

With Linthwaite Methodist ChurchWebsite www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

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| Services | July | 4 | 9.30am | Revd Sue Burton- Church Centre Anniversary & Gift Day |
| | | 11 | 9.30am | Own Arrangement – led by Sue Howard |
| | | 18 | 9.30am | Mr Philip McSweeney |
| | | 25 | 10.30am | Circuit Service at Lindley |

Please note only 25 people at each service. Ring Linda Marshall on 07535250807 by Wednesday of each week if you wish to attend.

Services can be watched via Zoom. Maureen will send out an invitation with the meeting ID and password each week.

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

Dear Friends

I have always loved stories, from being told them as a toddler, to beginning to read them for myself, to putting pen to paper (my cousin reminded me recently that as a child I was always writing poems and stories). Over the years I have read many of the classics, some more enjoyable than others, some for studies, some from choice. A genre I particularly enjoy now is crime fiction – sometimes I try to work out in the course of the story ‘whodunit’, at other times I just let the story carry me along and let myself be surprised by the ending (although having said that I’m usually wrong about ‘whodunit’, so that’s usually a surprise ending as well!).

Stories: the topic of my Sabbatical. Over the past three months I have read a number of books relating to storytelling in general and to Biblical storytelling in particular, focusing on Genesis and the parables of Jesus. In addition, I have discovered much more about the story of Huddersfield and surrounding areas by walking the Kirklees Way, a 73 mile circular walk around both North and South Kirklees, a fascinating mix of moorland, gentle countryside, industrial towns and country villages. An accompanying guide book gave me lots of interesting historical and geographical detail about the places I was passing through.

And in May Richard and I walked part of the Becket Way, in the footsteps of both the Canterbury Pilgrims and Thomas a Becket, from Southwark Cathedral in Lambeth to Canterbury Cathedral, where Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, met his end at the hands of King Henry II’s knights. Prior to this, I had read Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales (not in the original Middle English!). Tales of faith, love and heroism, as well as trickery and violence, which made me realise that the same themes have cropped up time and time again in the whole history of storytelling. All life is there, from Biblical and other Ancient Near Eastern stories to the latest novels on the shelves of Waterstones.

All of which got me thinking about the stories we are actually living by, the stories we tell ourselves in order to try to make sense of the joys and sorrows of life. To open our minds and hearts, to gain new hope and to live more fully. A well-written and thought-out story should help us to look beyond ourselves and our own self-interest, to see the world from a different perspective. This is what both the life of Jesus and the stories he told can do for us, if we let them: they can take us both within and beyond ourselves, to learn more about ourselves and about the world around us. Are we open to allowing the story and the stories of Jesus to speak to us in new, creative and imaginative ways? For in so doing these stories can both shape us both as individuals and as faith communities.

With my best wishes
Sue

Remembered by the Church

Pat Morrison who passed away peacefully at Castle Grange Care Home on 26th May aged 81 years. Our love, thoughts and prayers are with John, and Steven and Beccy and their families at this sad time. We remember happy times before her illness when Pat was much involved in church activities.

Cecil Broadbent who died peacefully at Morel Court Care Home in Penarth, Cardiff on 23rd May, aged 99 years. We send our sincere condolences to his family as we remember them in our prayers.

Financial & Property Matters

Thank you to everyone who came and painted, cleaned external doors, cleared weeds, tidied the grave diggers hut and graveyard over the last few Saturdays, it is appreciated.

The Church Centre windows have all been repaired, and now need finishing off with internal preparing and painting. The repairs to the roofing ridges etc., should be carried out over the next few weeks.

We are awaiting confirmation from the Methodist Church Trust as to what we can actually do with the windows on the old Sunday School building, but once again we are tied with Grade II listing status. We hope to start this work in the summer.

The grass in the graveyard grows faster than we can cut it, so a decision was made that we would just keep the paths and the area by the Church cut and employ someone to cut the rest.

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the hanging baskets they are now in place and showing colour.

On the 4th July we will celebrate 30 years since we moved from across the road to our 'new' Church Centre, and we are proud that we still have a presence in the village. It is also our 'Gift Day' and as mentioned above we have some major expensive projects which we need to do to continue with God's message. If you would like to donate but won't be at Church please contact Mairi on 01484 852300 or mairi500@btinternet.com for more information. Thank you.

Summer Lunch

Andrea plans to have a fund raising Summer lunch – watch out for details of date etc.

Bicycles for Uganda – Save the date!

Sunday, 25th July 1pm - 4pm. Through the Methodist Aid relief 'All we can' we are holding a fundraising day to support the Bicycles for Uganda appeal. This will, weather permitting be a bicycle themed event with tea and cakes. Hopefully restrictions will be lifted and if the weather is bad we can hold the event inside.

The three Bishops cycling for Bike for Uganda

There is a sponsor form on the notice board for those who would like to sponsor Liz Bishop's husband Peter, their son Daniel and Peter's brother on their coast to coast cycle.

Used Stamps

I have received a thank you letter from The Leprosy Mission based in Peterborough for the large packet of used stamps that I posted recently. Thank you to all those who continue to save stamps from "snail mail". They continue to help people suffering still from this disease.

The organisation also welcomes postcards and regalia. I do not think there is a lot of spare regalia in Linthwaite – but if anyone has some they wish to dispense with, I am happy to forward to this charity.

Many thanks Lesley Baxter

Huddersfield and District U3A – University of the Third Age

Many of us were able to share in the funeral of Pat Morrison through the marvel that is Zoom. This was a wonderful and uplifting service to celebrate a long and fulfilling life.

You may recall that in the eulogy Rev Sue Pegg mentioned that Pat and John had both been members of the Huddersfield U3A - especially as a member the U3A Choir. U3A in Huddersfield is a strong and lively organisation providing classes and activities for older people. These meet throughout the Winter months – and all during the daytime. There is a joining fee and a small charge for the classes which pays for the cost of room hire.

Many of these classes have managed to continue to meet (through Zoom) during this last Lockdown Winter. Sadly this did not include the Choirs. Hopefully many of the classes will return to their original meeting places to resume “normal activity” during the coming Winter. A variety of venues are used which are scattered around the town. Huddersfield & District U3A is run entirely by volunteers.

If you would like a new challenge for the coming months further information can be found on the U3A website - huddersfieldu3a.org. Facebook – Huddersfield & District U3A.

By email to the office – office@huddersfieldu3a.org.

Telephone to the office on Tuesday & Thursday (the office is staffed by volunteers) 01484 308 482

Lesley Baxter

‘Recollections’ by Ian Baxter

Those present at the service on Sunday May 23rd or joined through Zoom may remember that it was led by the Worship Leaders and the address was about Pentecost. This is a name that came into use recently and previously that time in the Christian calendar was known to us as Whitsuntide. It was a festival that we looked forward to because in contrast to Easter when the weather was frequently cold and wet, Whitsuntide was often better, but not always, as you will read later.

The Sunday School marked the festival with a Whit Monday procession. The earliest that I remember were towards the end of the Second World war. The scholars walked round the village preceded by a brass band, stopping at regular intervals to sing hymns to residents who came out of their houses. There were then races in a field at Black Rock Farm before the participants returned to the Sunday School building for tea. This was probably potted meat or fish paste sandwiches with a piece of home-made cake and possible a desert called ‘blanc mange’. This may not sound very appetising today, but it would be a major achievement for the Ladies of the Church in those days of food rationing and we enjoyed it.

Whit Monday fell on the 29th of May in 1944. The morning was good and the procession took place, but during the races dark clouds gathered and rain began to fall. Races were abandoned and we returned to the Sunday school just before a torrential downpour accompanied by thunder and lightning began. This continued during tea then we gathered in the billiard room which you may recollect from previous ‘reminiscences’ was where many activities took place in those days. I cannot remember what took place but whatever it was ceased immediately when someone who had looked out of the windows on the south side from which there is a good view up the Clough said “there is a lot of smoke coming from Blackmoorfoot”. The first thoughts were that the reservoir at Blackmoorfoot had been bombed. This was not unreasonable as only twelve months earlier the RAF had successfully breached two dams in the Ruhr area of Germany causing much damage in the valleys below them. Retaliation for this raid must have been considered a possibility as a defence system for Blackmoorfoot had been installed a few months afterwards. This consisted of wires weighted by concrete blocks slung from a cable between two pylons at each side of the dams on each side of the reservoir to catch an approaching aircraft.

No water escaped from the reservoir and it was later found that the smoke had been generated by another defence system, a ‘smoke screen’, that had been triggered by lighting which accompanied the ‘cloudburst’ as it was termed.

Linthwaite got off lightly that day but just five miles south-east the township of Holmfirth was severely damaged and lives were lost in a flood resulting from the same cloudburst.

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.

Jennifer

Remember – ring Linda on 07535250807 if you wish to come to the Sunday services.

