



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

Newsletter – February 2016

Lent seems to have come quickly on the heels of Christmas this year and we are only just starting to see off the dark evenings. If we look closely at our hedgerows, on spindly bare wood that has the appearance of being dead, there are shoots appearing, the cold ground has splashes of yellow daffodils as they fight to break free of cold ground, and there is an abundance of snowdrops. Amongst what seems dark and dead there is colour and life and this cycle of creation that God bestows upon us, invites us to understand the cycle of death and resurrection of our own lives and pattern of living. Sometimes we have to look very closely at ourselves to see new growth and change, in amongst what can feel a wilderness or desert, when we have lost our sense of purpose, where there is death or barrenness, and it is impossible to see or feel anything in the paralysis of a wintry feeling which pervades our emotions. Lent is a time to explore the unproductive areas of our lives and to stay in them, for a while, as we face what it is really like to be a child of God. In his address at St. Giles on Wednesday, Rev. Allan Hughes said that he believed the quality of our Easter depends on the quality of our lent, this is true of many things we know, in the same way as our parents taught us that we will not feel the benefit of our coat if we do not take it off when we are inside. Lent must be undertaken knowing what we do, understanding why we do what we do, whether that is fasting, depriving ourselves of something we enjoy, or taking on an activity that will challenge or squeeze our commitments even more tightly. It is to sharpen and question our lifestyle. In some cases the discipline will bring a sense of purpose and achievement, in others it will upset routine, and cause discomfort. If it is neither, then we have not understood what we do. Experiencing Lent will enrich our Easter Sunday joy as we reach it with relief or happiness, tinged with the expectation of light and warmth as creation rises in new life, bringing with it a lightening of spirit, revealing and proving God's promise to us, of the risen life we can look forward to when we follow Jesus.

I urge you to engage in Lent, and in Holy week, to attend the services each evening and on Good Friday. It will be an effort, it may be uncomfortable, you may not want to go, but without lent, without Holy Week, Easter Sunday will be just a day to eat chocolate, and miss what the risen Christ is doing.

With every blessing, Julia.



Gift Day – 30 January

The day started with breakfast in the style of Men's Breakfast although we were assured that croissants, juice and fresh coffee were making a guest appearance for one month only, just as the women were! Val and Peter Brett did a fantastic job ensuring that at least 30 people were well fed and to accompany the breakfast, Rev. Julia provided us with a meditation on giving which allowed us to reflect upon what the day was about. A short sketch based upon the feeding of the 5000 from John 6: 1-13 was admirably acted by Andy, John, David and Peter.



After breakfast, some of us decided to choose the fresh air option, to walk off the bacon sandwiches and we were joined by a number of dogs, all of whom enjoyed the mud and the sunshine, but probably enjoyed the water even more!

Others decided to be more creative, either joining the knitting group run by Heather and Janet, or trying the different art activities offered by Granville, Jill Solich and Tamsyn.



There were opportunities to share fellowship and to try something new, whilst Andy, Luke and George were on hand to enable people to get to grips with their phones and tablets. It was

wonderful to witness such a diversity of talent and a willingness to share with others; the atmosphere both inside and outside was very uplifting.



Our Bring and Share lunch, organised by Bev and Margaret Pawsey, was a chance for everyone to spend time reflecting upon the message that Nick and Julia had given in their earlier presentation, in which giving in all senses of the word was highlighted. A copy of Nick's powerpoint presentation is available should anyone wish to take a closer look; it's well worth it to gain a deeper understanding of Copmanthorpe Methodist Church's financial responsibilities. The lunch enabled us to spend time with each other, enjoying a more relaxed atmosphere and learning new things about each other

After lunch, there was a choice of watching 'Inside Out', a film chosen to cater for all ages, and to appreciate our new audio-visual provision. Alternatively, flower arranging, led by Joyce Segar, was on offer. It was a very peaceful activity, with everyone concentrating and producing some remarkable arrangements, which were admired in the service the following day.

And here are the finished arrangements.



"See how the flowers of the fields grow" Matthew 6: v 28

The day finished with a wonderful afternoon tea provided by the stewards, Alan's fantastic strawberry cake taking centre stage!

Some quotes from the Gift day:

“It was lovely to spend time with people I don’t usually stay for long enough on a Sunday morning”

“What happened in the time between the activities was really special”

“I was surprised by how much I got out of the flower arranging; I didn’t think I was very good at it before I did this today”

“The last time I did Art was at school, this was very different today; I enjoyed it!”

“Can we do this again next year?”

“I learnt a lot about the importance of Gift Aid!”

Debbie

Giving

At the gift day in January, Nick gave a presentation setting out our current financial situation, where our money comes from and where it goes. We were encouraged to think about our level of giving, but we recognise that many of us support various charities as well as the church, and no-one except ourselves and God can judge whether our giving is at the appropriate level.

The church can't exist without the money we contribute, but giving financially is only part of the picture. We all give so many other things to the church - our time, our gifts and talents, our love, support and prayers. We can give our energy, compassion, hospitality, kindness, a hug, friendship, a listening ear, a helping hand, transport - and you can probably think of other things to add to the list.

The last thing we want is for anyone to feel pressured to give financially – the question we need to ask ourselves is - Am I giving what I should be giving to God? So many things can be offered to God.

On the subject of giving, the total amount for the month of January was £2,620.07, with the weekly and monthly payments outlined in the table below.

03-Jan-16	£103.26
10-Jan-16	£400.00
17-Jan-16	£122.75
24-Jan-16	£82.86
31-Jan-16	£191.20
Standing Orders	£1,720.00
Benevolent Fund	£0.00
January Total	£2,620.07

Spending more time with each other

At the Church Council meeting at the beginning of February, we thought about the importance of supporting and encouraging each other, and the fact that it is everyone's responsibility to care for each other. The gift day at the end of January was a wonderful opportunity to bring people together, and we talked at Church Council about how we might organise more events to enable us all to spend more time with each other. Suggestions made at the meeting included day trips and retreats, weekends away, visits to events such as Spring Harvest or the Keswick Convention. A group was set up, comprising Rev Julia, Bev Duffy and Mandy Smith, to investigate all the available options so, if, you have any ideas if what you would like to do, please speak to one of them.

Andy and Julia will be going to Keswick in the week 16-23 July and camping. There are two or three site options. Please contact Julia as soon as possible if you would like to go, as the pitches go extremely quickly.

Contact the Elderly Tea Party

The sandwiches and cakes were cut and stacked onto cake stands. The music was set on the playlist we had chosen and Bowmore (our dog) was settled in another room, so we were ready for the first 'Contact the Elderly' Tea Party in Copmanthorpe that we had volunteered to host.

At 15:00 our visitors started to arrive, accompanied by their drivers. Everyone arrived and settled with a cup of tea and we introduced ourselves and chatter and friendships started. We had been told that many of these elderly folk need assistance to get out and about so as a result don't get out often to socialise. They certainly took the opportunity to make up for lost time, and there was lots of chatter and smiles.



Bowmore had been kept in another room initially because he is just large and friendly so may have knocked people over when they were coming in. So when everyone was sat down was a perfect time to introduce him to everyone. One lady in particular welcomed the opportunity to fuss a friendly dog as it hadn't been that long ago that her own dog had died and she missed him. Having the whole family involved was great, Luke our son, and Laura Lyn's daughter

(Lyn is one of the drivers) were also taking part and chatting to the older guests, it certainly gave a lovely family feel to the afternoon.

I quickly realised what an important part of the whole event the drivers were. Ensuring that the older guests were always engaged in conversation, and each person cared for individually.

The afternoon went really quickly and it was soon time to bid everyone farewell till next time. There was plenty of food left so we packed up a few goodie boxes for the older guests to take for a supper later 😊

Do you know anyone who would like to join in this fantastic project?

- **Either an older person who would love to attend a tea party once a month**
- **Or a driver who can be an important and valued link for the older person and the tea party host either once a month or on a rota.**
- **Or a tea party host on a rota, once a year, or more if you are keen 😊**

The person to contact if you have any referrals or would like to take part yourself is Mary Robinson from Contact the elderly on 01535 632592 or by email mary.robinson@contact-the-elderly.org.uk

It is worth getting involved – I'm convinced by what we were told that it makes a difference.

Jo-Anne

How to cook Good Husbands

Following on from Derek and Susan's "Bible cake" last month – did anyone work out the ingredients? – here is another "recipe", "How to cook Good Husbands".

A good many husbands are spoiled by mismanagement in the cooking, and are not as good and tender as they should be. Some women keep them too often in hot water, others freeze them, others put them in a stew, others roast them, and others have them in a pickle. It cannot be supposed that any husband will be good and tender if treated in this way, but they can be really delicious when managed properly.

In choosing a husband, do not be guided by a silvery appearance as choosing in mackerel, or by a golden tint as when buying salmon. Do not go to the market for him, those brought to the door are best. Be sure to choose him yourself as tastes differ. It is better to have none than to have one which has not been properly cooked.

What you cook him in is not as important as how you cook him, but see that the cloth in which he is wrapped is clean and neatly mended, with the required number of buttons and zips.

Do not keep him in the pan by force, as he will stay there himself if proper care is taken. If he splutters, do not be too serious; some husbands do this.

Add a little sugar in the form of what confectioners call "kisses", but on no account add vinegar

or pepper. A little spice can improve him, but it must be used with judgement.

Do not try him with anything sharp to test his tenderness, and so not keep him on the boil too long as he may become flat and tasteless. Stir him gently from time to time to keep him interested.

If you treat him thus, you will find him very digestible, and he will agree with you very nicely.

(Taken from Colne Parish Church Bazaar Recipe Book 1909).

Next month – A Recipe for Committee Making.

Growing in Christ

The York Circuit is seeking to support people and churches to fulfil their shared vision "Growing in Christ". Members from all churches in the Circuit are being asked to help so that the Circuit's Vision Coordinating Team can gain a better understanding of what is happening and how the Circuit might encourage future growth through planning and support.

The Circuit's calling is to encourage growth in Christ through -

- **Worship** - increasing awareness of God's presence and celebrating God's love
- **Learning and Caring** - helping people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care
- **Service** - being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice
- **Evangelism** - making more followers of Jesus Christ.

A full copy of the Circuit Vision Statement is displayed on the noticeboard. You are invited to read it and, using each of the above four priorities, think of your experience of church life. Then please note down (in words and short phrases only) what is most valued and best appreciated, and pass this by the end of February to Debbie or any of the other stewards.

About the Circuit

*'Do not allow yourself
one thought of separating
from your brothers and sisters,
whether their opinions agree
with yours or not.'*

John Wesley

As you probably know, Bev and Tim are very much involved in the work of the York Circuit of the Methodist Church. They are putting together articles about the Circuit and Methodism, and here is Bev's first contribution about Leslie Newton with some general information about the Circuit being available from the office (printed or electronic) or on the notice board.

Leslie Newton, Superintendent Minister



I was born and raised in Lancaster (...yes, I know!) and studied Accountancy and Law at Manchester University before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG.

One of my main interests is music, learning the piano through my childhood and then qualifying as a piano teacher whilst at University. During late teenage years I became very keen on snooker, although my skill is sufficiently limited now to well disguise any signs of a mis-spent youth.

Born into a Methodist home, in my youth I was in the Boys Brigade and Youth Fellowship as well as involved in my church's musical life, culminating in me being organist and choirmaster.

My call to presbyteral ministry developed through my 20s, represented by a to-ing and fro-ing with God where I kept finding lots of good excuses. In the end I candidated to test the call once and for all, and the rest is history! I entered training in 1995 at Wesley College, Bristol where I met Gill. We were married in 1996 and stationed to Barnsley Circuit in 1997. We spent 9 fulfilling years in that Circuit, becoming Joint Superintendents in 2002. In 2006 we moved to the (then) Bramhall Circuit, Gill as Superintendent, and me in pastoral charge of Bramhall Methodist Church. The Circuit merged with the Wythenshawe Circuit in 2012 to become the Bramhall and Wythenshawe Circuit.

I count it a tremendous privilege to be a Minister within the Methodist Church. I am excited at the prospect of serving in the York Circuit, of getting to know you all and sharing life with you over the coming years, and I pray that together we will have the joy of seeing the Lord at work in our midst.

Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.

John Wesley

www.WhatWomenShouldKnow.org

The next newsletter will be issued on Sunday 20 March. Please send articles, photographs, reports of events etc. to the church office by Thursday evening 17 March.