



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

Newsletter – March 2016



The Lent course this year was based on “The Way”, a journey of 474 miles, best travelled on foot from St. Jean Pied de Port, just on the French side of the Pyrenees to the great Cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostela. The film will be shown at 5pm on Tuesday (22 March), see the notices. I think it is true to say that the story had different resonances depending on the different experiences we had encountered as individuals and our different theological stances. This is a film that can be watched over and over again and new themes will emerge each time. What strikes me most is how lone individuals begin a journey, and form a disparate group of people, who argue and disagree and don't like each other much, with only one thing in common, the destination.

It is the destination that keeps them together despite all the issues they have to resolve as a group, not to mention the personal burdens they carry with them, but they stay together, and in the end it is the struggle with each other that helps them in the struggle with their inner conflict. Most importantly it is that which allows them to arrive and to understand the achievement in so doing.

However much we try to make it on our own, we can never know who we truly are without others. It is often the most challenging people we know that help us to find out. If we choose to be with only the people we like and love then we find very little out about ourselves. In the coming week I invite you to travel with the characters Jesus challenged, and who saw him crucified believing their problems were over. To travel towards the cross feeling challenged

yourself but to also to learn a little more about your relationship with God and to know that your problems only just begin when you follow Christ there, but the journey we travel with Him leads us to risen life, life fully lived, life lived in truth, with each other, sharing the difficulties together and realising that is the way for us.

My prayers are with you all for a blessed, but challenging Easter, that you join him on the road and get to know him, yourself and all those he loves, much better.

We go on our way
And Jesus goes ahead of us
We do not need to be afraid
For Jesus is risen
God is love
And love is more powerful than fear or death or evil
And we are greatly loved
And we are grateful
Thanks be to God for redeeming the world in love.
Written by Ruth Burgess

Love

Rev. Julia

Financial Matters

Monthly Donations, February 2016

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

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 07-Feb-16 | £85.61 |
| 14-Feb-16 | £134.45 |
| 21-Feb-16 | £111.01 |
| 28-Feb-16 | £192.31 |
| Standing Orders | £1,831.54 |
| Gift Day Donations | £2,390.50 |
| Gifts in Kind | £509.09 |
| Benevolent Fund | £0.00 |
| February Total | £5,254.51 |

This month's donations include the sum of nearly £2,400 resulting from the Gift Day at the end of January, which when Gift Aid is added will come to around £3,000. This will go a long way towards helping us meet our target of breaking even on our General Fund for the financial year ending 31 August 2016. In addition, this month has seen over £500 in "gifts in kind" which is where someone has incurred an expense on behalf of the Church but has kindly chosen to donate that amount to the Church rather than claim it back. This greatly

helps to reduce our expenses, and in addition gift aid can be claim on the amounts. A full overview of our financial position will be presented at the Church General Meeting on 17 April.

Gift Day

Those of you who were unable to attend either the breakfast or the whole day might be interested to read the devotions which Rev Julia led before the morning's activities began.

John 6:1-13

When Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

God of our open futures,
help us to explore once upon a time moments
Where stories begin
and outrageous hope
outspoken love
justice and joy
are released,
to see
where the nudging angels move amongst people
longing for comfort and community
sensing beginnings of friendship
wanting touch and affirmation
to enable
Life's great feast to happen,
hearts and hands, baskets and pockets to open,
neighbour to share bread and peace with neighbour
to make a place for another
so that in the most ordinary of miracles
When all give all that they can, so,
all are fed

all receive enough for their needs
and all share in the Kingdom of God

Leader: Christ has no hands but our hands

ALL: NO HANDS BUT OUR HANDS TO DO GODS WORK I THE WORLD

Leader: Christ has no lips but our lips

ALL: NO LIPS BUT OUR LIPS TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

Leader: Christ has no love but our love;

ALL: NO LOVE BUT OUR LOVE TO SHARE WITH THE COMMUNITY, WITH EACH OTHER,
THE IMPRISONED, THE SILENCED, THE PERSECUTED, THE MARGINALISED

*Enjoy the gift of this day together,
and as you share in fellowship thank God for the gift of love, and the gifts, talents and relationships we
have been given. Let us use them to glorify God.*

(Resources from Holy Ground, Neil Paynter & Helen Boothroyd, Wild Goose Publications,
2008)

The Power of a Praying Church (Acts 4:23-37)

Prayer is the very life of the Church. It is the life of the Church's individual members, of the Church's worship and of the Church's varied activities. In a praying Church there is a recognition of the supreme importance of prayer, and therefore there is a spontaneous desire. In a praying Church the eyes of faith and expectancy are towards the Lord (Psalm 62 v 5). In a praying Church there is an overwhelming desire to obey the Lord's commission to evangelise the world. In a praying Church there is faith to demand miracles. In a praying Church the Holy Spirit manifests his presence and power. In a praying Church there is a mighty power in the preaching of the gospel. In a praying Church there is a great grace in the lives of people.

Will you do your part, God helping you, to make our Church a praying Church?

Prayer triplets have been a suggestion where small groups of 3 people or possibly 4 meet on a regular basis to pray. You get started by setting up a prayer triplet yourself. Just think of 2 friends with whom you could imagine yourself with and ask them. Basically find a time that suits you and agree to stick to it. Prayer has the potential to bear great fruit and to release God's power in our midst (Matthew 18 v20)

Jill Blackburn

Ring pulls

Heather recently sent off over a kilogram of ring pulls and received the following message of thanks from Purple Community Fund (formerly known as The Philippine Community Fund)

“Thank you so much for sending ring pulls to PCF. These items are greatly appreciated and will be up cycled into beautiful accessories and handbags. Each ring pull collected is worth 4p to PCF so everyone is a huge help.”

Heather adds her thanks for all her faithful collectors.

A Recipe for Committee Making

Choose carefully from six to twelve persons, not more, as too many cooks spoil the broth. They should be firm, fairly thick skinned, and full of good works.

Add one ounce of sense (the common kind) per person, a similar amount of humour, and a sprinkling of brains, if obtainable.

Allow a small quantity of tongue to each person, one large spoonful of patience, the same of good temper and a grain of salt.

Lastly, throw in a few ideas which must be good and fresh, and one well prepared agenda (not too fat).

Cook gently for one hour keeping an even temperature. If the mixture should boil too quickly, pour on a little oil. Strain out all the trifles, being careful to retain a good temperature, and, if necessary, thrash out the larger items.

When finished, it should be quite clear and ready to be dished up in a few minutes.

N.B. It is a good plan to let the ideas simmer for a little while beforehand, as this saves time in the cooking.

(With thanks to Derek for this “recipe”.)

Circuit Celebration – Sunday 10 July

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| Date: | Sunday 10 July |
| Time: | 11am -2.30pm |
| Venue: | York Barbican |
| Who is invited: | Everyone! There will be groups for children and youth and a crèche. |
| Cost: | None- it’s completely free! |
| Will there be food and drink? | Tea and coffee will be available during the day and a light lunch will be provided. |
| Do I need to book? | If at all possible- we need to know numbers for catering. |
| How do I book? | Complete a booking form (available soon) and return to the Circuit Office. |

So what's going to be happening?

Speakers

We're delighted that Revd Steve Wild, Methodist President of Conference 2015-16 will be joining us. Rachel Lampard, Vice-President of Conference 2016-17 will be coming and we hope will speak about her work with the Joint Public Issues Team who address and challenge the church on social justice issues. Revd Sarah Bullock, Archdeacon of York will be bringing greetings from the Anglican church.

Music

We will be joined by One Sound, formerly the MAYC Youth Orchestra and Singers, (<http://onesound.org.uk/>) who will be leading us in worship in a variety of styles as well as performing during the day.

Children & young people

We are planning for part of our worship to be suitable for all ages. For the rest of the day we will be offering quality activities for children and young people. Our children's work will be run by Big Ministries (<http://www.bigministries.co.uk/>) who will be providing a great experience for those between 5 and 11 years old. We would ask parents to supervise their own children over lunchtime.

Methodist Youth President Craig Gaffney will be coming to lead our youth sessions. Craig comes highly recommended by those involved in the YPS scheme so this promises to be a great experience for young people.

We hope to offer a crèche for under 5's with qualified staff. More news soon!

Video

There will be a video showing what's been going on in church and circuit life over the past year. We're looking for volunteers to help create this.

Frequently asked questions

Why are we doing this?

We believe that there is value in bringing people together from across the circuit to worship and encourage each other, to celebrate the good things that are happening and think about the future. When our Sunday congregations are small it can be really encouraging to see that we're part of a bigger family. We hope the event will provide a quality time of worship and inspiration, celebrating our unity, affirming our vision and generating momentum for the coming year.

Why 'together'?

We want this to be an event where people from across the Circuit can celebrate and worship together- this has been a much appreciated part of previous Circuit Celebrations. We also want to encourage people to think about what we can do together- in discipleship and in mission- both as a circuit and with other churches in our communities.

Why a Sunday? Why won't there be any other services?

We want as many people to be able to come as possible. Sunday morning is the time when most people are free from other commitments at work or in the community. We want the event to be a gift to everyone, a day when they are free from preaching or stewarding commitments. Our usual circuit events attract around 250 people- this time we want to include everyone who would worship in our churches on a Sunday- nearer 1000. Don't think of it as closing your church, but of the Circuit opening a bigger one for the day!

Why do I need to book? How do I book?

We need a good idea of numbers for the caterers, and also to make sure there are the right number of adults supervising the children's activities. We also will need to know of any food allergies or special requirements. Booking leaflets will be circulated to churches in the spring.

How will we get there?

We don't want travel to stop anyone coming, so we are going to arrange coaches to pick people up from the villages and outskirts of York. More information about the coaches will be circulated once we have a better idea of how many we will need- we will probably ask for a small contribution towards costs.

For those who choose to drive, discounted passes for parking in the Kent Street car park opposite the Barbican will be available from the Barbican box office.

I have difficulty getting places- will I be able to come?

If you have difficulty getting about please let us know when you book, and we'll make sure someone is able to help you and make provision for accessible transport where that's needed. Some disabled parking spaces are available at the Barbican, and more are available in Kent Street car park just across the road. The Barbican is accessible for people with disabilities, there is flat access to the auditorium.

Where's the money coming from?

The church at Melbourne Terrace have very kindly given a grant to cover around half of the cost of the event. There is also the possibility of a District grant. The rest will come from the MTM fund- a circuit fund for supporting and encouraging mission. The event will be free for those attending.

Why are we spending money on this, rather than having the kind of Circuit AGM we've had before?

We want the day to be one that everyone is able to enjoy without having to put a lot of effort in, and where everyone can enjoy fellowship together. That means we are paying for people to lead our children's and youth activities rather than asking our own youth leaders to do this, and for people to lead us in music and worship rather than finding our own musicians. This will hopefully contribute to a feeling of celebration and togetherness.

In the Old Testament festival days were appointed, where God's people were to gather together in Jerusalem to worship and celebrate together, praising God for how he had rescued them from Egypt and given them their own land. In his first miracle, Jesus turned water to wine, showing God's abundant love and encouraging us to celebrate him and party!

To find a venue big enough for everyone in the Circuit to have the opportunity to come together in this way to celebrate we have had to look at a bigger venue than any of our chapels- and indeed bigger than most meeting-spaces available in York. That's something to celebrate!

So...why should I go?

Because it will be a great time of worship together with others from across the circuit, and an opportunity to think about what the circuit's vision means for you and your church. Don't miss out!

Stop the genocide

Since mid-2014 ISIS has been conducting a well-documented campaign of terror across Syria and Iraq against minority groups such as Christians, Yazidis and Shias. To date, thousands of men, women and children have been tortured and murdered. As Christians, we need to ask whether we can remain silent. We must be a voice for the voiceless.

The tragedy in Syria and Iraq can make us feel powerless to do anything to help, but one thing we can do is to support Premier Christian Radio's "Stop the Genocide" campaign. Go to <http://www.stopthegenocide.org.uk>.

The next newsletter will be issued on Sunday 17 April. Please send articles, photographs, reports of events etc. to the church office by Thursday evening 14 April..