

With Linthwaite Methodist Church

Website www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

Services	Dec	3	9.30am	Revd Sue Burton– including Holy Communion
		10	9.30am	Mrs Kimm Brook
		17	9.30am	Revd Roz Page
			6.00pm	Carol Service
		24	9.30am	Revd Richard Oldroyd
			6.00pm	Christingle Service
Christmas Day		25	10.30am	United Service at Slaithwaite led by Revd Sue Burton
		31	10.30am	United Service at Marsden (see note overleaf)
2024	Jan	7	9.30am	Ms Linda Bettany
		14	9.30am	Revd Roz Page including Holy Communion
		21	9.30am	Mr Paul Bussey
		28	9.30am	Revd Philip Barnett

Minister: Revd Sue Burton 15 Priestley Grove, Taylor Hill, HD4 7RG Phone 300097

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This month's letter has been written by Revd Roz Page, who is Minister at Mount, Parkwood and New Life Church @ the Mission

Dear Friends

I was driving to Slaithwaite in October, amazed at the way in which autumn seemed to have arrived, though it has felt late this year, when it started to rain very heavily. I was shocked and had to put my wipers on the fastest setting just to make sure that I could safely continue. I have never driven in such fierce rain before, and I was thinking that perhaps I should pull over until it passed. Thankfully, it did move on as quickly as it had arrived, and I had this wonderful view of distant rolling purple clouds. It was beautiful.

Before I moved to Huddersfield I served in the Sheffield District, and the churches I looked after were in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw. It is fairly flat there- well at least compared with West Yorkshire. I remember a wet day after a long, dry spell, when I was driving to a more rural church, and my breath being taken away by the sight of a field of yellow flowers, a deep green-leafed tree and a purple sky as a storm rolled in. As it rained it was like the crops, having been wilted, were standing up- it was just the right amount of rain and that crop flourished.

No one wants to be caught in a storm, they can be ferocious, landscape-changing, and scary at their worst. Sometimes, though, you can go outside after a storm and it smells sweeter as if it has cleared the air. Storms do come, and we have had a number already this year, and they can bring change with them. This can be a difficult part of life, but sometimes those storms can light up familiar landscapes in new ways.

As we approach Advent, and make our journey towards Christmas, it can feel like we are treading through familiar ground, a landscape that we know well. We hear Bible readings and stories that are familiar. We follow through the lighting of each candle on the Advent ring. We sing hymns that are familiar. There can be comfort in this well-worn path of familiarity.

At the same time, we can miss out on points of interest because there can be a sense of rushing through it to get to Christmas. This Advent, our experience may be altered, perhaps we have been touched by loss, or a change in circumstances, which can mean that how we feel about this time of year isn't the same. Comfort in the familiar can be helpful at times like that, but it can also offer a sense of hope and solidarity as the landscape is differently lit, offering new meaning.

Advent can be a time of searching and finding ways to mark off the days to Christmas, but it can also be like going for a walk and finding points of learning and understanding along the way. As we head towards this new Advent period, may it be a time of blessing as we explore what it means for God to be with us in all of life's circumstances.

From December 1st, Roz will be working with Revd Sue

Sunday, December 31st There will be a 'Tea and Toast' service in our church at 9.30am before the United Service at Marsden, and transport will be available for anyone wishing to go on to the united service.

Welcomers in Vestibule

Dec	3	Margaret Moriarty & John Liversidge	24	Janine Fielding & Sarah Walker
	10	Andrea Morley & Roger Fielding	31	United Service at Marsden
	17	Graham, Jennifer & Victoria Hirst		

2024

Jan	7	Maureen Stead & Christine Taylor	21	Ian & Lesley Baxter
	14	Margaret Sykes & Alice Mowbray	28	Diane Loftus & Wendy Hallas

Flower List

Dec	3	Molly Myers	24	Margaret Moriarty
	10	Linda Nuttall	31	United Service at Marsden
	17	Diane Loftus		

Margaret would like to thank all who have given flowers or money for her to buy some, for the pleasure of others in 2023. The list for next year will soon be on the notice board – please put your name on your chosen day. Also Margaret asks that you continue to let her know of anyone you would like flowers sent to.

Cleaning Rota

Dec	3	Margaret Moriarty & Maureen Stead	24	Linda Marshall & Andrea Morley
	10	Mairi MacKay & Sue Howard	31	
	17	Jennifer Hirst & Linda Nuttall		

2024

Jan	7	Margaret Moriarty & Maureen Stead	21	Jennifer Hirst & Linda Nuttall
	14	Mairi MacKay & Sue Howard	28	Linda Marshall & Andrea Morley

Thursday Fellowship Please note meetings start at 2pm this winter

Dec	7	Sue Haigh	More Memories	(Note change with Graham)
	21	Revd Jennet Mcloed	Christmas Meeting	

2024

Jan	4	Ruth Sheldrake	Italy	
	18	Graham Hirst	Are Things Still on OFFA?	

Community Coffee – every Tuesday

Everyone welcome to come along and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, biscuits (and often cakes!!) and have a chat, from 11.15am till 12.45pm. A suggested donation of £1.50 per person.

Warm Welcome Space

Starting on Friday, November 24th church will be open every Friday from 9.15am until 2.45pm for another season of 'Warm Places'. Everyone welcome to spend time in the company of others and enjoy a soup lunch. Transport can be arranged – please see Linda N or Mairi for details.

If you can help by making a pan of soup or cakes/traybakes (nothing too fancy and no cream cakes please), it would be appreciated. There is a list on the notice board. We have money for this and will reimburse you. Also there is a volunteer list – the jobs include setting out, washing up and clearing away at the end.

Messy Church

The next Messy Church will be on 9th December 4pm-6pm.

Zoom Advent Group

This year for our joint Advent bible study group our theme will be 'Hidden Voices' : Unheard women's voices in the early life of Jesus.

We will be exploring this together through three sessions on Zoom on Weds 6th Dec, Tues 12th and Tues 19th at 7.30 pm. If you would be interested in joining in, please contact Revd Roz Page or Revd Sue Taylor.

Church Christmas Card

Sue will be publishing a 'Christmas Card' again this year. If you would like to put a message to all your Church friends in the card please do the following - write your message on an envelope and inside the envelope place your donation, then hand to Sue no later than Sunday, December 10th. The card will be given out at the services on Sunday, December 17th and December 24th. Thank you.

Carol Singing

Parties will leave Church on Monday December 18th and Wednesday December 20th at 7pm. Everyone is very welcome to come and join the singing – you don't have to be a perfect singer, a good measure of enthusiasm is all that is required!! Meet at church, then we go by car to various chosen locations in the area and sing a few carols at each place.

Hilary Baxter Memorial Walk

A walk is planned for Sunday, January 7th 2024 Meet at the Church car park at 11am for a local walk, followed by a lunch of soup and cakes at Roger and Gina Fielding's (42 Stones Lane). All donations for church funds.

Please let Diane or Gina know if you would like to join the walk.

Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 17th 2024 at 7.30pm

Thanks

Mildred Walker sends her appreciation for the lovely flowers she received from Church. She says she is still enjoying the beauty of them.

Tennis Club Fashion Show.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Fashion show on November 10th. £600 was raised on the night, £300 for Church funds and £300 for the sports club.

Finance & Property

The last three windows of the project have now been replaced. There is just the finishing of painting the mastic, and replacing the necessary security bars on the ground floor windows on the graveyard side and the joiners will be finished.

Thanks to everyone who came and cleaned the various rooms as they were completed so that they were ready for use, especially the Primary room and corridor for the Haydn Wood Musical Festival.

We thank all our users for their patience and working with us during this long disruption, it has not been an easy project.

Thanks also to everyone who has kindly donated, your generosity is much appreciated.

We are hoping to hold an open weekend on the 3rd / 4th February to show off the new windows and for our hirers to showcase their activities and clubs. More details later.

See over ...

Places worth Visiting by Ian Baxter

Wentworth Woodhouse.

If you are looking for somewhere to visit in the Christmas holiday period this is an attraction you could consider. Many of you will have heard of Wentworth Woodhouse, but do you what it is, or where it is? It is a Grade One listed building considered to be the largest and finest Georgian House in Britain which has more than 300 rooms and is set in a 180 acre park in the village of Wentworth, near Rotherham in South Yorkshire. Originally a Jacobean House, it was rebuilt by the Marquess of Rockingham from 1725. The West front was built first, but the East front, called the extension, is the longest face of any stately home in Britain and provides the definitive view of the building. The complex was eventually inherited by the Earl's of Fitzwilliam, relatives of Rockingham, who's immense fortune was gained from coal mining in the area. The crowning glory of this period was probably the visit of King George V and Queen Mary in 1912 during a Yorkshire tour. During WW2 it was a Training Depot for the Intelligence Corps, then in 1946 the grounds on the West side became an Open Cast coal site, while the Family were still living there. This was strongly opposed by the Miners Union who regarded the 7th Earl of Fitzwilliam, as a benevolent employer.

In 1949, much of the house was rented to the West Riding County Council, and became Lady Mabel College of Physical Education, a training college for lady physical education teachers. After the college moved out, the house was in poor repair, so in 1989, the Fitzwilliam's decided to move out and sell the building. It passed through several owners until in 2014 it was bought by the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust, the present owners. Assisted by Government grants they set out to restore the building to something like its former glory.

The building is now open to the public from Tuesdays to Sundays. There is plenty of car parking in the grounds and if you do not want to walk to the house, a buggy will take you. Inside the house different tours can be booked in the lobby, or in advance, and there is a cafe . You can also make your own way round most of the house and the grounds.

Visitors will find that the Trust has done a marvellous job of restoring the most important rooms, but will quickly realise that the house is very sparsely furnished. This is because the Fitzwilliam's retained the most interesting items of furniture and décor, and finding suitable replacements has not been easy. The restoration work is ongoing and involves over 200 volunteers! Hopefully the Trust will eventually bring the house back to the magnificence that it had during the Royal visit of 1912.

As well as the house, the gardens are worth seeing, particularly those on the West side. The devastation caused by the Open Cast mining is long gone and the area is tidy again, though the formal gardens are much smaller than they were before WW2.

Wentworth Woodhouse is indeed 'England's forgotten Palace' and well worth a visit if you are looking for somewhere not too far away for a day out. It is normally open every day except Mondays, but the house is sometimes taken over completely by a group, so a check by ringing 01226 351161 can save a wasted journey.

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. or phone 654288

Thanks, Jennifer