

**With Linthwaite Methodist Church**Website [www.linthwaitemc.co.uk](http://www.linthwaitemc.co.uk)

Services	Dec	5	9.30am	Own Arrangement led by Sue Howard
		12	9.30am	Own Arrangement led by Linda Nuttall – Top Ten Carols
		19	9.30am	Revd Sue Burton – including Holy Communion
			<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>
		24	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Christingle Service – see note below, places must be booked</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Joint Service at <u>Slaithwaite</u> – Revd Sue Burton</b>
		26	9.30am	Revd Andrew Marchington
<b>2022</b>	Jan	2	9.30am	Own Arrangement led by Linda Marshall
		9	9.30am	Revd Philip Barnett
		16	9.30am	Mrs Kimm Brook
		23	9.30am	Revd Sue Burton – including Holy Communion
		30	9.30am	Mr Adrian Burton

**Christingle Service – numbers are limited, so if you would like to come to the service please ring Linda Marshall on 07535 250807 to book your place. We regret there will be no entry if you haven't booked.**

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

Dear Friends

Last week I read a newspaper article reporting on a sighting of the Northern Lights near York the previous evening, with a suggestion that they were likely to be visible again in our part of the world that evening. I wasn't hopeful of seeing them, and never have done, although I'd love to. We've been to northern Scotland a number of times and also to Iceland, though not at the right time of year. But we have driven through Glencoe in the Scottish Highlands on our way back from Fort William and been taken aback by the wonderful sight of bright shafts of early morning sunlight coming through the dark clouds and illuminating the glen with the most amazing, almost eerie, light. So much so that all we could do was stop the car and gaze in awe. Perhaps not as spectacular as the Northern Lights, but a breath-taking sight nonetheless. Such a contrast to other times we've driven that way when the surrounding mountains seemed quite forbidding, especially on a gloomy day. Glencoe – if we remember our history lessons at school we may well have learnt about the massacre of the MacDonald clan by soldiers led by Captain Robert Campbell. Soldiers who had been given hospitality in the houses of the MacDonalds.

As we move into Advent and the Christmas period we remember that Jesus was born into a world of occupation, often of violence. We revisit the stories in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, with their unique accounts of the Nativity. Knowing that the cosy images we see on our Christmas cards do not depict the whole reality. A young mother giving birth far from home after a long and difficult journey, visited by strangers from the east who were given hospitality by King Herod, only to realise that he was trying to trick them. The story of a family who became refugees.

A story of contrasts – of light and darkness, of love and the joy of new birth and of difficult situations. A story of awe and wonder and of the harsh realities that confronted the Holy Family. I take with me into Advent this year not only the Christmas card images, but also the image of Glencoe, of the contrast of the striking light and the forbidding majesty of the mountains; of the peace of that August morning as we absorbed the beauty of our surroundings, and the knowledge of its dark history.

Over the next few weeks we will encounter the various aspects of the Nativity story. As we hear the familiar passages and sing the familiar carols, we are invited to enter into the joy and the pain, and experience the darkness and the light. But above all, to experience the deep peace of the Christ child, because at the heart of it all was a baby, a baby who came as the Prince of Peace and who wants to bring peace into our hearts and our lives too.

With my best wishes for a peaceful Christmas

Sue

## Received into the Church by Holy Baptism

21<sup>st</sup> November **Summer Rose Wiggins- Smith** daughter of Susan and Sean

### Flower List

Dec	5	Molly Myers	Dec	19	Margaret Moriarty in Remembrance
	12	Linda Nuttall		26	Christmas Holly

### 2022

Jan	2		Jan	23	Sue and David Haigh
	9	Jackie and Adrian Calverley		30	
	16				

There is a Flower List on the Notice Board for 2022. Anyone who would like to put flowers in Church or would like to give Margaret money for her to get some, please put your name on your chosen day. Also Margaret asks that you let her know of anyone you would like flowers sent to. Thank you.

### Cleaning Rota

Dec	5	Margaret Moriarty & Maureen Stead	19	Linda Marshall & Andrea Morley
	12	Mairi MacKay & Sue Howard	26	Jennifer Hirst & Linda Nuttall

### Thursday Fellowship at 2.30pm

Dec	2	Josephine Daker	<b>Entertains</b>
	16	Martin Bashforth	<b>Christmas Meeting</b>

### Friendship Hour Tuesdays 11.15am – 12.30pm

Friendship hour is back 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.

### Linthwaite Methodist Young Players present 'WINTER WONDERLAND'

In the Church Centre on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7pm  
and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm

Adults £5 Children £3 **Please note because of restricted numbers Tickets must be purchased beforehand** - ring Maureen Stead on 07904 433094

Any donation of a raffle prize will be gratefully received – to Linda Marshall

### Two Carol Services

1. U3A (University Third Age) Thursday 9 December 2021 Huddersfield Parish Church at 10.30 am. You do not have to be a member of U3A to come and share in this service.
2. MWiB Methodist Women in Britain, Friday 10 December 2021 Lindley Methodist Church at 2.00pm. This is the annual Carol Service that has been held at the Mission for many years on a Friday morning. For various reasons this has now been moved to a "local church". Please come and share with us.

Lesley Baxter

### Church Christmas Card

Sue will be publishing a 'Christmas Card' again this year. If you would like to put a message to all your Church friends in the card please do the following - write your message on an envelope and inside the envelope put your donation (money received goes towards the cost of the Christingles for Christmas Eve). Give the envelope to Sue no later than Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The card will be given out at the two services on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and again after the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. Thank you.

### Carol Singing

Parties will leave Church after the Carol Service on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, and on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. The singers will be covering the area of Linthwaite from Causeway Side down towards Cowlersley, and if anyone would like them to stop and sing outside their house, please let Linda Nuttall or Mairi know.

## Thanks

To the lovely people who attended/supported the event to raise money for the Admiral Nurses, Dementia UK fund. Through your generosity a very nice sum of £200 was raised. Thank you all very much.

**Mavis Hemingway**

**Beryl Woodward** sends her thanks for the lovely flowers she received recently when she was not very well. They were much appreciated

## Appeal from the Welcome Centre

With food poverty at a record high and the recent cuts to universal credit, people within our community are facing a tough winter ahead.

With your help, we can add a little happiness and make Christmas a little easier for those individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. So for the week before Christmas, every client we support will receive a freshly cooked Christmas lunch ready for Christmas Day, as well as a few other festive treats along the way. For the first time, we'll be taking part in **The Big Give Christmas Challenge** and we need your help. Between 30<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> December, our Big Give champions will be matching your donations. So your gifts made on our Big Give page during those days will have twice the impact. That means that we'll be able to provide up to 500 clients with a festive lunch for Christmas day as well as food packs for hundreds of other clients.

The Big Give launches on Giving Tuesday, so if you plan to make a donation to the Welcome Centre this year, you can make your donation work harder by donating on our Festive 500 page between 30<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Visit the Welcome Centre Big Give website for details of how to donate. Donations to the match funded Big Give can only be made online, and if you can gift aid this will turn £20 into £45!

## Meeting of Colne Valley churches

During the first week in November representatives of the Colne Valley Methodist churches, plus Meltham, met together at Marsden to look at ways in which we could continue and further develop our working together (we already have an excellent example at Linthwaite in the community cards project). As you may know, there are now four ministers working in this area: Rev. Sue Taylor at Golcar, Rev. Roz Page at Parkwood, Rev. Andrew Marchington at Marsden and Meltham, and me with you and at Slaithwaite.

The areas we started to consider were worship, children and young people's work and tackling social isolation. On worship there was a general agreement that we would like to meet together from time to time. A joint service at Slaithwaite, to be led by Rev. Sue Taylor on 20<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30 a.m., had already been agreed and put on the plan. We hope that there will be a good attendance for this service (any Covid restrictions permitting). When we have worshipped together in the past there has been a feeling of togetherness, and the opportunity to sing together has been appreciated. You will also have seen from the notices that a joint Advent study group (via Zoom) is being offered this year.

We also started to consider what we could offer to children and young people, over and above what is already being provide by our various Messy Churches and Junior Churches (particularly potentially for those in the early years of High School), and how we could offer support to people who are feeling isolated, which has been a particular issue during the pandemic.

It felt to be a positive meeting and we hope that good things can come from this. Initially the four ministers will meet together to consider what came out of this meeting and how we can progress things, but I wanted to take this opportunity to put you all in the picture. If you have any ideas about working together and supporting each other as individuals/churches/communities in this area please get in touch.

With best wishes

Sue

## Christmas Wreaths

Linda Nuttall will put a Christmas wreath on a grave for a small charge plus the cost of the wreath, with the money going towards the upkeep of the graveyard.

## Messy Church

We have been encouraged by the numbers of children who attended the November Messy Church. With 23 children plus as many adults, we nearly ran out of activities and food! Fortunately, Andrea managed to eke out the jacket potatoes, beans and cheese and there was lots of cakes!

The next Messy Church will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm



## Financial Matters

We are putting up signs with a QR code around the cemetery, grounds and building inviting people to make a donation towards the cost of the upkeep. The QR code is already on our website and facebook page. Whilst there is a small charge to us for this service from the provider, it has already brought some money into the Church. If you would like to make a donation directly into the Bank please contact us for the details.

## Old Folks Treat

Due to the difficulty in getting collectors and the risks involved with the pandemic, we have decided not to hold the house to house collection. Donations will still be accepted and we are looking at other ways of raising funds. We hope to hold the treat as usual in March 2022

## ‘Recollections’ by Ian Baxter

### Some thoughts about Christmas past.

During Lockdown I bought many books, among them being one entitled ‘Christmas at War’, a compilation of true stories of how Britain came together in adversity during the Second World War. Reading this book made me recollect some similar experiences and I would like to share some my past Christmases with you.

I was born one year before the outbreak of war in 1939 and have always been thankful not to have been born a few years earlier. Those who were would have known a few years of relative plenty, then deprivation, while I have no memories before 1941, and grew up in a world of rationing, shortages and the nightly blackout. We did however have Christmas. We spent Christmas day at Wyngarth, Stones Lane with my father’s parents and Boxing Day at Black Rock Farm with my mother’s family the Lockwood’s. I do not remember turkey ever being on the menu, but we did have chicken and pork at the farm because my grandfather kept hens and pigs. Christmas presents were few, and in the middle of the war manufacturing of metal toys was banned as the metal was required for munitions. This resulted in some wonderful toys made out of wood given to children at Christmas. I started school in 1943 and remember sticking strips of coloured paper together to make paper chains to decorate the classroom.

In the 1950’s I left the Sunday School and moved into the Young Men’s class. I was then eligible to help at the Old Folk’s Treat and to join the carol singing parties that went out to raise money for the Treat. We sang round the village during the week before Christmas, with our last outing at midnight on Christmas Eve. In those days it was the Young Men who took the collection on Christmas morning and it was said that some of them who were members of the Men’s Institute, returned to the Sunday School after singing, then played billiards until it was time to go out with their collecting boxes!

Since those days we have had family gatherings hosted by another generation of the family at several houses, the record attendance being 46 in a bungalow! Our branch of the family broke with tradition by going to Raven Hall Hotel at Ravenscar for Christmas 2007, and have been back there in 2010 and 2019. We also spent Christmas in London with Ruth in 2014, where we were expecting to worship at St. Sepulchre, the church Ruth attends in the City on Christmas Eve, but were surprised to be taken round to reserved seats in nearby St. Paul’s Cathedral because the Vicar of St. Sep’s was needed to help with the Midnight Mass at the Cathedral.

Last year we had a very quiet Christmas, only meeting others to sing carols in the field on Christmas afternoon, but hopefully this year will be normal and those traditional events that we have enjoyed for so long will again be part of it.

**If anyone has any item they would like to be included in the next Link please email to me at [hirst.avondale@btinternet.com](mailto:hirst.avondale@btinternet.com). or phone 654288**

**Thanks, Jennifer**