

With Linthwaite Methodist Church

Website www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

Services	Feb	6	9.30am	Mrs Elaine Nixon
		13	9.30am	Revd Richard Oldroyd
		20	10.30am	United service at Slaithwaite Revd Sue Taylor
		27	9.30am	Revd Sue Burton – including Holy Communion

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Dear Friends

I don't know if it's a sign of getting older, but I as I look back to childhood I seem to remember that the school summer holidays were comprised entirely of lovely sunny days when I was able to play out all the time. I'm sure that wasn't the case and that there were as many wet days as sunny ones!

One of the other things I also remember is a lack of commercialisation around festivals and annual events, which I would argue is a truer reflection. I don't remember, for example, the build up to Christmas in the shops starting in early October or Easter eggs being on sale almost as soon as the Christmas cards have been removed from the shelves. Nor do I remember the commercialisation around Mothering Sunday or Valentine's Day that we experience today. Yes, there were cards, but I'm not sure that we were encouraged to part with as much money on expensive flowers or chocolates as we are now.

Valentine's Day gets its name from a famous saint, thought to be a priest from Rome in the third century AD. The story goes that he was thrown into jail by Emperor Claudius II for arranging marriages in secret, following a decree that banned marriage (the Emperor thought that married men made bad soldiers). In prison he fell in love with his jailor's daughter and before his execution sent her a love letter signed 'from your Valentine'. Having a particular Valentine's Day is a very old tradition, which the Christian church turned into an annual day both to remember St. Valentine and to celebrate love.

Whatever the truth behind the origins of this particular celebration, surely love is something we should celebrate. Love is mentioned hundreds of times in the Bible. Different kinds of love, including 'agape' – the love that comes from God, the kind of self-sacrificing love that was shown by Jesus on the cross, and 'philo' – which is the love we experience for our friends, the type of love that goes beyond just a casual friendship but really cares deeply about the other person.

In particular I always like to revisit two Bible passages about love – the well-known verses from 1 Corinthians chapter 13, and also 1 John 4, 7-12, which finishes with the words 'but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us'. To follow Jesus means to appreciate that that we are loved, loved by others and above all, loved by God.

As we move further into 2022 may God fill our weakness with strength, our brokenness with wholeness and our emptiness with love. And may we share that love with others, for by sharing love it can only grow.

With my best wishes
 Sue

Flower List

Feb	6	Linda Marshall	20	No Service
	13	Joanna & John Ambler	27	Andrea Morley & Beryl Woodward

The new Flower List is 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

Feb	6	Margaret Moriarty & Maureen Stead	20	Jennifer Hirst & Linda Nuttall
	13	Mairi MacKay & Sue Howard	27	Linda Marshall & Andrea Morley

Thursday Fellowship at 2.30pm – Meetings starting again

Feb	3	Liz Bishop	Life as a Refugee
	17	Ruth Sheldrake	Call the Midwife
Mar	3	Sue Wishart	Learn about Dementia (This meeting is open to the Circuit)
	17	Revd Sue Burton	Sabbatical Ramble
	31	AGM	

Old Folk's Treat

We are pleased to say that there will be an Old Folk's Treat this year, on Saturday March 5th 2022, with the first sitting starting at 12.30pm. Invitations are extended to anyone aged 65 years and over, who live in the Linthwaite area. Please ring 852300 for an invitation if you haven't received one in previous years or have just become eligible. To assist with catering, replies must be returned by Monday, February 21st. Replies can be by phoning Mairi on 852300 or email mairi500@btinternet.com, or can be left in the box at Premier Stores, Manchester Road, Haigh & Co., Chapel Hill or the Filling Station on Gillroyd Lane. Thank you. Helpers (must be over 14 years of age) are requested to meet at the Church Centre at 11am on the day.

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.

Thanks

The retiring collection at the **Christingle Service** was £120.64 which has been forwarded to 'Crisis'. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Church Christmas Card. After paying for the Christingles a surplus of £79 has been paid to the Church. Thank you for your generous donations.

Winter Wonderland

Although it was nearly two months ago, I would like to say what a wonderful show the Linthwaite Methodist Young Players performed. The entire cast were brilliant, they sang and danced with such enthusiasm and their smiling, happy faces were a joy to see. Many thanks to the children, to Andrea for the production, Linda for the music, Margaret for the costumes and everyone else involved backstage and front of house. It certainly brightened up a winter's evening and was a very welcome break from all the restrictions. Jennifer.

Finance & Property

Minor repair work continues to be ongoing. This includes two separate crash door handles for the emergency exit from the Church Centre, which makes the opening and closing much easier.

We are still awaiting planning permission to repair the windows in the Old Sunday School building, which as a Grade II listed building we are not allowed to replace with new. For security and containing the heat, we are applying to put in double glazed windows, which is slowing down the granting of permission.

As in our homes, the Church building is also suffering from the immense hike in gas and electricity bills, with costs doubling. We are currently able to meet our costs because of the generous donations from our Church members and also income from hiring out various rooms, but this may change if prices increase much more.

‘Recollections’ by Ian Baxter

Jan of Windmill Land

Does anyone remember Jan of Windmill Land? By the time this article appears it will be seventy-three years since this Operetta was presented by our Sunday School Scholars in the Assembly Hall in January 1949.

This was not a production that featured in my memory much until Sarah Walker gave me a packet of photographs saying ‘you might like to look at these before you pass them on to the Players’ archive’. They had come from her father Granville who died last year, and were photographs of Sunday School pantomimes in the late 1940’s and early 50’s.

I understand that I might have been considered for a principle part in Jan of Windmill Land, but catching Scarlet Fever in November 1948 and spending six weeks in Meltham Fever Hospital stopped that! My great friend and rival, Derek Whiteley got the part of Jan and while I did take part in the show, it was as a Dutch boy in the chorus.

In addition to a photograph of this show there was also a programme which enabled me to try to put names to some of the faces of the children in the show. Sadly, apart from myself, none of these people are still closely associated with this Church, though many of them had been during the intervening years before passing from us.

The already mentioned programme is interesting, but unfortunately does not say who produced the show. The accompanist was Mrs Arnold Copley, formerly Margaret France, the Stage Manager Leslie Whitwam, Electrician Douglas Smith and the scenery painted by Wilfred Broadbent, a team that were to serve in those capacities for many years. A new backcloth painted for this show with a wonderful windmill on it is visible in the picture. There were two advertisers, Bradley & Co of Rose Hill, Marsden a long-gone local manufacturer of Mineral Waters, and F. Crowther, a family butcher of Carr Lane, Slaithwaite, run by a family closely involved in the Centenary Methodist Church in Slaithwaite. Their specialities were Pies, Sausages and Potted Meat!

This packet of photographs has brought back many memories to me and I urge anyone who finds ephemera like this to make notes about the persons in the pictures for the interest of the generations that will follow us.

Link Subscriptions

For those of you who still receive a printed copy of the Link, please note contributions towards the cost of printing and distributing the Link are now due. Could you please let your Linkman or the Link Treasurer, Maureen Stead, have your contribution as soon as possible – a suggested amount for the 10 copies received in the year is £2. For those who receive their Link by post, may we ask that you send £8 to cover the cost of postage and printing.

If you send your payment by post, Maureen’s address is
39 Gordon Street, Linthwaite, Huddersfield HD7 5LN Phone 01484843073

Cheques should be made payable to ‘Linthwaite Methodist Church

Just a reminder that the Link is now on the church website each month, www.linthwaitemc.co.uk. If you wish to use this method of reading the Link instead of having a copy delivered, please let us know. A reminder is sent when it is available on the website.

Thank you.

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

