manse if you would like to visit, or on the telephone if you would like to chat, I try my best to keep on top of visits but I am very aware I do not do any where near as well as I would like, please do call me if you need to.

God bless you

Julia

## Financial Matters

### Monthly Donations, November and December 2016

Sunday, 06-Nov-16	£248.42
Sunday, 13-Nov-16	£0.00 Remembrance Day
Sunday, 20-Nov-16	£138.20
Sunday, 27-Nov-16	£167.53
Standing Orders	£1,830.00
Other Donations	£828.96
Benevolent Fund	£0.00
<b>November Total</b>	<b>£3,213.11</b>

We have received a number of ad-hoc donations during November, from organisations and individuals. Some of these have been cash donations and others donations in lieu of legitimate Church expenses, and in total these have come to over £800. We are very grateful for these additional donations which greatly help in managing the Church's finances.

Sunday, 04-Dec-16	£176.17
Sunday, 11-Dec-16	£0.00 Fizz Service No Collection
Sunday, 18-Dec-16	£158.05

Sunday, 25-Dec-16	£156.46
Standing Orders	£1,735.00
Other Donations in kind	£99.36
Benevolent Fund	<u>£0.00</u>
<b>December Total</b>	<b>£2,325.04</b>

## The Power of Prayer

When you think of prayer, what images come into your mind? Perhaps you visualise a pair of clasped hands or someone kneeling reverently in a penitent position? You may feel that prayer involves a level of theological understanding that you just don't have or that a prayer needs to be long and wordy. Or you may be a person who spontaneously prays as you walk along the road, bringing to mind people and situations and offering them up to God.

Last year, Archbishop Sentamu embarked on his pilgrimage and visited St. Giles Church on his way. He spoke powerfully about prayer and how the Lord's Prayer can be the only prayer that we need. He gave us all some beads which could be used to help us focus on the words and to help us repeat the prayer; so simple yet so effective.

Recently, Ann talked about her favourite prayer by Francis Dewar which is simple yet challenging to each of us:

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

As I was thinking about the definition of prayer I came across an article by Msgr. Charles Pope who states that 'One of the nicest and briefest descriptions of prayer I have read comes from Dr. Ralph Martin, in his book, *The Fulfilment of Desire*. Dr. Martin says beautifully, in a way that is succinct and yet comprehensive and inclusive of diverse expression:

*Prayer is, at root, simply paying attention to God (p. 121).*

**Such a wonderful image: paying attention to God.** Imagine that, actually paying attention to God. So simple, yet so often overlooked.'

So, how can you pay attention to God? There is a myriad of ways; you can marvel at nature, you can sing, you can draw, and you can listen carefully to the other when they are speaking with you. Or you can do as Jesus did, take yourself to somewhere quiet and undisturbed and sit still and listen. Now, that sounds possible doesn't it?

Debbie Dawson

## Church Meetings

It has recently been suggested that, to keep everyone informed, notes from the various committee and group meetings be included in the newsletter. So, to start off this idea –

## Partnership Enabling Group

This is the group set up under our local ecumenical partnership to facilitate joint decision-making and the sharing of information between our church and St. Giles. The members of the group from our church are Derek Bowen, Ann Smallwood, John Temple and Jean Haywood (who acts as secretary), and we thank Russ Smallwood who has just stepped down after serving three years as a PEG member. There are also four PEG members from St. Giles, as well as the two Ministers, a representative from the Methodist Circuit and a representative from ENVOY (the Ecumenical Network in the Vale of York)..

At the PEG meeting in December, the group ensured that arrangements were in place for all joint activities during Advent and Christmas and also for the joint Covenant service in January. It also organised the issue of invitations to our members to consider becoming a joint member by having their names added to the electoral roll of St. Giles, and for those at St. Giles on the electoral roll to become members of Copmanthorpe Methodist Church. Joint services were discussed, and the Good Friday service this year will be held at St. Giles and followed by a walk of witness. There was a suggestion that the joint service at the end of May be an open air service and, looking further ahead, that a joint Christian Aid service be organised for next year.

The PEG AGM was held earlier this month and was an open meeting for anyone who wished to attend. The annual report for 2016 was agreed and copies are available for anyone who would like one. An outing for members from both churches is being organised to the Caring for Life open day in Leeds on 17 June - more details later but it is planned to hire a coach to take everyone together. A Lent course on prayer will be held on Wednesday mornings and an idea of organising Advent windows throughout the village is being discussed.

## One Day

At the beginning of December, our service was led by Mo Onyett, one of our local preachers. She read Isaiah 11,6-9:

*The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child will put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

and she then read the following words by Andrew Grayson which we want to share with those who weren't able to be at the service.

*One day, one day, perhaps it will be Sunday  
One day we will live in peace and a little child will lead us.*

One day wolves will live in the same field as little lambs, and the wolves will look after the lambs and the lambs will teach the wolves how to sing.

One day tasty calves and hungry young lions will share the same feeding trough.

One day cats will offer to take dogs out for walkies and dogs will learn to scratch cats behind the ears.

*One day, one day, perhaps it will be Saturday*

*One day we will live in peace and a little child will lead us.*

One day Tom will make friends with Jerry, and Sylvester will stop chasing TweetyPie.

One day He-Man will shake hands with Skeletor, and Batman and the Joker will join forces to clean up Gotham City.

One day the Montagues will invite the Capulets over for tea and say how nice it will be to be one big happy family.

One day the Beales and the Mitchells will sit down for Christmas dinner together in Albert Square and nobody will throw anything or call anyone else a Muppet.

*One day, one day, perhaps it will be Friday*

*One day we will live in peace and a little child will lead us.*

One day the fans of Manchester United and Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal, Liverpool and Everton will sit side by side on the same terrace and cheer when each other's teams score.

One day the biggest bully in the school will walk home hand in hand with the smallest kid and the smallest kid will help the bully do his homework.

One day brothers and sisters will share their toys, and not argue over who has to go to bed first or what they want to watch on TV.

One day kids will laugh at their dads' jokes – without even trying.

*One day, one day, perhaps it will be Thursday*

*One day we will live in peace and a little child will lead us.*

One day women will be able to walk home at night, and if they hear footsteps behind them it will only make them feel safer.

One day men and women, gay and straight, will share everything from changing rooms to churches.

One day no-one will be interested in what kind of school you went to, or whether you went to university, or what your father did for a living.

One day prison doors will be flung open, and prisoners and the people they have hurt will throw their arms around each other.

*One day, one day, perhaps it will be Wednesday*

*One day we will live in peace and a little child will lead us.*

One day politicians from every party will sit around in a circle and work together to bring about justice.

One day the people of America will embrace the people of Russia, the people of Britain will swap recipe tips with the people of Europe and the children of Syria will work together to rebuild their country.

One day Protestants and Catholics will worship side by side in a language they don't even understand, and no-one in the church will feel the need to talk about gender and sexuality any more.

One day there will be a black James Bond – or even Jamelia Bond for that matter.

*One day, one day, perhaps it will be Tuesday*

*One day we will live in peace and a little child will lead us.*

One day Democrats and Republicans will listen to each other to choose a leader they can all respect and trust.

One day all the passport booths at ports and airports will be replaced by welcome desks where someone with a smiley face will tell you how glad he is that you're here.

One day the fact that you are black or white, Hutu or Tutsi, Sunni or Shia will be nothing more than an interesting topic of conversation.

One day the wall between Israel and Palestine will be torn down, and the children of Abraham will live side by side in peace.

*One day, one day, perhaps it will be Monday*

*One day we will live in peace and a little child will lead us.*

*One day, one day, perhaps it will be Sunday ... Saturday ... Friday ... Thursday ... Wednesday ... Tuesday ... Monday*

*One day we will live in peace and a little child will lead us.*

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## **Pets**

God said;

“Let the earth bring forth living creatures, according to their kind; cattle, reptiles and wild animals, all according to their kind.” and God saw it was good. So said God before He made man to rule the fish, birds, cattle, all wild animals and reptiles. That responsibility was re-established, after the flood, in the covenant that God made with Noah. All creatures belong to God and we are to look after them as stewards of creation.

Throughout history animals have been part of human development. Early man relied upon animals to provide food and clothing, eventually learning that the wolf could be domesticated and trained and put to a practical use. Domestication of animals was a natural progression which continued over thousands of years. Egyptian pharaohs, Chinese emperors, Roman and Greek ruling classes kept pets as indications of power and nobility. Domestication introduced to mankind measles from dogs, mumps from poultry, tuberculosis from cattle and

the common cold from horses. A small price to pay for our affinity with animals and the relationship which has helped in an understanding of biology, ecology, physiology, temperament and intelligence.

It was 500 years ago that the Christian church began to be concerned that the relationship between man and animals was akin to pagan worship leading to accusations of witchcraft. Many innocent pet owners were tried and condemned to death. Eventually however the connexion between man and the natural world and its diversity was recognised in terms of our obligations as stewards of the whole of creation. Nevertheless as far back as ancient times man has failed to exercise a faithful stewardship. Some domesticated animals have been and continue to be treated cruelly and abused. Wild animals are caged, used in experiments and loss of habitat causes animals to become extinct.

Fortunately the human spirit can appreciate the unique relationships which can be built up when keeping a pet. The cat asleep on the settee, the dog by the fireside, the rabbit in its run and the canary singing in the aviary. Even the stick insect, snake, rat, snail and other weird and wonderful creatures have someone that will show them "love". Not sure what can be said about midges, locusts and the miscellaneous biting, stinging, creepy-crawlies and poisonous creatures which all have their place and purpose in creation.

So why keep a pet beyond the obvious companionship of dog or cat, furry softness of a rabbit and the singing of a cage bird. Are there any other benefits? Experience has taught us of the positive effects that owning pets can have on human health and psychological well being. The presence or the activity of caring for a pet can relieve stress and boost your mood. For a child, the responsibility of feeding, exercising and caring for a pet is an introduction to illness and loss and a great way to learn valuable life lessons and an ability to cope with emotions. The list extends if we include the functional roles of horses, dogs, and whilst not pets, livestock tended each day by caring people.

We have choice but what about poor old Noah, the first big boat builder, zoo keeper and vet? Thankfully he knew what he was doing for after the failure of the raucous egoistic raven he sent out the dove, with its homing instinct, to see if the water levels were subsiding. God, after the flood, reminded and instructed us, through His covenant with Noah, that we are caretakers and not destroyers of creation.

Presently 43% of British households has a pet. Could it be that somewhere a thought is stirring that a Pets Service might be in good idea?

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Met a villager the other day; "A'm not going 'ome" "Why?" "There's an awful smell in our 'ouse, me wife keeps cats" "Well open the windows" "What and let all me pigeons out"

With thanks to Derek Bowen for this article

The next newsletter will be issued on Sunday 26 February. Please send articles, photographs, reports of events, meeting notes, house group information etc. to the church office by Wednesday evening 22 February.

## **News from the Housegroups**

### **The Mens Tuesday evening gathering**

Having just started Holy Spirit last Tuesday, what have we been doing for the rest of January?

Watching TV!

Our first 2 meetings were spent watching a riveting programme that asks the simple question did the Exodus actually happen?

This 2 hour documentary was made to investigate what archaeological evidence exists for the Exodus, because until recently the only archaeological evidence contradicted the Bible story. It is generally accepted that the Exodus happened during the reign of Rameses. But there is no evidence to support that assertion. Even the Bible account itself was contradicted by the evidence. No evidence, therefore no Exodus.

But are we reading the archaeology correctly?

Are we reading the bible literally or literately. Are we reading the bible through a long used and single fixed set of lenses, (literally), so you don't ever bring or allow a new perspective to your understanding. Or literately, ignoring fixed beliefs which you've stuck with for too long because it's easier not to embrace new ideas and instead read it with an open mind, open to new possibilities. This programme says try these lenses! Embrace new possibilities.

It does this by reinvestigating old archaeology.

It looks at the very latest archaeological evidence.

It tries to interpret the evidence using a wide range of experts with divergent views.

It approached Jews, Christians, Agnostics and non believers, Rabbis, Egyptologists, Museum Curators, Biblical Scholars, University Professors and Heads of Department and Archaeologists for their considered conclusions based on ALL the currently available evidence.

It put their statements under a microscope and compared them to each other. It presents you with the evidence.

Conclusion: Was there an Exodus?

This is a film we think EVERYONE should watch, and then make up their own minds. We think you'll have to agree with our conclusion!

## News from the Circuit

### Gravity Youth event

3<sup>rd</sup> March, Gravity trampoline park, Xscape, Junction 32, Castleford.

Meet at 6pm at Christchurch (opposite Gravity in the Xscape complex). Games, food from Pizza Express, youth worship and an hour of jumping at Gravity. Finishing at 9pm.

£5 each. For young people Year 6 to Year 13. Places limited so book early by contacting Victoria Etherington [youthministry@yorkmethodist.org.uk](mailto:youthministry@yorkmethodist.org.uk)

York Methodist Circuit is seeking to appoint a

### CIRCUIT PASTORAL MISSIONER

#### 40 hours per week, initial 1 year contact

- To promote and deliver excellent pastoral care within a given section of the York Circuit, both among and beyond members of the Methodist Church.
- To offer pastoral visitation, with an emphasis on a ministry of prayer and nurturing in the Christian faith.
- To develop the role of lay participation in pastoral care through training and enabling others.
- To share in the leading of worship, within the given section.
- To join and support an exciting team ministry in the York Circuit.

#### Starting Salary: £18,510-£18,960 per year

Download an application pack from [www.yorkmethodist.org.uk](http://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk) or contact Lois Cross, Circuit Administrator: 01904 499661 – [admin@yorkmethodist.org.uk](mailto:admin@yorkmethodist.org.uk)

**Deadline for applications:** 5pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017

**Date for interviews:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017

