

With Linthwaite Methodist ChurchWebsite www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

April	7	9.30am	Revd Joanna Brown
	14	9.30am	Mrs Elaine Nixon
	21	9.30am	Easter Day Communion Service led by Revd Sue Burton
	28	10.30am	Joint Service at Marsden – Mr John Mason

Anyone requiring a lift to and from Church, please ring John Liversidge on 842063 or 07903 747672

Minister: Revd Sue Burton 15 Priestley Grove, Taylor Hill, HD4 7RG Phone 300097
e mail sueburton@googlemail.com

Dear Friends

Unexpected encounters – we all have them, don't we? This week Richard and I were travelling down to Henley-on-Thames to walk some more of the Thames Path. I was in a service station, glancing at the newspaper headlines outside WH Smith when I heard someone behind me say 'hello' – a church member at Holmfirth who was also travelling down the M1 that morning. I've also met people I know in overseas airports on a few occasions and have been able to while away the time in conversation as we were waiting to board our planes.

The unexpected encounter can sometimes be embarrassing if, like me, you are good at recognising faces but can't always put a name to them. I'm particularly poor at this when I see someone I know (sometimes quite well) out of context. After the initial 'hellos' you start a conversation, hoping that something that is said by the other person that will give a clue as to who they are. I remember one occasion very early in ministry when this didn't work and I had to ask the person to remind me who they were – a very awkward moment as they turned out to be a church member!

I wonder how the two followers of Jesus felt in the unexpected encounter they experienced in the story of the journey to Emmaus in Luke's Gospel. They were no doubt in a state of confusion arising from the strange news brought to them of the empty tomb and the stories of the women at the tomb having visions of angels announcing that Jesus was alive.

Strange indeed: we can perhaps imagine the conversation between these two travellers, playing through in their minds the scenario that had been described to them and debating whether this could be true and whether anything they heard could relieve the sadness they felt at the loss of their friend. And then they meet a man they do not recognise, at least not until they reach their destination and invite the stranger in to join them for food. Only when he takes the bread and blesses it do they realise that they are in the presence of Jesus.

An unexpected encounter – I wonder how the two felt when they realised that they were in the presence of Jesus – were they embarrassed at not recognising him? Even when they were engaged in conversation they did not realise who was walking alongside them. As they reflected on this they began to appreciate that something very special had happened on the road between Jerusalem to Emmaus, something they had felt at the time but were not able to process until later.

This story in Luke's Gospel gives some food for thought during Lent and beyond: how do our encounters, unexpected or not, change us, and are we prepared for this to happen, even when we find this uncomfortable and challenging?

May your encounters during Lent be productive and rewarding.

Best wishes to you all

Sue

Lent conversation group

Revd. David Bidnell has kindly offered to lead a Lent group for us this year. There are two sessions left on Tuesday lunchtimes: 26th March and 2nd April. The sessions will begin with soup, served at 1.00pm, after the Friendship Hour, and will finish by 2.15 at the latest.

All are very welcome to attend: you don't need to commit to both sessions, but we'd love to see you there.

Sue,

Please turn over

United by the Church

Saturday, March 16th **David Evans and Kate Edmondson.** We offer them our sincere congratulations and very best wishes for their future life together.

Remembered by the Church

Hilary Baxter who died peacefully at home on March 12th aged 76 years, finally losing her battle against the illness which she endured with courage and cheerfulness. We send our heartfelt thoughts to Suzanne and Diane and all the family as we remember them in our prayers.

Hilary's funeral service is at our church on Friday, April 5th at 1pm.

Hilary has been part of Linthwaite Methodist Church all her life. From Sunday school scholar, Youth Club member, Sunday School teacher, Playgroup, Refreshment stall at the Bazaar, Thursday Fellowship and in later years as a Pastoral Leader, Church Steward and Worship Leader. She also helped form the very successful Luncheon Club six years ago. She was a long-standing member of Linthwaite Methodist Players acting in numerous plays, and latterly as prompter and in charge of refreshments and raffle etc. She was a member of Linthwaite Methodist Tennis Club, playing for many years and also organising social events and fund-raising.

Whenever there were things to organise, work to do, Hilary was there. She had a very caring nature and was always the first to help anyone in trouble. She will be sadly missed.

Jennifer Hirst

Flower List

Apr	7	Margaret Sykes	21	Flower Fund
	14	Suzanne & Diane	28	Sue & David Haigh

Welcomers in Vestibule

Apr	7	Keith & Janine Fielding	21	Beryl Woodward & Pat Harling
	14	Ted & Dorothy Duggan	28	Margaret Sykes & Alice Mowbray

Cleaning Rota

Apr	7	Jennifer Hirst & Janine Fielding	21	Margaret Moriarty & Maureen Stead
	14	Mairi MacKay & Sue Howard	28	

Thursday Fellowship at 2.30pm

Mar	21	Margaret Laycock	My Music
Apr	4		AGM

Diary

Tues	Apr	2	Church Council Meeting at 7.30pm
Sat	Apr	13	Messy Church 4pm – 6pm. Topic is based on Trees but with an Easter link.
Thurs	Apr	18	Maundy Thursday Joint Communion Service at Slaithwaite led by Revd Sue. Light refreshments at 7pm, service at 7.30pm
Sun	Apr	21	Easter Day Communion Service led by Revd Sue at 9.30am

Please turn over

Further date for your diary

Linthwaite Methodist Young Players present **Hans Christian Anderson and Co** in the Church Centre on Thursday & Friday, May 16 & 17 at 7.15pm and Saturday, May 18 at 2.30pm. Adults £5, children £3. Booking from Mairi on 852300 from April 15th, but please note tickets must be collected and paid for in advance.

Ecumenical Services

I'm writing in connection with the Colne Valley Churches Together ecumenical services. Although these have been enjoyed by those who have attended them over the years, the numbers have reduced over recent months, due to various circumstances. The number of churches willing or able to host has also decreased.

The committee has decided that the services have now run their course and it is time to finish. This will be disappointing to some, but St. James' Slaithwaite have offered an alternative. They host a faith lunch and service, generally fortnightly: the upcoming dates are the 1st, 15th and 22nd May, the 12th and 26th June, and the 10th and 24th July. They would be delighted to welcome people from other churches to join them for these.

It has been good to meet together for conversation and worship over the years and to develop friendships. The committee would like to thank all who have been involved in taking the services and serving coffee.

With best wishes

Wendy Blackburn, on behalf of the Colne Valley Churches Together Committee.

Thanks

Pauline Davin wishes to say thank you to the church for the beautiful flowers she has received, also the good people for their concerns and good wishes, in particular Sue (Haigh) and Linda (Nuttall) for their help and support.

Money Matters

Sunday collections for February amounted to £1220. This includes monies paid directly into the bank and as usual is for church funds.

Jenny Sutherland Church Treasurer

Can anyone finish the poem?

There's a beautiful valley not far from my home, Where my feet often wander and thought often roam.
'Tis a jewel in a setting of silver and gold And tales of it's glory will never grow old ...

These words were quoted by Jane Stross in her eulogy to her father Colin Broadbent during his funeral here at Linthwaite on February 12th. Jane said that Colin had told her that this poem had been written by his Aunt Alice Quarmby after a memorable walk in the Wessenden Valley but that was as much as she could remember. I am including this snatch of the poem in 'Link' in the hope that one of our widespread readers, possibly related to Alice Quarmby, may be able to complete the poem. If you can please contact me through 'Link' and I will pass the information to Jane who will be delighted to have the full text of the poem that meant so much to her father.

Ian Baxter

Did You Know? By Mike Shaw

Now that we are used to large municipal authorities, it may come as a surprise to realise that Linthwaite had a council of its own for 37 years. It was formed at the start of the twentieth century, along with other urban districts, including Marsden, Slaithwaite and Golcar. There are still traces of the old Linthwaite Council, such as the old Town Hall in Manchester Road, Bargate, and buildings at Guy Edge which were used as stables and a separate mortuary. A green lane was used by the council to move goods to and from the stables at Slant Gate. In 1937 the Linthwaite, Slaithwaite, Golcar, Marsden and Scammonden councils were amalgamated to form Colne Valley Urban District Council, whose headquarters were firstly at Slaithwaite Town Hall, Lewisham Road and later in former mill offices in New Street, Slaithwaite. *Continued*

Please turn over

Did You Know? By Mike Shaw (continued)

Notable works carried out by the council included housing estates in each ward apart from Scammonden. The largest of Linthwaite's three sites was the Ridgeways, with 70 houses; the other two were at Causeway Side and The Lodge. The council also laid a trunk sewer to take all the mills' run-off liquid, and set up smokeless zones which were incomplete when, in 1974, Colne Valley and many other authorities were merged to form the sprawling Kirklees District Council, stretching from Dewsbury to Standedge.

The Welcome Centre Foodbank

Current shortages are:- Tinned vegetables, tinned fruit and tinned meat: Jars of jam and meat paste: Toothpaste, toilet rolls, kitchen utensils including pans and cooking trays: Vegetable and cooking oil: cup-a-soups. Please put in the box in the vestibule.

Community Cards

Four years ago, when I was thinking about retiring, I knew I would need a little project to occupy my time. I also wanted something that wasn't a hobby but a way of giving back. I came across Community Cards and the whole concept appealed, but what was much more heartening was the support of the Church when I suggested it, and from that we formed our own card making group. Meeting twice a month, we have, on average 14 card makers producing over 200 cards each session, with group members coming from Slaithwaite, Marsden, Golcar, Berry Brow as well as Linthwaite. Donations of cards continue to come in, and the sales have been fantastic with more outlets coming on board – the most recent is the ENT oncology at Acre Mills, Lindley, our 21st 'shop.'

A landmark this week, our sales have topped £10,000! and at 50p or £1 each this is phenomenal - and all made by our group!

Only the cost (52%), of the materials to make the cards is deduction from the money passed over to the Welcome Centre and collectively Community Cards has to date donated £17,000 – in seven years.

Many thanks to all our supporters, who provide the cards to upcycle, the card makers, the sellers and those who buy – we do make a difference. Mairi

OLD FOLKS' TREAT

Last year we had to rearrange the Treat because of the snow, this year we only had to contend with the rain and wind! However, the sun shone inside the building with an army of helpers and lots of happy guests.

Many thanks to everyone who came and helped, from the shoppers, the food preparers, the bus stewards, the 'taxi' drivers, the waitresses, the washers up, the kitchen staff, the carvers, the servers, the singers, the pianist, the tidy uppers – far too many to mention. Once again, we had a good support from people in the village who answered the call. THANK YOU! Mairi

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

This year's anniversary, through necessity, will have to be rather different having virtually no regular attendees. Church Council expressed a wish to still have a SS Anniversary service and celebrate the good things that were done. As I can see that future years will follow the same pattern I would like to take just one area of memories this year- musical ones! If any of you are willing to share musical memories of Sunday School and/or anniversaries please let me know. Either you could share them or I will ask other people to read them on the day. We will hopefully sing a good selection of hymns/songs you remember as well! Sue Howard

Edited and typed by Jennifer Hirst

Items for inclusion in the May 2019 edition of the Link to reach me by Sunday April 21st please

Phone 654288 or email hirst.avondale@btinternet.com

