

With Linthwaite Methodist ChurchWebsite www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

Services	April	3	9.30am	Revd Tim Moore
		10	9.30am	Revd Sue Burton
		17	9.30am	Easter Day Communion Service led by Revd Sue Burton
		24	10.30am	Joint Service at Golcar led by Revd Andrew Marchington

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Dear Friends

Richard and I recently re-joined the National Trust. We are looking forward to visiting various attractions in the coming months, although I suspect that the places in Devon we would like to visit on our break there in early April will not open until after Easter. One of the places we went to when we were previously members was Calke Abbey in Derbyshire, which some of you may know. It's quite unlike any other stately home, with peeling paintwork and abandoned rooms, telling the story of a country house in decline and a family who wouldn't move on and never threw anything away! We found it fascinating.

For me, one of the messages of Easter is about moving on, taking the best of the familiar with us and also looking to new beginnings. The disciples must initially have felt bereft, that what had come to be familiar to them – their relationship with Jesus, his ministry to those in need, their new way of life – was now in tatters.

And yet they had not been abandoned - theirs was not to be a ministry that was in decline, but in fact would blossom and flourish in a way they could never have imagined. They were enabled to take with them the best of the familiar and leave behind the doubts (yes, even Thomas!) and the fears that had overtaken them in the week leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus.

So what does this Easter mean to us? Is it a time of moving on, of assessing what is important to us and keeping hold of that? Is it a time of looking to the future and seeing what God wants of us as individuals and as churches over the coming weeks and months? I would suggest that it is a mixture of the two.

We know how much of a time of change the past two years have been. Perhaps they have given us the opportunity to reassess what is really important to us. Hence the numbers of people, for example, who have taken the decision to move to a quieter area, to leave behind the hustle and bustle of the city for a more peaceful life. Or the people who have decided to work part-time, if that is a financial option open to them, in order to seek a better work/life balance.

I would like to ask all of us what are our priorities in our own Christian lives at this time? And where do we feel God calling us as a church? What is it beneficial to hold on to, and where are we being led in a new direction? Important questions for each one of us to consider. An opportunity to do so as a Circuit will be provided in a series of 'roadshows', open to all, during April and May, to reflect and share together on where we are currently and our priorities for the future of the Circuit. Please look out for further details.

May Easter blessings be with you all.

With my best wishes

Sue

Flower List

April	3	Margaret Sykes	17	Ian & Lesley Baxter
	10	Diane Loftus	24	No Service in our church

Cleaning Rota

April	3	Margaret Moriarty & Maureen Stead	17	Jennifer Hirst & Linda Nuttall
	10	Mairi MacKay & Sue Howard	24	Linda Marshall & Andrea Morley

Thursday Fellowship at 2.30pm

March 31 **AGM**

Messy Church

The next Messy Church will be on April 9th 4pm – 6pm. Suitable for children up to the age of 12 years, who must be accompanied by an adult. At the request of the Church Council the Service on the 8th May will be an All Age Worship celebrating the Sunday School that was, and hopefully some of the children will join us.

Services in Holy Week

Thurs April 14 **Maundy Thursday** Joint service at Slaithwaite, refreshments 7pm, service 7.30pm

Friday April 15 **Good Friday** Joint morning service at Golcar

Sunday April 17 **Easter Day** Communion service led by Revd Sue at 9.30am

Linthwaite Methodist Sports Club

The Sports Club are having a fund-raising **Wine Tasting Evening** on Friday 1st April at Linthwaite Hall Bowling Club at 7.30pm. Price per person is £12.50 which includes supper. For tickets ring Sarah on 07930655377 or see Diane.

Linthwaite Methodist Young Players – Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Make a note in your diaries – to be performed in the Church Centre, May 6 and May 7. Watch out for further details.

Friendship Hour Tuesdays 11.15am – 12.30pm

Friendship hour every Tuesday morning in the Primary Room. Everyone welcome to come along for a chat, sing-along, play dominoes etc and have coffee and biscuits. A suggested donation of £1.50 per person

Retiring Collection for Ukraine

Many thanks to all who donated £200 to this appeal, the Church has added a further £50 and this has now been forwarded to DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) Ukraine Appeal.

Finance & Property Report

As many of you know we have, for several years been trying to ascertain what we can do to repair the windows in the old Sunday School Building. Kirklees were insistent that we repaired the windows and put the current glass panes back in, which we felt was a complete waste of money. Representatives from the Property Committee met with Joanne Balmforth who is the Buildings Conservation Officer for the Methodist Church who can override some of Kirklees's building regulations. We have been advised that where the windows are 'beyond' repair they can be replaced with new, and double glazing can be put in. We are now getting quotes, and hopefully start repairing / replacing the windows in three phases, with the first being the ones facing the yard as you enter the building. The second phase will be the windows overlooking the graveyard, and the double glazing will also make them much more secure. This of course, doesn't come cheap, so as well as trying to obtain grants we shall be upping the fund raising events again, please support us. Joanne has also given us permission, subject to the roof being able to support them to having solar panels fitted on the south side of the Sunday School building. We are currently seeking advise from the 'green' Councillors on Kirklees and hopefully might find a way to making the building greener.

We have always prided ourselves on meeting our Assessment costs (the amount we pay for Ministers and support teams), through our collections. Unfortunately, this will not be the case this year as income has dropped. Whilst we appreciate the cost of living has risen, so has the cost of running the Church. May we ask that you to consider increasing your donation to the Church. Thank you.

‘Recollections’ by Ian Baxter.

Blackmoorfoot Reservoir

You don't have to go as far to find a pleasant place to walk by a large area of water. There are plenty of places not far from here and one of them is just half a mile up the road, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir. Almost as long as anyone can remember the people of Linthwaite and further afield have 'gone round the Res' for leisurely walks.

Blackmoorfoot was brought into use to supply water to the Huddersfield area in 1876. It is unusual in being situated at the top of a hill and not in the valley bottom and as a result has two embankments one on this side and the other on the Helme side. The advantage of its location is that you don't have to pump the water to where it is to be used, it just runs downhill

When I was a boy my parents used to talk about 'going round the reservoir' but we were not able to do it then because of wartime restrictions. You could walk on the road on the north and west sides but not on the tracks on the south and east which you can use today to get right round. Someone thought that the reservoir could be a target for enemy bombers and an army unit was stationed there to set off a smoke screen to hide it if that happened. This was justified by the damage that the RAF did to the Ruhr dams of Germany in May 1943 and the Blackmoorfoot defences were strengthened after that by wire ropes strung from pylons at the corners to catch a low flying aircraft bombing the embankment. Some of you might remember these. Can you imagine the damage that would have been done in the Clough if the dam on this side had been breached?

But on Whit Monday 1944 there was a scare. It was Sunday School sports day but we never got started because it began to rain very heavily. So we came into the billiard room (because the Home Guard were using the Assembly Hall) and had our sports inside. But it continued to rain and rain and rain with thunder and lightning. Someone looked out of the window to see what the weather was doing and saw smoke rolling down the Clough. The thought was that the reservoir had been bombed, but it turned out that the lightning had set off the smoke screen.

When the war ended it was possible to walk all round the reservoir again, but only on the outer roads. However there will be some reading this who remember walking round on the inside paths from Lake House. Mr Jollans, the Huddersfield Corporation Water Engineer who was a member of our Church lived there and for many years they hosted the annual Sunday School picnic and those who wanted to were allowed to walk round the inside paths of the reservoir. It was not until some years later that the inside paths on two sides were opened to the public.

Since then like many of you I have been round many times. It used to be the thing we did after Sunday School in an afternoon many years ago usually finishing at 'Bob's shop' at Blackmoorfoot. This was a wooden hut with an outside seat from which there was a wonderful view down the Clough and across the valley. From the hut Bob Lawton, who lived at Hoylehouse, sold soft drinks and hot Vimto to anyone walking round the reservoir. We sometime went round twice, or came back and went round again after the evening service. Over the years the reservoir has become a resting place for migrating birds and many species not native to this country can be seen there as they pause in their journey to warmer places, and is an important location for the bird watching fraternity.

One memory that some of you shared was the walk round the reservoir in the early hours of the first of January year 2000. We stopped at each corner and sang a Christmas Carol before returning to our Millennium New Year party for bacon sandwiches.

We are very fortunate to have that reservoir of water and all that it has to offer so close to where we live.

Please turn over

Our Superintendent minister Rev Peter Catford has been ‘walking the Circuit,’ during Lent. He has visited Linthwaite twice, and here is his report of the journey so far ..

Walking the Circuit – thoughts on the first few walks

The first two weeks of walking have seen 33 miles covered, 11 churches and 2 graveyards passed through.

Thank you for the welcome, which has been warm and generous, refreshments and a seat - even if my four-footed friend

has washed the floor with her water bowl a couple of times. We have enjoyed meeting people, even if that means you may get bounced, and hearing about the places that make up the circuit. The snapshot of what church means to the congregations across the circuit - and there is a great diversity already, the time to help get a feel of this place and wide range of communities that combine to make up Huddersfield. It has been a privilege to have heard some of the hopes and fears, of dreams and doubts of the people I have met. It has been a most helpful beginning to build a better picture of Huddersfield Methodist Circuit.

It has been a good to join in the buzz of places as people come together, as friendship, love and support is being offered. It has been humbling as people have turned out specially to give a place of rest on the way. The provision of food and drink and even a pocket cross that is now making its way during Lent around the circuit.

I have heard testimony to the pride and love for buildings around the circuit that have and do serve the community through the generosity of the congregations. I have heard the vocalising of tough choices ahead and the reality of the changes that have been taking place for years but have come into sharp focus by Covid and now the rises in living costs which offer us all an opportunity to respond in ways that fit this age, drawn but not limited by the tradition that has brought us this far

I thank God for those who have shared the road and helped me find my way and my bearings as we have picked our way around the odd, unexpected, obstacle as well as choices on paths where the way is not as clear as it looks on the map.

Travelling the road together is a privilege especially as it gives time for conversation and getting to know each other better.

We do make the road by walking, and I am looking forward to the road that lies ahead.

Peter.

If anyone has any item they would like to be included in the next Link please e mail to me at hirst.avondale@btinternet.com. or phone 654288

Thanks, Jennifer