

With Linthwaite Methodist ChurchWebsite www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

May	5	9.30am	Revd Sue Burton – including Holy Communion
	12	9.30am	Sunday School Anniversary
	19	9.30am	Mr Terry Frost
	26	9.30am	Mrs Judith Robinson

Anyone requiring a lift to and from Church, please ring John Liversidge on 842063 or 07903 747672

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

Dear Friends

The view from the kitchen window in our manse is magnificent – right across to the mast at Holme Moss and sweeping round from the hills above Shepley in one direction to the airfield at Crosland Hill in the other. We can see the weather approaching – when the mast is no longer visible then we know that rain is on the way (or it's foggy!) A downside to this glorious view is that the house is built on a hillside, which means that the garden is extremely steep. Richard has to cut the grass as I would be worried about the mower taking me with it to end up in a heap at the bottom of the garden! A previous minister would only venture out into the garden wearing football boots! As I write, Richard has just finished giving the grass its first mow of the season.

Gardens – many of us enjoy gardening, being outside in the fresh air, producing a lovely display of flowers through the warm seasons, growing our own fruit and vegetables. Perhaps nothing tastes quite as good as peas, small and sweet and straight out of the pod or home grown strawberries and raspberries.

Gardens feature in Bible stories, right from the start of Genesis, with Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden. A simple yet profound story. A story about rebellion and increasing awareness of self, true to the life of humans. Watch a toddler, for instance, firstly becoming aware of themselves as a person when they realise that the face they see in the mirror belongs to them, then comes the rebellion as they seek to establish their own identity as separate beings from their parents.

Then there is the Garden of Gethsemane, a garden of olive trees on the western slope of the Mount of Olives. A place where Jesus spent private moments in prayer, preparing himself for what he knew was to happen over the following days. Perhaps overwhelmed with the thought of what lay ahead, but gaining strength through prayer and his intimate relationship with God. A picture of pain, but in the midst of the pain, hope.

And then there was the garden tomb – after the long night, the coming of dawn, the dawn of hope in the face of despair and new life in the face of death.

And what of us? What part do gardens play in our story – are they places where we spend many happy hours pottering? Are they places where we can sit together with a family member or friend, enjoying the sunshine, the colours, the scents, the peace and quiet? Are they places of memory, somewhere we spent many happy hours playing as a child?

Perhaps as we move further into spring and the buds open and flowers share with us their varying colours and perfumes, we could spend some time reflecting on the special place gardens hold, both in the stories we read in the Bible and also, for many of us, in our own stories.

With best wishes

Sue

Flower List

May	5	Linda Marshall	19	Flower Fund
	12	Wendy Hallas	26	Flower Fund

Welcomers in Vestibule

May	5	Maureen Stead & Christine Taylor	19	Alec & Christine Garside
	12	John & Molly Myers	26	Linda Marshall & Margaret Moriarty

Cleaning Rota

May	5	Jennifer Hirst & Janine Fielding	19	Margaret Moriarty & Maureen Stead
	12	Mairi MacKay & Sue Howard	26	

Hilary

Suzanne, Diane and families would like to thank the church family for all their love and support at this difficult time. Mum was much loved by the church and community and this was very clear over the last few weeks. In mum's memory we will be doing the Kirkwood Hospice midnight memory walk on the 22nd June, and would be very grateful for sponsorship for this.

The following poem was written about mum and shared at her service.

Recipe for a Life - a Sonnet

Take the glowing warmth of community, Loving husband, happy home.
 Mix in a large extended family with fields and footpaths to roam.
 Add a dollop of folk who worship in a chapel that sits on the hill.
 Stir in laughter, drama, music – see the wickedest witch to thrill!!!
 Fold in tennis teas and matches. Slice the ball and skim the net.
 Whip up two “delightful” daughters. Grill troublesome boyfriends, smooth the odd pet.
 Savour the grandchildren, Amy and Sam Nurture their proving, preen as they grow.
 Squeeze the last drop that life has to offer, make each second count before you must go.
 In our memory the flavours will linger, the sweetness and spice are so fresh to me.
 At each “do”, I’m sure we’ll remember that our Hilary made the tea.

Diary

Sat	Apr	27	Church Clean-up Day 9.30am – 12 noon Please come along and help if you possibly can
Sun	May	5	Service at 9.30am led by Revd Sue will include communion and a Baptism
Sat	May	11	Messy Church 4pm – 6pm. The theme this month is ‘The Wise Man built his house upon the rock.’
Sun	May	12	Sunday School Anniversary. After the service we are serving a continental type breakfast, please put your name on the list on the notice board if you would like to join us.
Thurs	May	16}	Linthwaite Methodist Young Players present ‘ Hans Christian Anderson and Co ’ in the Church Centre. Thursday & Friday at 7.15pm and Saturday at 2.30pm.
Fri	May	17}	
Sat	May	18}	
Fri	May	17	Adults £5, children £3. Booking from Mairi on 852300, please note tickets must be collected and paid for in advance.
Fri	May	17	Souper Soup Lunch at Linda’s, Clough House from 12 noon. Fund raising event for Christian Aid. Soup, bread and tray bakes. Please let Linda know if you are coming, transport can be arranged – see Mairi.
Sun	May	19	Easter Offering Service at Fartown Methodist Church at 3pm. Please return all Easter Offering envelopes to Jackie before the end of April.
Tues	May	21	Pastoral leaders meeting at Jennifer’s at 7.30pm
Sun	June	2	General Church Meeting after service led by Revd Sue

Christian Aid

Whilst we no longer house to house collect for Christian Aid, we are still supporting this charity in other ways. Linda Nuttall has recently organised little fundraising events and it was agreed that the donations from the Anniversary breakfast will also go to Christian Aid. Linda is holding her annual soup lunch on the 17th May. Please support these events if you can. If you need a lift to Linda’s lunch see Mairi.

Thanks

Molly Myers sends her thanks for the beautiful flowers she received from church after her recent fall. The kind thoughts were much appreciated.

Money Matters

Sunday collections for March amounted to £1584.30. This includes monies paid directly into the bank and as usual is for church funds.

Jenny Sutherland Church Treasurer

Property Report

We are up to date with all routine checks (Electricity, Fire Safety, Gas etc) The new church boiler seems to be working well with no complaints that people are cold!

There are no other immediate works required, other than routine maintenance. The Quinquennial Inspection planned at the beginning of April was cancelled and has been rearranged and will now take place on 12th June, so we can expect some findings that will require action (hopefully not too expensive!)

The Graveyard grass proved quite challenging last year and will no doubt prove so again but we had some help from the Pride in Linthwaite Group who have agreed to help again this year.

The Church Mower packed in again, but the repair was quite inexpensive and the mower is operational again. As most of the regular grass cutting operatives are into their mid-seventies (or very close) the church is going to have to face the reality of grass cutting. We could let it overgrow, but for most of us that is not an option. John Liversidge has contact with a company who may be able to do the work for us and he is to obtain a quote for cutting the grass in the graveyard and also cutting the hedges. (we will still keep a mower ourselves to keep on top of the grass around the church)

Unfortunately I will be unable to provide the plants for the hanging baskets this year, so if anyone would be interested in taking over this job I can provide them with the empty baskets that we have used in previous years.

We are holding a clean-up day (both inside and out) on Saturday 27th April from 9.30am to 12 noon – Please come along and help if you possibly can.

The requirement for repairs to the windows in the old Sunday School building will not go away, but a recent legacy should help us with the cost for this work, but there is always something requiring attention, so whatever please keep fund raising!

Peter Stead Property Secretary

Helsington Church

On a recent visit to the Lake District I revisited this small church partly to find a geocache in the Church Micro series but also to see if the 'chapel' was still in use. We first found this little gem on a walk from Sizergh Castle, a National Trust property south of Kendal. This time we took the single track road from the Kendal by-pass and drove up the hill.

A local farmer originally endowed the land on which the church is built, just a short walk from his farmhouse. It meant that the local farmers on both sides of the valley did not have the long walk down into the town to worship at Kendal Parish Church. Inside this somewhat isolated building is a mural painted at the end of WWI, including kneeling angels remembering the faithful departed, with a Lake District backdrop. A written commentary tells much about the church in humorous fashion but I particularly liked the carved block on the pulpit which was specially made to hold the preacher's pocket watch and be in his view- the farmers obviously wanted to get back to their livestock not listen to a long sermon! The church did feel rather cold but is obviously loved and well looked after both inside and out. Sitting on the seat outside and appreciate the beauty of the valley below you wonder, with just a bunkhouse as the only adjacent building, how far the congregation travel.

Sue Howard

Did You Know? By Mike Shaw

Wealthy Linthwaite residents, no doubt including the millowners, would almost certainly join thousands of people who flocked to Slaithwaite Spa for the opening of the season on the first Wednesday in May. One local historian, John Sugden, described it in the mid-19th century, as ‘the Harrogate of the District’. He went on to say that the six-month season’s opening day was ‘a time anticipated and remembered for music and dancing and fine ladies and gentlemen; the elite of the Colne valley were on view on this occasion and patrons and visitors made their appearance at their best’. The spa owed its beginnings to a Slaithwaite businessman and benefactor, Richard Varley, who tapped into the mineral springs which rose in the bed of the river Colne. He built the swimming baths in 1825 and there were drinking fountains which supposedly inspired improved health. There was a bowling green, a bandstand and other attractions, all in a splendid setting of laid-out gardens, shrubs and arbours where courting couples would gather. Sadly, as the Industrial Revolution took hold, the grounds deteriorated and the construction of a sewage works nearby sounded the spa’s death knell. In 1926 the baths were taken over by a joint committee of Linthwaite, Slaithwaite and Golcar councils, but the decay and changing habits accelerated its demise and the saga ended with the closing of the baths in 1938.

Edited and typed by Jennifer Hirst

Items for inclusion in the June 2019 edition of the Link to reach me by Sunday May 19th please

Phone 654288 or email hirst.avondale@btinternet.com