

With Linthwaite Methodist ChurchWebsite www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

Services	May	2	9.30am	Revd Rosamunde Page
		9	9.30am	Revd Timothy Francis
		16	9.30am	Revd David Bidnell – including Holy Communion
		23	9.30am	Own Arrangement
		30	9.30am	Revd Sue Taylor

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

With the exception of May 16th, these services can be watched via Zoom. Maureen will send out an invitation with the meeting ID and password each week.

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,

It should never have happened in the first place.

What I mean by this is that the crucifixion of Jesus itself should never have happened. While this may sound a little odd, not least because we have grown used to the cross being such a central symbol in our faith tradition, it is nevertheless completely unacceptable that Jesus, or anybody else for that matter, should be crucified.

There is no condoning the killing by capital punishment of someone who raises his voice against deprivation, who questions the system, who protests against the authoritarian control that diminishes the lives of so many.

The author George Orwell once wrote: "If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear." It is no surprise, then, that this quotation is to be found above a statue of the man himself outside the BBC's Broadcasting House, since this liberty lies at the heart of the journalistic task, which seeks to excavate and reveal truth in careful yet challenging ways. Perhaps we could imagine Jesus uttering precisely these words in Galilee, Samaria and Jerusalem - over meals with friends, in earnest debates with critics, isolated before Pilate at his trial. Jesus lives out this liberty, setting out alternative ways in which the world might work, however unappealing this may be for those who are quite happy with the way the world already works. Ultimately, though, that voice is silenced and that freedom taken away.

Even if the crucifixion should never have happened, the fact is that it did. So those first disciples were left with the critical question: What do we do now? Broadly speaking they approached their dilemma from two angles. Firstly they committed themselves to picking up the threads of Jesus' public work, fulfilling his values in their own ways. Secondly they attempted to make sense of the crucifixion, either as a moment of consequence only to be expected from Jesus' social protest, or as an event behind which lay some divine purpose or intention. We see all of this in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. The first angle sought to ***create meaning*** out of their situation. It was as if they were saying: "We are where we are. We refuse to cast ourselves as victims. Let's make a difference going forward." The second angle sought to ***discern meaning*** or purpose in the event of the cross. It was as if they were struggling with the question: "Was this the inevitable outcome that awaits all who are perceived as troublemakers, or was it always God's intention that Jesus would be put to death in this manner?"

Those disciples responded with action and reflection. They wanted to make sense of Jesus' crucifixion. They wanted to discern some meaning in it, to unearth some sense of purpose or value, whether this be martyrdom for a cause or something else. But they also wanted to create out of Jesus's life and death some continuing meaning which changed the lives of those around them.

The crucifixion should never have happened in the first place. An intrinsic value that lies at the heart of any system of justice is a preparedness to "hear the other side" and a freedom to have "the other side heard". And this way lie not only justice and freedom, but compassion too.

Best wishes

David

Methodist Women in Britain

Many thanks to all those who filled an envelope for the MWiB Easter Offering.
A cheque for £180 has been sent to the Circuit MWiB Treasurer. Lesley Baxter

‘Recollections’ by Ian Baxter

Bananas

Anyone who reads the 'Country Week' portion of the Yorkshire Post on Saturdays will know that it has a section entitled 'Letters and Sayings'. Recently this has had some letters discussing the traditional potions and remedies which were commonly used in local households until quite recently and in some cases may still be used. But it was a question from a gentleman in Sledmere 'Anyone remember their first Banana?' that attracted my attention and prompted me to write to the paper several weeks ago.

During the years of rationing in World War Two, the only fruit that I remember having regularly were Apples and occasionally Oranges and Plums supplemented by Blackberries and Bilberrys that were there for picking if you knew where to look.

My parents often talked about Bananas which I had never seen let alone eaten during my early years and I formed the opinion that these yellow skinned curved fruits must be something very special. A friend of Edward and Marjorie Fielding, Bessie and her husband Ronnie Eagland who had served in the forces in some distant part of the world, visited them at my grandparents where they were then living, and brought a Banana with them. We were invited to look at it and then taste it. It was not the large yellow fruit that I had expected to see but a small object with a brown wrinkled skin. The skin was removed and the interior was cut into pieces about half an inch long to be shared among us. My portion was brown and proved to be a very sweet small mouthful. After eating it I did wonder what all the fuss had been about!

Church ‘Zoom’ Services

Many thanks to everyone who supported me in my trials to get the ‘Zooming’ of our Services to the point that people could hear both the preacher and the organ! This has been a big learning curve (thanks to YouTube!), and the volunteers who have listened in their own homes whilst I have played around with the equipment on Saturday mornings. Whilst the standard is very much ‘homemade,’ nonetheless we are managing to zoom to those who are not able to join us in the Church. You can access the zoom from anywhere in the country and if you wish to join in, please contact Maureen or Mairi.

Finance and Property matters

As the country is gradually coming out of lockdown, the regular users of our building are beginning to return. Jellies have been able to open to their full capacity with breakfast and after school clubs. The Scouting groups are doing a ‘soft’ opening with low numbers attending and hopefully the Zumba group will be returning soon. The income from these bookings over the last few years have helped us financially to weather the last 12 months when we have had little additional income from bookings. We use this income to maintain our buildings and pay the service charges. We are thankful that you have continued to contribute to the collections which is used to pay for our ministers, their homes and other costs attributed to the ministry, and so enabling our Church to meet our dues.

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.