

With Linthwaite Methodist ChurchWebsite www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

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|-----|----|--------|--|
| Feb | 3 | 9.30am | Mr Peter Martin |
| | 10 | 9.30am | Revd Sue Burton – including Holy Communion |
| | 17 | 9.30am | Own Arrangements |
| | 24 | 9.30am | Mrs Beth Richardson |

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

No sooner have Christmas cards disappeared from our shops than it is the turn of hot cross buns (already spotted in the entrance to one of our town centre supermarkets!) and Valentine cards, usually adorned with red hearts of varying sizes. I think it would be good to allow a bit more time to get over one festival before we are bombarded with cards etc. for the next one, but that's not how commercialism seems to work.

Who was St. Valentine? There are various theories, mostly that he was a third-century Roman saint. We actually know very little about him; so little, in fact, that it's uncertain whether he was one individual or a pseudonym given to several people! One legend that has grown up is that he was martyred for performing illegal weddings, although other stories also exist. Whoever he was, the name St. Valentine has been associated with romantic love since the 14th century. These medieval Christians probably didn't bother too much with historical accuracy, but were very interested in people who were martyred for their faith. People called on the saint to watch over the lives of lovers, also for interventions regarding bee-keeping, the plague and travelling – a bit of a mixed bag! He's also, not surprisingly, the patron saint of engaged couples and of marriage.

Although St. Valentine is a Christian saint associated with love, perhaps it's more helpful for us to reflect on the meaning of love as explored in the Bible: in parables, the love of the father for the elder son, despite all the odds, in the story of the Prodigal Son; the love for Jesus of the woman with the alabaster jar of perfume; the love of Jesus for those outcast and downtrodden.

So what is the love that Jesus calls us to? Not the soft, warm sentimentality of our Valentine cards and pop songs, the hearts and flowers, but the humility to put others before ourselves, the generosity that reaches out to people in need, the vulnerability that enables us to accept the love and support of others.

Our use of the word 'love' so often lacks meaning (I love chocolate, I love watching football); Jesus' use of the word love is much deeper, calling on us to reflect on our relationships with other people, in our families, among our friends, within our churches and our communities. And on our relationship with God.

To reflect on how we can be generous in our relationships, how we can be open to others, both those we naturally feel at ease with and those we find it more difficult to love, how we can be open to the love of God in our lives and see it at work in others.

In all the loves of my life may I have a generous, giving heart, that I might imitate the love given to me in every breath that I breathe.

With best wishes

Sue

Lent conversation group

Revd. David Bidnell has kindly offered to lead a Lent group for us this year. There will be three sessions, all on a Tuesday lunchtime: 19th and 26th March, and 2nd April. The sessions will begin with soup, served at 1.00pm, after the Friendship Hour, and will finish by 2.15 at the latest.

All are very welcome to attend: you don't need to commit to all three sessions, but we'd love to see you there.

Sue

Remembered by the Church

Colin Broadbent who died on January 14th at Valley View aged 89 years. We send sincere condolences to his family as we remember them in our prayers. The funeral service is in our church on Tuesday, February 12th at 1.30pm.

Received into the Church by Holy Baptism

16 December 2018 **Alyssa Webster and Kingsley Sykes**, children of Chloe Smith and Josh Sykes.

Flower List

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|-----|----|-----------------------|----|----------------------|
| Feb | 3 | Linda & Sarah Nuttall | 17 | Andrea Morley |
| | 10 | Linda Marshall | 24 | John & Joanna Ambler |

There are still days to fill on the rota, please put your name on your chosen day. Thank you.

Welcomers in Vestibule

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|-----|----|--------------------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| Feb | 3 | Wendy Hallas & Andrea Morley | 17 | John Liversidge & Jan Widdop |
| | 10 | Christine Garsed & Kathleen Earnshaw | 24 | Adrian & Jackie Calverley |

Cleaning Rota

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|-----|----|----------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| Feb | 3 | Jennifer Hirst & Janine Fielding | 17 | Margaret Moriarty & Maureen Stead |
| | 10 | Mairi MacKay & Sue Howard | 24 | |

Thursday Fellowship at 2.30pm

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|-----|----|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Jan | 31 | Dianne Hughes | Street Angels |
| Feb | 7 | Mavis Hemingway | More Stories from My Life |
| | 21 | Paul Webley | Peter Brook Centre |

Diary

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|-----|-----|---|---|
| Sat | Feb | 9 | Messy Church 4pm – 6pm. Theme this month The Love of God Everyone welcome |
| Sat | Mar | 2 | Old Folk's Treat See details below |

Old Folk's Treat

Thank you to all those who joined the carol singing parties and to everyone who gave their time on Christmas morning to collect (also to Linda for the bacon butties which sent them on their way!) The people of Linthwaite gave generously, and we collected £1623.

The Treat will be held on Saturday, March 2nd and again is a hot lunch. Invitations will be delivered soon to people 65 years of age and over, and who live in the Linthwaite area. Please ring Mairi on 852300 for an invitation if you haven't had one in previous years, or have just become eligible. To assist with catering, replies must be returned by Monday, February 11th. Thank you.

Helpers (must be over 14 years of age) are requested to meet at the Church Centre at 11am on the day.

Toy Service and Christingle

Some of you will have read the letter of thanks from the Kirklees Domestic Violence Unit for the donations brought to the Toy Service at the beginning of December. With such a diminished Sunday School we did wonder if it was worth making a collection this year but thanks to the generosity of all sections of the church our efforts were gratefully received.

As usual there was a packed congregation for the Christmas Eve Christingle service, with a good number of children from Messy Church helping to create a tableau of the Christmas story. Thanks to the 'four shepherds' for the narration of the story and to Diane and other Sunday School supporters for organising the children. A total of just over £180 was given to Crisis, the charity which helps single homeless people.

Messy Church

Having missed out on our January meeting because of the Pantomime booking we will hopefully be back into the swing of things on February 9th with a celebration of the love of Jesus, using once again our Sunday School Jigsaw. The activities will centre round his love for each one of us and everyone round the world. When we discussed Messy Church and Sunday School at our last planning meeting we agreed that although we have a good number of children and adults attending each month they are unlikely to form a Sunday School group. Those of us who went to listen to Lucy Moore, the founder of the Messy Church Initiative, remembered her saying “Don’t think that these people will become Sunday worshippers and Sunday School children. They have found an alternative way of worship which suits them and their life style.”

Snow White

What a wonderful show from Linthwaite Methodist Young Players! It was full of colour, laughter, good music and dancing – sheer enjoyment. The principles spoke clearly, sang and acted really well; the dwarfs were a happy, amusing bunch and all the younger boys and girls in the chorus were a delight. Their singing was excellent, they all knew the words and sang with such enthusiasm – they truly looked to be enjoying every minute of the show. So did we!

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the production. In particular to Andrea for producing, to Linda for the music and to Margaret for her amazing costumes. We are very fortunate to have such talent and commitment.

A total of £1695 was made from ticket sales, and £516 from raffle tickets, teas and ice cream.

Thanks

Hilary sends a big thank you for cards and flowers received at Christmas and for her birthday, and to those many people who visit her, phone and send good wishes. She is so grateful for all the help she is receiving in the home, and for those who do shopping, take the washing and bring meals. She really appreciates it and sends her love to everyone.

Money Matters

Our Sunday collections for November amounted to £1418.20 and for December £1291.50. These were for church funds and as usual include offerings paid directly into the bank. (The collection at the Carol service was £142).

At the recent Church Council meeting we made the following annual donations to various charities amounting to £1600 (equating to 10% of our Sunday collections from the previous year).

All We Can, who work worldwide to provide disaster relief and longer sustainable projects £500

Connexional Funds £350 Action for Children £250 Huddersfield Mission Café £200 Air Ambulance £300

Jenny Sutherland Church Treasurer

Property Report

Reclaiming Vat for the Kitchen Replacement project is well underway, with HMRC having confirmed we will be refunded £1,246.47. Unfortunately, we cannot claim VAT back on the fixtures and fittings.

We are up to date with all routine checks (Electricity, Fire Safety, Gas etc). The Annual Gas Installation Check resulted in the condemning of one of the 2 boilers heating the Church Centre. These boilers have been in situ since the conversion of the Church Centre (over 25years). Our heating engineers have reported that the failure of the 2nd boiler is more than imminent. They have suggested that the best option is to replace both boilers with one new high capacity boiler for which we have given them the “go ahead”. This work will commence at 9am on Monday 4th February 2019 and will take 2 to 3 days to complete.

The Graveyard grass will soon start to grow and a work schedule will be put together, hopefully we may have some help again from the Pride in Linthwaite Group. We employed a professional company to cut the hedges last year and it is proposed to do the same this year.

Thanks again to Mrs Moriarty for the Christmas trees!

The next major project will be repairs to the windows in the old Sunday School building, so please keep fund raising!

Peter Stead Property Secretary

Did You Know? By Mike Shaw

Strolling along the canal towpath in Linthwaite and elsewhere in the valley revives unpleasant memories of what the waterway was like four or five decades ago. After years of disuse and neglect, it was nothing more than an open sewer. Then, volunteers from the Canal Society came together with a seemingly impossible task of reopening it between Huddersfield and the other side of the Pennines. Somehow, with the aid of generous grants, they managed to do it. Now it is navigable and there are popular trips into the Standedge Tunnel. Two other issues have helped greatly in transforming our environment. First, the construction of a trunk sewer meant an end to a river which at times was vividly coloured red, blue and other tones of the rainbow. Now it is a clean and fresh stretch, supporting fish for members of the Slaithwaite Angling Club to ply their sport. Finally, the introduction of smokeless zones has allowed our trees, hedges and fields to grow in abundance now that the hundreds of smoking chimneys – mills and houses – are no longer churning out their stunting fumes. No wonder walkers from many miles away flock to our valley to enjoy our green and pleasant land!

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 people 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 01484 843073

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.

Edited and typed by Jennifer Hirst

Items for inclusion in the March 2019 edition of the Link to reach me by Sunday February 17th please
Phone 654288 or email hirst.avondale@btinternet.com

