

With Linthwaite Methodist ChurchWebsite www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

Services	June	6	9.30am	Revd Sue Burton including Holy Communion
		13	9.30am	Own Arrangement
		20	9.30am	Revd Tim Moore
		27	9.30am	Revd Helen Roberts

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. The Service on Sunday 6th June will be on Zoom until the start of Communion when it will be terminated, the Church service will continue as normal.

Just a reminder that Revd Sue is on Sabbatical until June 1st. Revd David Bidnell is providing cover, phone 423574, and also Linda Marshall is a member of Revd Sue's Sabbatical support group, 07535250807. Please contact either of them if needed.

Dear Friends,

Pentecost Speech and Harmonious Discrepancies

The experience of Pentecost and the impact of God's Spirit, depicted so vividly for us in Acts 2, highlights the significance of language and communication. We know that words we use every day have long histories, many of them coming to us by way of Latin or Greek. "Discrepancy" is no exception. It suggests that something is not quite right, that things do not fit together properly or match one another accurately, that conflict exists between two or more facts or ideas. So there may be discrepancy, or inconsistency, between what people say and what they do, or between figures in one column and in another. Things do not seem to connect. They appear to be out of tune with each other. There is some problem.

We are not bound, however, by this more negative understanding of the word. Interestingly, "discrepancy" comes from a Latin word meaning "to differ in sound" or "to differ in being noisy", suggesting the combination of two particular themes – sound and difference – which just happen to lie at the heart of Luke's Pentecost story in Acts. Yet here there is not confusion or conflict, not inconsistency or alienation. On the contrary, we have a host of people of diverse nationalities and languages being able to make sense of a speech addressed to them in the pattern of their own tongues. There is bewilderment and amazement that country folk from Galilee have the capacity all of a sudden to communicate in this way, and there are questions about the meaning of what is going on, but such queries do not diminish the reality of understanding and harmony which are the focus of this story.

So what about our story? What is true of Jesus, who, filled with the Spirit, draws people into a deeper connectedness; what is true of those first disciples on the day of Pentecost, who, filled with the Spirit, open up new lines of communication so that people can hear for themselves the song of God; this also is true of us, who, filled with the Spirit, find ourselves encouraged and energised to sing that very song which understands and values difference and diversity and makes it possible for others to sing their own song – with all its harmonious discrepancies – with us.

Best wishes
David

Remembered by the Church

Phyllis Taylor who died peacefully at Tolson Grange Care Home on the 12th April, aged 100 years. We send our sincere condolences to her family and remember them in our prayers.

Methodist Women in Britain Easter Offerings 2021

All the money raised through the Easter Offering envelopes goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain for work in the 65 Partner Churches around the World.

This money is used by overseas partners to fund a variety of work such as ;-

Enabling women in North India to undertake nurse and midwifery training;

Supporting Brazilian women to work in their churches with vulnerable women and children

and recently supporting work to fight the Corona Virus pandemic.

The Easter Offering tradition dates back to 1883 and was started by Methodist Women in Manchester.

In 1900 they raised £1,655. The total collected throughout the Connexion in 2019 was £370,000

In the Huddersfield Circuit we normally hold a Dedication service in May but this has not been possible for the last 2 years.

But the work still goes on and all the money raised is gratefully received and wisely spent- making a difference to many lives. Thank you.

Lesley Baxter

Used postage stamps

Just a reminder that the Thursday Fellowship is still collecting used postage stamps to send to The Leprosy Mission.

If people are receiving more snail mail than usual - please save the stamps. Lesley is pleased to accept these at any time. Many thanks.

'Recollections' by Ian Baxter

The editor of 'Link' called my last contribution 'Recollections' so I will stick with this. After all recollections are one of the few things that grow with us as we grow older.

My recollections begin in the dark days of World War Two and I have no memories of the uneasy days of peace from my birth in 1938 to the outbreak of hostilities a year later. My early days were spent in a world of blackouts every evening, gas masks, rationing and a frightening cartoon character 'The Squander Bug' encouraging us not to waste money.

A lot of these early recollections are connected with this Church as it was the centre of my family's spiritual and social activities and I was taken into the Primary department of the Sunday School at an appropriate time. I remember ringing the bells on the Sunday nearest to my birthday and a Christmas party when Peter McLintock came to sing the new song 'White Christmas', probably Christmas 1942, as the song had been written for the film 'Holiday Inn' first shown earlier that year.

I have only one early recollection of the Church Centre, then called the Assembly Hall, where I was taken to a concert. The stage was little more than a platform with class rooms on either side with a simple proscenium with stage curtains. On one side of this coloured hearts were hung which I suspect were some form of 'house' awards in the Sunday School. Before the war the Dramatic Society had produced several plays and the Church Ladies and Men had regularly presented concerts on this simple facility. All this had ceased after a last Dramatic Society production in 1941 before the Hall was taken over by the Home Guard. Unlike their fictitious colleagues in Warmington on Sea, the Linthwaite platoon did not share the hall with anyone so no one connected with the Church would go in.

Loss of the hall meant that all Sunday School activity took place in the school building and much use was made of the billiard room on the top floor. I think one billiard table was taken down and a small stage erected by the door into the table tennis room, now the costume store. On that stage that I first 'trod the boards' with several other boys in my Sunday School class singing the 1942 Irvin Berlin song 'This is the Army Mr Jones' and banging tin drums made out of biscuit tins. I have no idea who else was on that stage with me but if anyone can tell me I will be very pleased to hear from them.

A Cause for Celebration

Thirty years ago, Saturday 6 July, Linthwaite Methodist Church and Church Centre was officially opened. I wonder how many of you were there? The Service was led by Rev Michael J Townsend, Superintendent of the Circuit, and dedicated by a former superintendent minister, Rev Robert R Lomax. The preacher at the service was Rev Kenneth M Street who was the General Secretary of the Division of Property of the Methodist Church.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Kirklees were present along with the MP for Colne Valley.

Quite an occasion! With a double edge.

Rev Frank Watkinson, our minister at the time, was the driving force behind the project to close our old church and make a multi-purpose building for worship and other church and community activities. When many doubters asked “Where will we get the money?” Frank replied “God will provide”, and provide He did. Alongside lots of fund raising events, coffee mornings, parties, grants, Songs of Praise service, lots of fun and adventure and a lot of hard work from the ‘building committee’, £200,000 was raised and Frank’s vision was and is here for all to see. All that is except Frank.

Sadly, he passed away on June 4th, one month before the opening, never to see the completed project.

Rev Townsend stepped in and things carried on, as they do and just as Frank had arranged.

I think we have done Frank proud. Our beautiful building has been used for so many things, from special services in the newly built sanctuary with the bespoke stained glass window, to children’s parties in the hall and everything in-between serving the community here in Linthwaite.

I think this is something to celebrate, do you? Let us hope we can have a ‘normal’ Church Anniversary service and Gift Day on July 4th to celebrate all that has gone before and all that, we hope, there is to come.

Mo Stead

Finance

On behalf of the Church Council may I thank everyone for their continued support of the Church by continuing to put their collection ‘in’ every week, whether by cheque, directly into the bank account or in the weekly collection.

We are asking you to consider making a donation for the Gift Day. Whilst our income from collections has not dropped too much, we have suffered from not being able to let our rooms and our regular room hirers income has dropped by nearly £9,000 against last year. We have also been unable to hold our weekly/monthly events and fundraisers which has resulted in a shortfall of income of over £6,000 over the previous year.

If you would like to donate you can put a cheque or cash in an envelope in the collection on the Gift Day, pay directly into the bank, mail a cheque to Mairi, and we are also setting up a “total giving” account – details will be put on the website and social media. For more information contact Mairi on mairi500@btinternet.com or 01484 852300.

Property

We are currently embarking on a major repairs project of all the windows in both buildings as well as the Church Centre roof. Both our buildings are Grade II listed and we are severely restricted in what we can and can’t do. We are not allowed Upvc, and the windows should preferably be repaired not replaced, using a softwood. After much investigation and consultation we have been allowed to use Accoya timber, which is the timber industry benchmark for performance and sustainability. No other timber can offer this combination of stability, durability and versatility. This modified wood is sustainably sourced and it has minimal environmental impact throughout its entire life; from production, through its use, right the way to the end of its life. Of course this doesn’t come cheap! We are also looking for quotations to carry out repairs etc., to the windows in the Sunday School under the same guidelines.

Many thanks for the donations for the hanging baskets, the soil is currently being acclimatised, the plants nurtured and the baskets will be put up when it is a little bit warmer!

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.