

With Linthwaite Methodist ChurchWebsite www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

Services	Aug	1	9.30am	Revd Sue Taylor
		8	9.30am	Own Arrangement led by Sue Howard
		15	9.30am	Revd Richard Oldroyd including Holy Communion
		22	9.30am	Revd Rosamunde Page
		29	10.30am	Circuit Service at Almondbury

Services for the first three Sundays in August can be watched via Zoom. Maureen will send out an invitation with the meeting ID and password each week. It will be decided in September whether we will continue to Zoom our services, if there is any interest.

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Dear Friends

In the Methodist Church August and September is, for many circuits, a time of farewells and welcomes. In Huddersfield Circuit this year we say goodbye to Revds. David Bidnell and Nancy Ndoho. David has been in Huddersfield for the past 13 years, having come as Superintendent in the former Huddersfield East Circuit in 2008. The two Huddersfield Circuits then merged in 2011 and were joined by the Holmfirth churches in 2014, so David's responsibilities as Superintendent have expanded from eight churches to 30 (until recently when there have been some church closures). I am personally very grateful to David for all his support over the past 13 years, through candidating for the ministry, training and probation. Nancy too started her ministry in Huddersfield, having come to the circuit in 2016 and has in recent years been minister in Golcar, in addition to her other churches. We send them on to York and Walsall respectively, with all good wishes for the future. They will be missed!

In September we will be joined in the Circuit by Revd. Peter Catford, who is coming to us from Stockton Circuit, where he has been Superintendent Minister. In addition to his superintendent responsibilities, he will have pastoral oversight of Outlane and Almondbury churches. Peter will be living 'over the tops' in Saddleworth, where his wife Suva will be ministering, and he will have an office at Outlane. We hope he will be very happy with us.

In addition to staff news, I also wanted to share with you some decisions of the Church Council, following the lifting of restrictions:

It is no longer a legal requirement to wear a mask in church, though we ask that you consider continuing to do so as you move around church.

More chairs have now been put in the worship area – please continue to socially distance as appropriate. We ask that you use the hand sanitiser provided as you enter the vestibule. We will continue to make a note of who is present in case anyone tests positive for Covid, but there will be no need to book in for services.

I shall continue to do communion in a Covid-safe manner.

We shall look to serve tea and coffee after the service again from September.

And the really good news: we will be able to sing again as a congregation! Thanks to those who have enabled us to have music in our services, even when we've not all been able to sing.

We will assess how long we continue to Zoom for, but there will definitely be Zoomed services from Linthwaite on the first three Sundays in August. The final service in August (29th) will be the welcome service for Peter Catford. This will take place at Almondbury, with more details nearer the time of how to access this service.

I'd like to extend my grateful thanks to all who have been involved in any way over recent months as we have negotiated our way through restrictions and the lifting of these. It has not always been easy to work our way through the ever-changing circumstances, but we look forward to better times ahead.

With my best wishes

Sue

Dates for your diary!!!

Saturday, August 14th Alan and Katharine Vautrey's **Open Day** at 19 Mount, Thorn, Wakefield. Morning coffee from 10.30am, lunches from 12noon. Chosen charity is Forget Me Not Children's Hospice. Everyone very welcome to come and enjoy a day out.

Summer Lunch

Andrea is having a '**Summer Lunch**' on **Sunday, September 26th**. Price will be £10 per person and will be served from 1pm onwards. Full details next month.

Messy Church

We hope to open for Messy Church again on Saturday 11th September. The theme will be Noah's Ark. We begin with a game about 4pm followed by what is called 'the celebration' part of Messy Church. This includes a couple of songs, a story and a prayer. By 4.30pm the children begin craft and game activities for about 50 minutes. We then feed the children and provide tea and cakes for the adults.

After such a long break we are not sure how many children will join us but we are willing to work again to reach out to young families. If anyone would like to pop in any time between 4-6pm you would be most welcome.

Sue Howard and the Messy Church Team

How about a good sing?

On September 12th it's an Own Arrangement organised by me so I am going to use the Songs of Praise Top Ten Hymns of 2019. I watched this during Covid. Don't worry it's not going to be too long – not all verses – but I hope you will enjoy coming to listen even if you are not a singer. And it has one or two surprises in the list.

Linda Nuttall

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the leaving gift the church gave to Revd. Dr. David Bidnell as he moves to continue his ministry in York. We gave him £50 in book tokens, and David has sent his grateful thanks for this, it was much appreciated.

Peter Bishop, his brother David and son Daniel completed the Coast to Coast cycle ride in aid of the Bicycles for Uganda appeal. Thank you to everyone who sponsored them, they raised over £4,500.

Bicycles for Uganda

Thank you to everyone who baked, worked, and supported the bicycle coaching, tea and cakes, book stall event on Sunday 25th July. £170 was raised and added to the £200 already received, making a total of £370 sent to All We Can to support this appeal.

Mairi

Property & Finance

A big THANK YOU! to the people who quietly do a lot of work around our premises, the people who cut the grass around the building, carpark, bowling green, tennis club and the main pathways of the graveyard. To those who have painted outside and in, and carried out other maintenance work outside and in. There are still some railings to be painted along with some internal work and then this phase will be finished. We will continue to meet on a Saturday morning until this work is finished.

We have now had more advice on what we can do in regard to the repairing of the Sunday School windows. Unfortunately this will involve applying for planning permission as we want to double glaze the windows. This will take longer than originally anticipated, but we will get there.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously at the Church Anniversary & Gift Day we received £2045. We have invested a lot of time and money into the building this year, which will lay a good foundation for when we can get back to functioning fully as a Church.

Long Distance walking for a good cause

My walking friend Alan has produced a memorial walk for our friend Dr Geoff Aukland. It is from Guy's Hospital where Geoff trained to Oak Tree Surgery in Liskeard, Cornwall. From 16th – 23rd July I joined friends in walking 67 miles along the Thames path from Hampton Court to Goring and Streatley. I am returning in September to walk from north of Bridport to Exmouth – another 60+ miles. I am asking family and friends if they will sponsor me to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. If you want to support this charity you can sign my sheet in church or phone me on 01484 842626 or 07792233939 and I will bring the sponsor sheet to your house. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Linda Nuttall

'Recollections' by Ian Baxter

The night the bomb fell.

Younger readers may not have heard that Linthwaite was bombed during the Second World War, but I can tell you about an occasion when it did happen.

Air raid warning sirens were frequently heard in the early years of the war. Their rising and falling sound sent almost everyone to the nearest shelter with an uneasy feeling of what might happen. Many houses had their own shelter, often a re-enforced cellar with a protected exit while other households used a nearby public shelter, a brick building with a thick concrete roof. There was one of these on the piece of land just west of the entrance to the Church car park. We at Stones Mount did not have a proper shelter but used our small cellar which was under the staircase which was considered to give some protection in the event of damage to the house.

More often than not the siren was a false alarm or had been sounded because enemy aircraft were in the vicinity on their way to a distant target, most probably Manchester or Liverpool. When the raiders had passed the 'all clear', a constant note was sounded. But there was one night when the siren sounded and my mother and father dutifully took me out of bed and went to the cellar where we made ourselves as comfortable as possible on a small bunk to await the expected 'all clear'.

Shortly afterwards there was a loud knock on the door, which was opened to reveal an Air Raid Warden who said that a bomb had fallen down the road which had not exploded and as we were in the danger zone we had to move to a place of greater safety. That place was Clough House, the home of Edith and Percy North, which is just fifty yards further up the drive!

There we found most of the occupiers of houses in Stoney Royd and Stones Lane all of which were in the danger zone. I was put into a cot which my father had brought from home with some other small children, among them Brian and Christine Hirst from Stoney Royd. I must have fallen asleep as I have no memories of the night. I doubt that many of the adults would sleep as they probably spent anxious hours talking and worrying about the safety of their homes.

In the morning news reached us that the bomb had gone off when it fell and we could go home, but we did not go until we had been treated by the Norths to a breakfast that was much better than we could have expected under food rationing.

The bomb had fallen in the south-west corner of our Church graveyard, where a shallow crater was visible until a new ashes plot was created at the end of the twentieth century.

I think that this event took place during the evening of 14th March 1941. It was not reported in the Colne Valley Guardian weekly newspaper on the following Friday due to censorship, though I cannot imagine that German intelligence would read 'The Guardian'. However the paper did report that an event planned to be held at Linthwaite Methodist Church during the previous weekend had been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances!

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