



Copmanthorpe Methodist Church
www.copmanthorpemethodist.org.uk
Churches Together in Copmanthorpe LEP

Newsletter – July 2016



John Ch.1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God

Ch. 3 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The world seems more volatile these last few weeks than I can ever remember. Perhaps our seniors would consider that the years of war were just as much of a roller coaster, never knowing what would happen next, emotionally, relational or politically. Two thousand years ago Jesus taught, preached and prophesied to a world such as ours. And so the gospel of John chapter 1 resonates for today, that Jesus came into that which was his own, but it did not understand what he was all about. Today we have a world desperately in need of love in the way Jesus showed us to give it.

In this age of technology in which our transactions can be traced and our steps followed, we individually open our lives, or the lives we want people to see, on social media. The press and journalists take advantage of the easy access to secret revelations that feed public interest.

We don't understand how this fascination both excites and terrifies us, but we do know that when peoples' bad deeds are exposed the condemnation they face as a result can often destroy their lives.

When the light of Jesus tries to light up dark places and hidden actions, it causes people to turn away so that their deeds are not exposed, fearing the consequences. We ourselves forget, and neither do we share, that Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save it. He came not to destroy peoples' lives but to ensure they were lived well. We live in days when, more than ever, we need to remind people of this.

In September we will launch the new Alpha Course which starts on 21 September for 11 weeks. I hope you will be able to use this opportunity to talk, not just to people who will "fit in" but with people who really need some kindness and mercy in their lives, people who may be frightened to join us, frightened of condemnation - condemnation that Jesus would never give, except perhaps to those who were doing the condemning.

Over the next few, quieter weeks of summer, I ask you to begin reflecting and praying for our village, to be considering who you will invite to come and meet Jesus, and for the first time understand who he really is.

With love

Julia

Julia's Ordination

Russ and I went to London for the weekend to attend Julia's ordination ceremonies at this year's Methodist Conference. I had been to the Methodist Central Hall once before as a teenager for a MAYC London weekend but we had never been to Conference or to an ordination so had no idea what to expect.

We travelled down by train on Saturday - the sun shone and crowds of people filled London. Then in the evening, torrential rain. We paddled our way to a restaurant on the South Bank to meet up with Julia and Andy and their family and other friends.

On Sunday we woke to bright sunshine and headed to Methodist Central Hall for the Sunday Morning Service which includes the Reception into Full Connexion for all new prospective presbyters and deacons. We could tell that we were getting closer by the increasing number of people wearing dog collars. There was a sense of excitement and joy as friends spotted each other in the crowds. Inside the auditorium was packed, every seat taken on the floor and in the balcony. The band started to play worship songs and the singing was awesome. Our thoughts were also with everyone back at CMC, hoping that the live stream was working. The formal service began, all 42 ordinands filed around the balcony into their places at the front - a moment for tears and goosebumps. We felt privileged to be at the service which was inspiring and moving. The talk by new President Roger Walton on Micah 6v8 ("do justice, love kindness

and walk humbly with God”) was challenging and engaging. At the end we all filed outside to the peal of bells from Westminster Abbey. Lots of photos, smiles and hugs.

Then back on the underground to Old Street tube station to find Wesley's Chapel where Julia was being ordained along with 6 other ordinands. The ordinations were divided amongst churches across London and it felt very special to be at John Wesley's chapel which is tucked away on a street of offices and coffee shops, an oasis of green and calm amidst the busyness of commerce. The flowers and shrubs in the gardens were beautiful. We sat to reflect on a bench beside John Wesley's Tomb taking in the history of the setting. Then off for a snack at Costa; the normally quiet Sunday afternoon for the staff was disturbed by a steady stream of Methodist ministers and members.

As 5 pm approached we gathered inside the chapel. The York contingent made our way upstairs to the balcony. It was great to meet up with friends from Copmanthorpe, Acaster and Bishopthorpe. Again we experienced the elation and privilege of sharing in an excellent and moving service. It felt intimate and personal to see Julia being ordained even though there were hundreds of others there. We appreciated the hard work and calling of Julia and her fellow ordinands to get to this point. Taking communion with the rest of the congregation was the culmination of the day.

Finally, outside into the fresh air for celebrations, photos and hugs. Then we all said our farewells and headed home. Our challenge is to respond to the transforming love of Jesus that we heard about and experienced this weekend.

Ann Smallwood





Financial Matters

Monthly Donations, May 2016

1 May	£67.00	
8 May	£0.00	no service
15 May	£261.40	
22 May	£130.25	
29 May	£0.00	service at Bishopthorpe
Standing Orders	£1,945.00	
Other Donations	£260.28	flower & property donations
Benevolent Fund	£0.00	
May Total	£2,663.93	

Monthly Donations, June 2016

5 June	£168.00	
12 June	£179.21	
19 June	£112.00	
26 June	£150.00	
Standing Orders	£1,940.00	
Flower Donation	£20.00	
Come4Lunch	£545.00	donation for cooker hood
Benevolent Fund	£0.00	
June Total	£3,114.21	

We thank Come4Lunch for their generous donation for the cooker hood.

Together



On Sunday 10 July members from all the churches in the York Circuit gathered “together” for a special event. To have enough space for everyone, the York Barbican was hired for the day and for a great time of worship together – together in worship, in mission, in discipleship and in celebration.

Times of worship were held during the morning and afternoon, with lunch provided inbetween. Guest speakers (in the morning, Rev Steve Wild, the outgoing President of the Methodist Conference, and in the afternoon Rachel Lampard, Vice President of the Methodist Conference) were invited to bring us their take on what it means to be “together” – as churches, as a Circuit, and as the Methodist Church in partnership with others. The music was led by OneSound (formerly the MAYC Youth Orchestra and Singers), the UK’s leading Christian youth music ensemble and choir. Young people and children had their own sessions, the youth space led by Methodist Youth President Craig Gaffney, and a crèche was also provided. Greetings were sent from Rev Roger Walton, the new President of the Methodist Conference, and from the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, speaking from the General Synod of the Church of England which was taking place in York.

Comments from some of the many CMC members who attended this event –

- Wonderful to see so many people filling the Barbican – the number attending was far greater than was expected.
- I especially enjoyed Steve Wild and the keyboard player. The whole thing was inspiring.
- Weren’t OneSound wonderful? It’s marvellous to see the commitment and faith of young people.
- I found the talks powerful – especially the reference for the need for “oceans of justice”, which was followed by the song “Inspired by love and anger”. (See below for more information on this song.)

- It was a wonderful gathering of so many people in one place all worshipping Jesus, looking around the Barbican was awe inspiring. The Methodist church in York is thriving and it was very good to feel part of this. The speakers were excellent, I want some of Steve Wild's passion and energy for what he so strongly believes in! I thought the whole day was very well put together, and managed with a good balance between all aspects of the day. The young worship band, OneSound were excellent, they provided a wonderful and enthusiastic atmosphere! Certainly one to go back to!

- The one progressive thing I got from the day was that we ought to break out from the straightjacket. That does not mean doing things different, in house, just for the sake of it, but in manner which has a perceived outreach aim. For example we have yet to discover how we care for children who are to move on from Fizz.



Inspired by love and anger

This song, written by John Bell and Graham Maule from the Iona Community, is probably new to many of us. The lyrics are intriguing and amusing, yet challenging at the same time, and you could well be surprised by the last verse. The song reminds us of all the injustices of the world, towards which many people have turned a blind eye. It speaks of those who cry out for

justice, of the affluent who want to keep the status quo, of the God who hears and calls, and of Jesus who answered that call.

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
Informed of God's own bias we ask him once again:
"How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self interest turn prayer and pity blind?"

From those forever victims of heartless human greed,
Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
"Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?"

From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,
The fear of lost advantage provokes the bitter cry,
"Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!
Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!"

To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
We offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:
"When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?"

God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?"

Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,
Attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
A Saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools
Has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.

Asking for Church Prayer

There are times when we all feel in need of prayer and to feel that others are interceding for us. We have noticed that the prayer book is rarely used and whilst there may be reasons for this we wish to remind you that you may write your own name down for prayer or ask someone else on your behalf.

There is a new prayer book on the shelves by the book cupboard at the bottom of the stairs, at the entrance to the Sanctuary. The sheets are changed every week for prayer requests in the service for the following Sunday. Prayers will not be carried forward, so you will need to ensure that you or someone else writes your name down for each week you would like prayer. The new system calls for us to take greater care in how we share each other's personal information, and protect people's privacy. You can write your own name or ask your pastoral visitor, or

someone else, to write your name on the prayer list so that it will be included in the prayers for the Sunday following. The important thing is that you must give your express consent for it being written and for what is written to be shared in worship or to be seen by anyone looking at the sheet. The person writing your name in the book must sign their name and confirm that your permission has been given.

You may also be included in Rev. Julia's prayer text by texting her, or asking someone else to text her on 07810360778.

Prayer is an important part of the commitment of the Minister and a pastoral visitor. If you would like prayer, or have any other church or pastoral issues, you can telephone your pastoral visitor or Minister to ask them to pray for you, or with you. Sometimes the Minister or a steward might telephone you if they see you on the list to make sure of your request and to ensure your pastoral visitor knows. So if you are poorly or need prayer he or she may also contact you. Your pastoral visitor's name is on your membership card. People who are not members do have pastoral visitors allocated, they know who you are, and will make themselves known to you, but if you wish to know who they are, so that you can get in touch about any prayer, pastoral or church issues, then speak to Rev. Julia or Ruth Perrott, the pastoral visitors secretary who will be able to tell you.

A Time for everything

Ecclesiastes 3 v 4

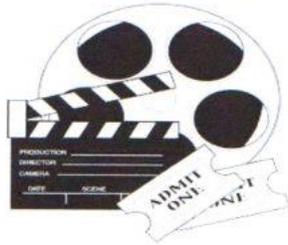
A Minister's wife was preparing pancakes for her two young sons.

The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait'."

The older boy turned to his younger brother and said, "You be Jesus".



Tuesday 16th August
Copmanthorpe Methodist Church

Accessible film showing
2016 film - PG rating

Doors open 10.30am
(tea and coffee available)
Film commences 11am
followed by buffet lunch.

Open to all - registration required by Friday
12th August

Telephone 07725 173698
or speak to Reverend Julia (709713)

Please let us know if you would like to attend
and need assistance with transport

Donations welcome

In association with Minds and Voices
A DEEP group
Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project

Dementia Friendly = Everyone Friendly

The next newsletter will be issued on Sunday 21 August. Please send articles, photographs, reports of events etc. to the church office by Thursday evening 18 August.